

HISTORY OF THE SUN CITIES GUYS AND GALS AND THE SUN CITIES CO-ED LEAGUE

In the 1980's when the men were playing softball on the Sun City field at 111th and Grand, at the fields in Surprise and El Mirage, and at the Del Webb field just west of Grand avenue across from Sun City West, there were about thirty women who also played regularly.

When Kuentz Field in Sun City West was finished in 1989, the women organized a women's league with two teams, the "Late Bloomers" and the "Sun Beans." But they did not have enough players turn out to actually play games. Instead twice a week the ladies just practiced their hitting and fielding skills. Leaders of this group included Joanie Kongsvik, Freddie Herren, Lennie Wilcox and Delores Warrick.

In the fall of 1990, with the help of some of the men, they organized a co-ed team. Barney Trapp was highly involved. Since he was their manager, the team became known as Barney's Gals. Members of the team were: Doris Burger, Lavonia Carroll, Rosemary Eppley, Dee Goodwin, Barbara Greene, Freddie Herren, Julie Marzluf, Betty Mason, Margaret Morgan, Beverly Sugar, Delores Warrick and Lennie Wilcox. On January 19, 1991, these ladies, with the help of four men, played a game and won against the "Rinkydinks," a team organized from members of the men's league by Ken Stewart (manager), Wally Maund and Ernie Mueller.

By the fall of 1992, the co-ed team consisted of seven gals and seven guys decked out in bright gold jerseys bearing the new name "Barney's Guys and Gals." They played a regular schedule against the Rinkydinks on every other Friday. This schedule continued through the 1992-93 and 1993-94 seasons.

In the fall of 1994, Don Williams organized another team known as "Rinkydinks II to play the Guys and Gals on the alternate Fridays. In the fall of 1995 Dominic Reilly became manager of the Rinkydinks II and the name was changed to "Retreads." Through the efforts of Ernie Mueller, Lund Cadillac began providing jerseys for the Rinkydinks and the Retreads.

Through 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 the schedule of Guys and Gals versus Rinkydinks and Retreads on alternate Fridays continued with a season ending picnic in the spring. During these three seasons the league was growing and the Guys and Gals were also getting more gals. This was the only opportunity for women to play.

By the fall of 1998 there were 11 gals on the roster. Jerry Pivovar and Ron Smith were taken from the Retreads to organize another team which they named the "Mavericks." So the present four-team co-ed league was formed. Two gals from the Guys and Gals were assigned to each of the other three teams with Karen Hill and Joan McKenna to the Mavericks, Jan Carino and Juli Marzluf to the Retreads, and Karen Laviola and Maryann Palmquist to the Rinkydinks. Two games were scheduled to be played each Friday at Kuentz Field (now Liberty Field)

In the fall of 1996 and again in 1997, there was some agitation to deny the Guys and Gals use of Kuentz Field on Friday mornings. The main issue was that several members of the team were not residents of either Sun City or Sun City West. However when the league charter was considered with a representative of the Sun City Recreation Center, it was determined the non-residents could play as guests. So the league board voted to okay the use of the field on Friday mornings.

Prior to the formation of the co-ed league, around the summer of 1996, Loran Swanson organized a "Green" team. Each Monday morning the Guys and Gals played one or two games against the Green team at the Sun City field. This provided more playing time for the Guys and Gals and an opportunity for new players to get some practice and game experience before being assigned to a team. The program is on going, but since women are now included in the league with men, no new gals have been added to the Guys and Gals in the last few years.

Barney Trapp died in 2000. In the summer of 2001, The Madison of Sun City West became at least a partial sponsor of the team. "The Madison's Guys and Gals" were supplied with complete new uniforms having white pin stripes with blue lettering. In 2003, The Madison discontinued sponsorship so the name was changed again. The team is now the "Sun Cities Guys and Gals" with new purple and white pin stripes thanks to Dolores Warrick who has been the manager since the early years. In addition to Dolores, original Guys and Gals still playing are Lavonia and Glenn Carroll, Maryllin Miers, Duane Newkirk and Vic Antink.

Since January of 2005, the co-ed league expanded to six teams that now compete on Fridays. . The two additional teams are sponsored by Farrar Chiropractic and Bakkens.

Special thanks go to Steve Griswold of Sun City for this history.
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