

Week of Monday, September 15, 2025

It was a short week for the Henderson County Senior Softball travel schedule. The only game took place on Monday, September 15th, when the Henderson County 68+ Sluggers, coached by Stan Steinberg and sponsored by **Carolina Ophthalmology**, hosted the Upstate South Carolina 68+ squad in a Clayton League game at Mills River Park. In game one, Henderson County played their worst game in recent memory and never had a lead as they fell to Upstate 18-13. After two innings of play, Henderson County trailed 10-1, and the margin was still nine runs at 18-9 when they came to bat in the top of the 7th inning. The Sluggers managed to score four runs, making the score a little more respectable, but it was too little and too late. Don Ward took the loss on the mound. The Sluggers had a team batting average of 0.591 in the first game. Four Sluggers were perfect at the plate: Jim Zitney (4-4), Scott Searle (3-3 with a double and a walk), David Keith (2-2), and Gary Warren (1-1). Five other Sluggers were one out away from perfection: Jerry Austin (3-4 with a double), Mike Warner (3-4), Gene Reiser (2-3 with a double), Jim Ready (2-3), and Joe Fishleigh (1-2 with two sacrifice flies).

Game two saw the world return to some semblance of normalcy as Henderson County took a 24-16 victory over Upstate, but it wasn't easy. In a close game, the Sluggers came to bat in the bottom of the 5th inning, trailing 15-14. Henderson County put up five runs in both the 5th and 6th innings while holding the visitors to one run in their next two at-bats. Don Ward captured the win on the mound. Evident by the twenty-four runs scored, the team's batting average improved to 0.767 in the second contest. Five Sluggers achieved perfection: Don Ward (4-4 with three doubles), Jim Zitney (4-4 with a double), Gene Reiser (3-3 with two doubles), Norm Royo (3-3), and Stan Steinberg (3-3). Five other Sluggers aided the cause, making only one out: Jerry Austin (3-4 with three doubles), Scott Searle (3-4), Joe Fishleigh (3-4), Gary Warren (3-4), and Jim Ready (1-2 with a triple and a walk). After the split with Upstate, the Sluggers have a record of 22-2 and, as mentioned last week, have already claimed the regular season title in the 68+ Clayton League.

After a sparse week of play, the schedule picks up next week with three teams hitting the field. On Monday, September 22nd, the Henderson County 68+ Sluggers will close out the regular season as they host the Franklin Old Bones at Mills River Park. On Wednesday, September 24th, the mixed 70+ Sluggers will travel to the Maples Sports Complex in Marion, NC, to face the High Country 70+ team. On Thursday, September 25th, the mixed 60+ Sluggers are scheduled to go to Tyger River Park in Duncan, SC, to battle the Upstate Mojos.

The Henderson County Senior Softball Association is always looking for new players aged 50 and older (35 and older for ladies). Regular league games are generally played on Monday and Friday mornings at 9:30 on fields 8 and 9 at Jackson Park in Hendersonville. For additional information, call 828-606-8556 or go to Henderson County Senior Softball at <https://hcssoftball.com>.