

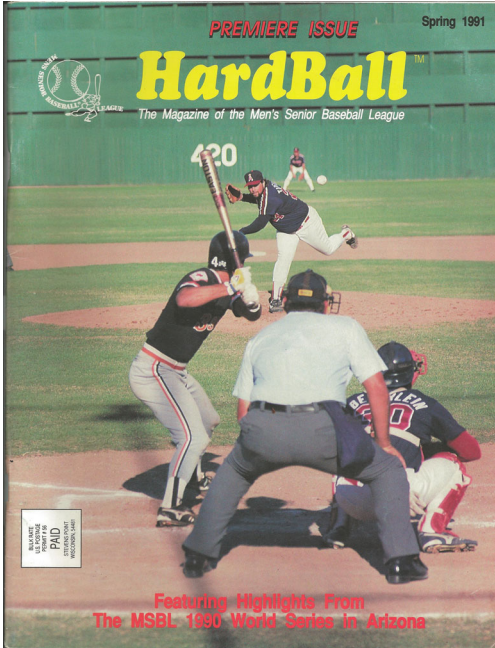
DAILY NEWS



WORLD SERIES OFFICE NUMBER (480) 858-7515

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MSBL Hits Another Milestone 35 Years of Adult Baseball!



Hardball Magazine Debuts In the Spring of 1991

By Tom Prendergast

It's one thing to have a good idea, but it's a much more complex process to implement it. MSBL founder and President, Steve Sigler found his calling with the creation of a 30+ adult baseball league. The timing was right and he spent many nights and countless weekends working the phones and placing notices in newspapers across the country.

But he knew he needed something more to convey his passion for the game and spread the word. He collaborated with and hired Dan Piro to publish a magazine about the MSBL. The first issue arrived in the Spring of 1991 and it was an immediate success!

This publication quickly became the voice of the MSBL. For the next twenty plus years, Dan and his wife, Jackie, published 4 issues every year, plus the gala World Series issue. Well written articles, compelling stories, in depth interviews along with great action photos, and printed on slick glossy paper, reinforced the credibility of the MSBL as the premier adult baseball league in the country. David Krival, was the first editor of the magazine and was a (continued on page 2)



A Hardball magazine cover from the 1995 Spring issue, captures the 30+ National division, Minnesota Twins, celebrating a championship victory on the field at Tempe Diablo Stadium.

1988 Inaugural MSBL World Series Featured 38 Teams In Arizona Tempe Diablo Stadium Has Hosted This Event From The Start!

By Tom Prendergast

In what seems like a pretty long time ago, the first MSBL World Series was held in Arizona in the Fall of 1988. Thirty-eight teams participated in two age divisions. 30+ National and 40+ National. South Dakota captured the 30+ championship trophy with a resounding 14-0 win over San Jose. In the 40+ National contest, Woodland-Davis defeated Sacramento 12-9. Both of the losing teams would prevail the next year. San Jose won a squeaker in a repeat game with an exciting come from behind, 10-9 win, while in the 40+ National championship, Sacramento beat Pittsburgh, 11-6.

Most of the details from those games are forgotten, but the excitement and exhilaration that the players felt who participated in those games are etched in their memories. Several of these players are still playing in our 70+ / 75+ divisions. One of the areas that the MSBL excels in is taking care of our own. And certainly the players who were with us 35 years ago, remain a vibrant and important part of our history and our tournament today. It's safe to say these guys will always occupy a special place in our hearts and minds. This tournament wouldn't be the same today without them.

Sadly some of the people that were so involved in our formative years are no longer with us. But their contributions remain and we remember them fondly. A trip down the MSBL memory lane is long and far reaching. Teammates that I haven't seen in years bring a smile to my face when I see an old photo with them. Getting the opportunity to get on the ball field again (as a 30 year old) and relive my baseball days was unbelievable. Playing competitive baseball gave us all the chance to experience the "thrill of victory" and the "agony of defeat" as an adult baseball player! Being a part of the MSBL has been one of the highlights of my life, as I'm sure it's been for thousands of others. And while the wins and losses fade into history, the friendships that I have made will last a lifetime.



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MSBL WORLD SERIES DAILY NEWS

The MSBL WS office is located inside
Tempe Diablo Stadium (Gene Autry Suite)
Located on the second floor

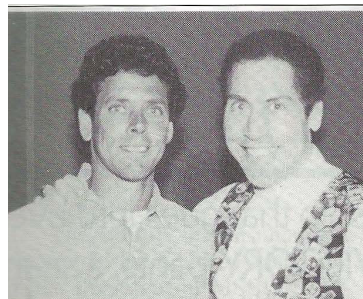
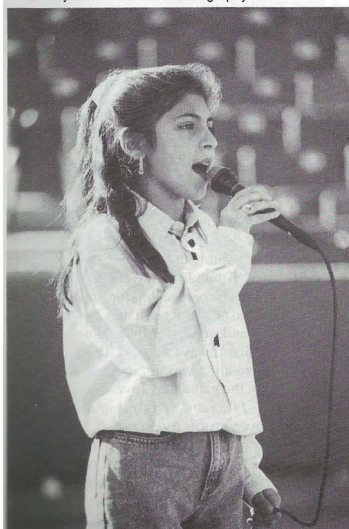
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Photo by Denevi & Jones Photography



MSBL President, Steve Sigler with Roy Firestone (guest speaker) before the World Series awards banquet (held at the Pointe at South Mountain) in October 1994.

Photo left - Jamie Lynn Sigler sang the national anthem before the 30+ American championship game in October 1993 in Tempe, AZ

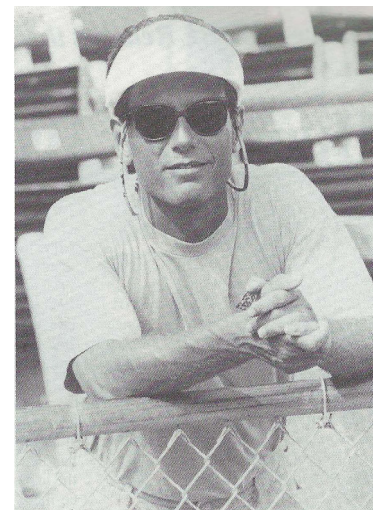


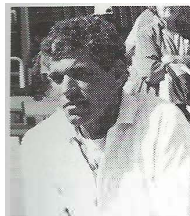
Photo above - MSBL / MABL Vice President, Gary D'Ambrisi is also the tournament director of the Fall Classic in Florida. Not only that but Gary still plays and looks like the Fonz!

Hardball Magazine Debuts In Spring of 1991 *(continued from page 1)*

stickler for details and a ball player himself. This was a different kind of publication, one devoted to the amateur adult player, who in a lot of cases hadn't played baseball since high school or even little league. No matter your skill level or background, chances are a new MSBL league was forming in a city near you.

The next decade saw tremendous growth of the league and almost overnight, the MSBL was in 100 plus cities throughout the country. And the magazine was a huge factor in our incredible growth in the early days of the league.

Bottom photo - Harball Magazine creator and publisher, Dan Piro. There's no question that Dan's leadership with the magazine drove the steady growth of the MSBL



Harball Magazine's 1st editor in chief, David Krival before a game.

From the President

Dear Ylember:

Over 200 teams, 151 in Arizona and 52 at the Fall Classic in Florida-almost 4,000 players-competed in our recently concluded national tournaments. *USA Today* ran a cover story on our organization. Championship games from both tournaments were televised.

My message here, though, is to each of you individually.

Each season we promise ourselves not to take it so seriously, but we can't help it; we love the game and we always will. We meet at the batting cages, spend hours on the phone at night discussing would-haves, should-

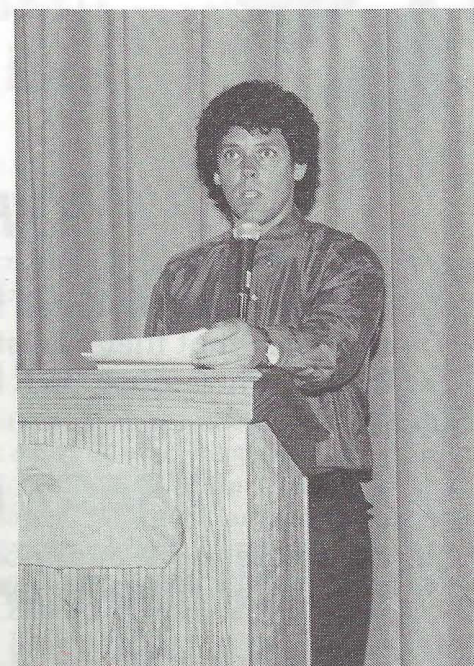
haves, and if-onlys. Our spouses are tolerant, but I doubt they understand the passion.

Softball just isn't the same: the dimensions are all wrong; the challenge is largely absent. Hit a line drive, make a running catch in a game of hardball, and the glow lasts all week.

We wouldn't have it any other way. It's important to stay excited about playing baseball, to anticipate each week's game. Hold on to that excitement! Don't let time take away this second crack at our game. As your season approaches, be passionate, be competitive. Enjoy our league for what it brings to all of us!

*Steve Sigler
President
MSBUMABL
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**From Hardball Magazine
Winter Issue 1992**



Steve Sigler at pre-Series Managers Meeting held at Westcourt in the Buttes in Tempe.

This article appeared in the Spring issue of Hardball magazine. It highlighted a 50+ old timers exhibition game played during the 1992 MSBL World Series. Back then we thought 50 and over guys were old! TP

Old Timers Show Us How To Play The Game



1992 MSBL World Series 50+ Exhibition Game

by Dennis Hightower and David Krival

Tempe Diablo Complex, November 1, 1992—The Welcome Barbecue was in full swing. A gathering of ballplayers and their families munched generous plates of chicken, browsed the MSBL Mart, and perched on the grass in the sliding-practice infield or in the stands around Auxiliary Field #1. A country band played Waylon and Willie, and Stevie Ray Vaughn.

At the edge of this pastoral scene, thirty-five men, all at least fifty years old, played a game of baseball. With little advance notice, it probably drew the largest crowd to ever watch an MSBL game. They came to chew the fat, but stayed to watch.

Enough guys to play?

It was the idea of **John DeBenedictis**, of the **Philadelphia MSBL Phillies**, 1990 40+ American Division champions. "We wondered how many older players were interested," he said. "There are so many players in their early forties competing in the 40+ Divisions. Many who used to play 30+ have entered the 40+ in the last few years. We were hoping we had enough men for a 50+ Division in the 1993 Series."

Organizing the exhibition was clearly satisfying to DeBenedictis. "These guys are terrific," he said. "Just look at them."

As the men took batting practice and infield, the crowd of younger players began to show serious interest. The men formed two teams. DeBenedictis coached the East; **George Esposito** of the West. By game time, the

stands were packed. Three hours later, a hundred people remained, watching in the cold.

Winning Isn't Everything

Winning was not the paramount concern of either team. The game gave these men a chance to play with a group of their peers, and to perform before an admiring crowd of knowledgeable ballplayers. They made the most of it.

Lefty **Al "Bucky" Bucholtz** of Denver went a few innings on the hill for the West, displaying a nasty overhand curve and a live fastball. Lanky **Lee Golderdammer** needed a few pitches to get warm, then he whipped his sidearm fastball to the plate in the mid-eighties. With over 300 victories and 4,000 strikeouts, Lee will soon to be inducted into the **South Dakota Amateur Baseball Association Hall Of Fame**.

Frankie DeVol of Sacramento ran the bases like a greyhound all night. He has been timed recently at 10.8 for 100 yards. Few players of any age at the World Series could keep pace with him.

Bob Beattie of South Dakota was rock-solid behind the plate. **Val Lewis** amazed the crowd with a 390-foot out, hit into the teeth of the desert wind.

Jim Scott of **Central Arkansas** hails from Chickalah, home town of Dizzy Dean. Jim's aright-handed pitcher with the reflexes of a cat. Scott bare!y got his glove up in time to keep a hot shot from embedding itself in his midsection. He calmly picked the ball up, dusted it off with his shirt and lobbed it to first, eyeballing the stupified batter all the while.

Later, one of the West hitters lifted a pop-up over the mound. Scott removed

his hat and tossed it behind him, then caught the ball with a one-hand swipe. "It's not hotdogging," he explained. "I wear bifocals and the lights bother me if I leave my hat on."

DeBenedictis hit a couple a rockets for the East. **Fred Scheiner** of **Long Island** says he's looking forward to playing on the same team with his son, who turns thirty next year. Retired judge **Ted Boffinger** of Sacramento was the oldest man on the field at 68. His Honor took some pretty good cuts.

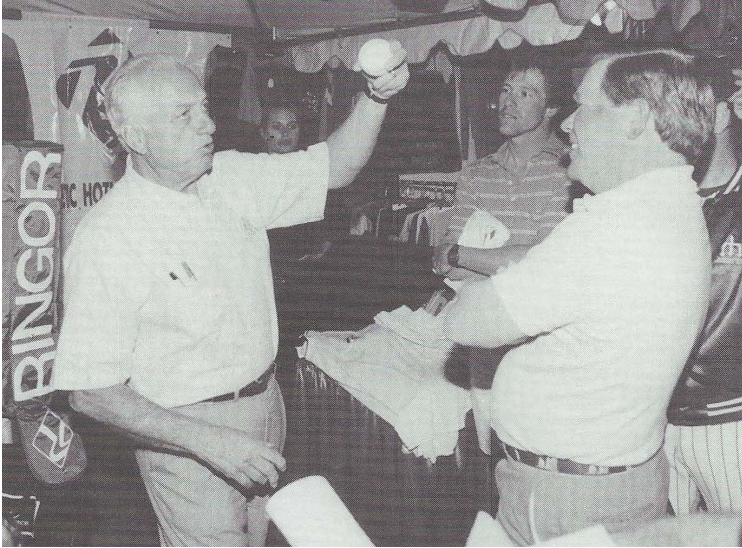
It's impossible to predict whether DeBenedictis will succeed in establishing a 50+ Division in 1993, but it's evident that there are plenty of interested players. On November 1, their skill, dedication and sportsmanship was inspirational.

1992 MSBL World Series 50+ Exhibition Game:

	R	H	E
West	15	14	4
East	9	12	4

Not only did the 50+ division succeed, its become one of our largest and most popular divisions. Not to mention - 55+ / 60+ / 65+ / 70+ / 73+ and 75+! So here's a shout out to those guys!





Former LA Dodger manager, **Tommy Lasorda** holding court at the MSBL Trade Mart on the Tempe Diablo Concourse in October 1993.

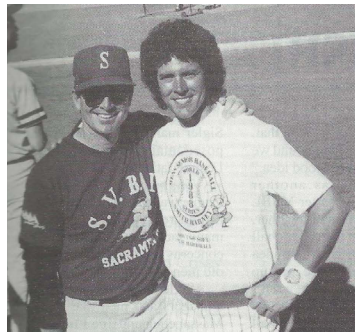


MSBL WS tournament director, **Kurt Knop** addresses the crowd before the awards ceremony, held in the ball room of the spacious and glamorous - The Pointe Resort (at South Mountain) in 1992.



Bottom photo - Sacramento league president, **Val Lewis** (left) with MSBL President, **Steve Sigler** on the field at Tempe Diablo Stadium - during a father / son practice at the 1988 WS. This was our inaugural year for this new division. It's now our most popular!

Top photo: MSBL President and founder, **Steve Sigler** is interviewed on the field at Tempe Diablo Stadium before the 30+ National Division championship game in October 1990. Arizona defeated St Petersburg 16-7, in a game that was taped and televised on the Sports Channel America in November.



Former WS assistant tournament director, **Steve Rosenberg**, on the mound pitching for Croatia in the 1998 MSBL WS tournament. Steve was also the President of the Atlanta MSBL. A fixture at our regional tournaments and the World Series, Rosy loved the game and was always ready to pitch at a moments notice. He was also a confident and close friend of the Sigler family.

He passed away on June 21st, 2006 of lung cancer. He remains the only MSBL / MABL player to be eulogized on the cover of Hardball Magazine. This was a fitting and most deserving tribute and honor.

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In Loving Memory

Steven A. Rosenberg

INSIDE:
MSBL Community Mourns the Loss of
Steve Rosenberg
ALSO: Tournament Reports, Tempe Diablo
Update, and more