

Week of Monday, September 29, 2025

Although there were two games on the schedule for this week, the Henderson County mixed 60+ Sluggers game with the High Country 60+ team had to be cancelled. This meant that the entire fan base for our league would be available to attend the mixed 70+ Sluggers game in Johnson City, TN, on Wednesday, October 1st. Well, Don Chambers did show up, but he played with the other team as the Henderson County mixed 70+ Sluggers took on the Tri-Cities 70+ squad. Game one was a back and forth affair that saw the Sluggers take the lead in the first inning, lose the lead in the fourth, tie the game in the fifth, and end the game with a victory as the potential tying run was thrown out at home in the bottom of the seventh with two outs and Henderson County clinging to a one run lead. After the smoke had cleared, Henderson County won an exciting 19-18 victory with Marty Serafin taking the win on the mound. The Sluggers had a team batting average on 0.674 with five batters having a perfect game at the plate: Andy Hines (3-3), Gene Reiser (4-4 with two doubles), Mark Hammer (3-3 with two doubles and a sacrifice fly), Mike Elmaleh (1-1), and Stan Steinberg (3-3 with a double and a sacrifice fly). In addition, three other Sluggers were near perfect: Dwight Moore (2-3), Jim Zitney (3-4 with a double) and Roger Helm (3-4 with two doubles).

Game two proved to be a nail-biter as well. Tri-Cities took the lead with five runs in the top of the first inning. The Sluggers captured the lead in the bottom of the third and held it the rest of the way. However, Tri-Cities scored five runs in the top of the seventh to trim an eight-run deficit to three. They had the bases loaded when the final out was made, and Henderson County was able to secure a 20-17 victory. Dwight Moore was the winning pitcher. The Sluggers had a team batting average of 0.730 and were led with perfect games at the plate from: Andy Hinds (3-3), Jim Ready (2-2 with two doubles and a walk), Mark Hammer (4-4 with three doubles), and Roger Helm (3-3 with a walk). Five other Sluggers aided the cause with near perfection: Bud Bonnema (1-2 with a walk), Dwight Moore (2-3), Gene Reiser (3-4 with a double), Gary Warren (2-3 with a double) and Jim Zitney (3-4 with two doubles). The mixed 70+ Sluggers ended their season on a five-game winning streak to finish the year with a 16-8 record. The Sluggers were sponsored by **Parks Ford** for these games and coached by Andy Hinds.

Next week, the Henderson County 68+ Sluggers will travel to the Parker Meadows complex in Franklin to begin the season-ending tournament for the Clayton 68+ League on Monday, October 6th. The Sluggers are the top seed in the tournament and will face three teams that day. The Sluggers will open with the Lake Keowee Eagles, then face the North Georgia Patriots, and close with the Franklin Old Bones. The following week, the Sluggers will square off with Upstate South Carolina and close the tournament against the Rabun County Relics.

I received a call this morning from David Keith informing me that he is in the hospital after suffering a heart attack. He had two or three stents put in, and at this time is resting comfortably. Please keep David and Wendi in your thoughts and prayers.

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>.