

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2018 WINTER SEASON

*Baseball and softball, they say, are games of statistics. While the **Montgomery County Senior Softball League** does not keep individual statistics, we do, however, recognize the outstanding accomplishments and notable events that keep us all brimming with pride. Here are just a few of the things that have occurred or that have been accomplished by players and teams that make for fond memories in the season that has passed.*

The 2018 Winter Season

- Wednesday, January 3rd: It was the first game of the new season for the Tan Shirt Team. Tom Levins wasted no time launching the first home run of the new winter season, driving a gargantuan shot against the back wall. Oddly enough, this would turn out to be the only automatic home run anyone would hit for the remainder of the winter season.
- Tuesday, February 20th, Gray Shirt Team vs. Red Shirt Team: Nobody in the MCSSL winter or summer leagues could ever remember it happening before. Behind a superb defensive effort that included several key catches of hard hit balls, Gray team pitcher Steve Alligood retired all twenty-one Red team batters in a row to toss the first perfect game ever recorded in the winter league. The Gray Shirts won easily 5-0.
- Tuesday, February 20th, Black Shirt Team vs. Maroon Shirt Team: Talk about the best way to redeem yourself in a softball game... Stan Walters of the Maroon team hit into a triple play in the bottom of the second inning. The hard-hit grounder was fielded by third baseman Matt Lynch, who tossed to Curt Fields at second, who relayed to Barry Bintliff for the triple killing. With the score tied at 1-1 in the bottom of the fifth inning, Stan came up again, this time with two outs and runners on second and third. Stan ripped a rocket into the net in left field to score the runner from third. It turned out to be the game winning hit as the Maroon team held onto a 2-1 victory.

“It ain’t over ‘til it’s over!” – Yogi Berra

Here a few memorable games from our winter season that demonstrate why we have so much fun playing senior softball.

- Thursday, January 18th: The Purple Shirt Team hadn’t even come close to losing a game yet in the early season. The Red Shirt Team went up 3-0 and held onto the lead until the Purple gang tied the score in the bottom of the sixth. In the bottom of the seventh, the Red team failed to turn an inning ending double play, leaving the bases loaded with only one out. A line drive to the leftfield corner net gave the Purple team a 4-3 come from behind victory.
- Thursday, February 1st, Red Shirt Team vs. Green Shirt Team. It was the second game in a row played by both teams, the Red team having won the previous Tuesday’s game 1-0. The Thursday game was filled with several key fielding plays, including runners from both teams being thrown out at the plate. The game was tied after seven innings. The Green team failed to score in the top of the eight. In the bottom of the inning, with two outs and runners on second and third, a key single up the middle allowed the winning run to score for the Red team to sweep the week.
- Thursday, February 22nd, Orange Shirt Team vs. Blue Shirt Team. To this point in the winter season, Tommy Lane’s Blue team had not yet lost a game, and the closest any team had yet come defeating them was a 1-1 tie earlier in the season by the same Orange team of skipper Mike DeStefano. In the bottom of the seventh, the score was 1-0 in favor of the Blue gang. A critical play at the plate. The Orange runner streaked for home with the tying run. The throw was way off line, and the Blue team catcher, Bobby Zolad, had to move way off the plate to snag the relay. Instinctively playing “real ball”, Bobby stretched out and tagged at the runner for the sure out to preserve the victory. But it wasn’t to be, as the league rule prescribes that a runner at home cannot be tagged, and can only be declared out by the catcher tagging the plate for the force out. The runner was declared safe, and the score was tied at one all. The Blue gang was shut down in the top

of the eighth. In the bottom of the extra inning, with the automatic runner, Tommy Hansen, occupying second base to start, Rich Moor ripped a key single off the net in left field to move Tommy to third. Carl Craft became the game's hero, singling home the winning run. It was an impressive extra inning 2-1 victory by the Orange men to hand the Blue team their first loss of the season. But despite the outcome, all players on both teams said it was one of the most enjoyable games of the season, because everybody had fun!

And here is probably the most memorable highlight of the entire 2018 Winter Season...

- Old Man Winter Claims Season's Best Record. It was an awful, stormy, ugly winter season. The boys got through January relatively smooth without much incident, but come February, the weather in the northeast got as bad as it could get, especially a hearty helping of nor'easters. Even Punxsutawney Phil was put on Pennsylvania's Most Wanted List. It was the first time ever in the ten-year history of the indoor league that snowed-out re-scheduled games got snowed-out. It wasn't until the very last week of March that all the games were finally played. And Old Man Winter still wouldn't let go. The first week of summer practice games in early April were cancelled due to bad weather and field conditions.