

History of...

MONMOUTH COUNTY SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE

The history of the Monmouth County Senior Softball League goes back to 1988, when Mike Christy got a bunch of guys together, to see if they wanted to play organized softball. They met at Surry Downs, a retirement community, in Freehold. The response was overwhelming. More than 35 enthusiastic men over the age of fifty attended. Among those attending, were Al Mills and Howie Marlin from Monmouth County, John Loundres, Frank Fenwick and Al Rimmer from Ocean County. Besides the nucleus for the state organization, Mills and Marlin went on to form the Monmouth Senior League, while Loundres, Fenwick and Rimmer helped get Ocean County started. Mills served as the League's President for more than ten years. The League grew from the original six teams to a high of 14 teams in 1995. The late Ed Chaven brought in a team from Morganville, while Emil Jennett's "Oh Brothers" team (now Higgins) from Freehold went on to become one of the most dominate teams, not only in the county, but in the state. Over the years Monmouth has produced some of the top teams in Senior Softball. Jim Van Brunt with IAMA, The Cabin and Mulligans, Tony Vodola's 507 Main Street, The Globe Hotel under Kevin Costello, have dominated the league in recent years. Gallo's (formally Morganville) has produced many championship teams. St. Leo's of Lincroft, one of the longest active teams, which was founded by the late Frank Scaliti, has rebounded into a formable team of late. Mike Weiner of Ocean Township, has kept the Silber Knights competitive. Neptune, one of the original teams founded by the late Dick Bormann, has kept up the tradition of the league. The Pier Village team, (formally Aerial Signs and Long Branch IAMA) proved to be very competitive. But the accolades must go to Rick's Knights of Keansburg. They have been in the League for many years, and the fact they have never had a winning season has not deterred them. They have never forfeited a game, they show up for every game no matter who the opponent is, and has always shown true sportsmanship. That's what senior softball is all about. We have lost some teams over the years, but new teams are taking their place. This season we will have a team from Howell and The Turning Point, bringing the total to ten teams. They are all eager to compete and have fun on their "Field of Dreams."



Aerial Signs "C" Division State Champions 2001



First NJSSA State
Championship Trophy
won by Oh Brothers
(now Higgins), Freehold

Did You Know?

That the late "Sonny" Senerchia, long time softball player with the Jersey Blues and other teams around the state, played in the major leagues with the Pittsburgh Pirates and the St. Louis Cardinals, but also was a concert violinist with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

That the late Don Slocum, noted softball player, having played with the New Jersey Embers team, which won three consecutive silver medals in the National Senior Games in 1999, 2001 and 2003, was a biochemist who invented among other things, Corian solid surface, the first product of its kind, and now is widely used in homes and industry for counter surfaces and other applications.

That Howie Marlin, NJSSA state official, softball player and coach, hosted a cable TV show called "Sportalk." In the 15 years that it aired, he interviewed 10 baseball Hall of Famers, including, Willie, Mickey and the Duke. Also, Yogi, The Scooter, Stan the Man and Bob Feller.