Safe At Home

This year Senior Softball lost two of its most respected leaders. Lou Vespasiano and Don Slocum passed away. Both were instrumental in the formation and the continued success of senior softball in their local leagues as well as state and national levels. Lou hailed from Union County and Don led teams from Morris County, as well as NJ Senior Olympic teams.

Louis Vespasiano

Donald H. Slocum

In Memoriam

The following is a list of members of the New Jersey Senior Softball Association that have passed away

Jim Airey
Nick Angelillo
Nick Atria
Larry Behr
Dick Borman
Tom Burke
Bob Canales
Flip Chambliss
Ed Chaven
Joe Connelly
Dan Cox
Fred Daprile
Mike DeCeglia
John Denito
Ray Fasteau
Tom Fitzmaurice
Joe Gabel
Harold Gelbhaus
Frank Giglinto

Jay Horacek
Russ Howell
Tony Hyman
Joe Kelly
Jerry Lestardo
Tom Madine
Al Manning
Frank Martinelli
John McCabe
Jerry McDermott
Dennis Miller
Patrick Moran
Tony Muccia
Ken Nixon
John Offerman
Jen Olson
Armando Passarelli
Bruce Pelletier
Al Perry
Robert Postel

Jim Powell
Tom Price
Joe Riggio
Joel Rosenberg
Frank Scaliti
Barbara Schmidt
Jim Schultz
Sonny Senerchia
Art Shaffner
Don Slocum
Ed Stevens
Frank Sweeney
Ernie Tasseff
Don Trifari
Anthony Valeriani
John Vereb
Lou Vespasiano
Pee Wee Vogel
John Williams

How It All Began

In 1991 a group of enthusiastic senior softball players got together and applied to the National Senior Softball World Series Organization to sanction and host a regional qualifying tournament in New Jersey. The application was approved and the "Garden State Classic" was born. In 1992 the first tournament was held at the Mercer County Park in Trenton, New Jersey. Teams came from Florida, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, as well as many teams from New Jersey. Over fifty teams participated in that inaugural event.

Pictured from left to right: Bob Rowland, Mike Christy, Buddy Frederickson, Al Schneider, Al Mills, Art Kopacz, Howie Marlin, Bob Pietrzyk and Don Walinski.