

DAILY NEWS



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Lou Patler, Bay Area MSBL: "How MSBL Literally Saved My Life"

By Steve LaMontia, Director of Communications

In 2023 at the MSBL World Series in Arizona, then 79-year-old Lou Patler was a member of the Sacramento Solons 70+ entry. Louis is a pitcher and threw two innings on Monday and Tuesday, as was the plan as laid out by manager Irv Scott. On Wednesday he was not feeling too good and asked Irv if he could just sit out and be able to help if needed. Things got progressively worse throughout the game so Irv's wife Sylvia went out to the parking lot and got some Tylenol for Lou and he was able to watch the rest of the game with the headache somewhat under control. He then went back to the rental house by himself. Then on the morning of Thursday the 26th of October he felt worse and let Irv know that he was going to rest up at home. Little did he anticipate that he almost died before the next game! The headache worsened and turned to dizziness. At 4:00 pm he was supposed to meet some friends to celebrate his 80th birthday that was approaching that weekend. Steve and Ann showed up to pick him up but it took Lou a long time to get to the door. He doesn't remember much about what happened next, but he stumbled into his friend Ann's arms and she and Steve took him directly to the emergency room of Honor Health Hospital in Scottsdale. They whisked Lou from the car to the entrance and then into a waiting wheel chair. He doesn't remember anything that happened the next six days. He almost died right there. The ER doctor called his wife back home in California and said they would "keep him alive until you get here"...a call that no spouse wants to receive. The rest of the story is amazing. Louis shouldn't be here to tell it, but an amazing cardiologist took charge. *"I was admitted to ICU with 'cardiogenic shock' which was then upgraded to 'acute systolic heart failure.' That means my heart MUSCLE was acutely weak and my body's systems and organs were shutting down. The valves and arteries were not damaged. (continued on page 3)*



Bennett Fischer Inducted Into the MSBL Hall of Fame



Longtime Houston MSBL player, **Bennett Fisher** received his National Hall of Fame plaque from President and Founder, **Steve Sigler** (along with grandson, **Wes**) yesterday afternoon.

2024 MSBL/MABL National Hall of Fame Inductee: Bennett Fisher

By Steve LaMontia, Director of Communications

Bennett Fisher is an attorney who resides in Houston and began his MSBL career in the Houston Hardball League back in the fall of 1988. Even though he is approaching the upper sixties in age, he continues to play first base for the 55-over Houston Tigers in the league. He is also a frequent participant in the MSBL World Series every year. "I've played in nearly every World Series since 1991, missing 2004 when my wife had breast cancer and then 2019 when she had Leukemia," explained Bennett. "One year, instead of the World Series, we went to the Fall Classic. I've played in almost every age group from 30 to 55. For the past 10 to 15 years or so I have played with the Houston Baseball Club, which then became the Houston Old Stars and now, the Houston Baseball Club Stars (55+)." Bennett has a burning passion for the game, in both the league and in tournaments. Because of this obvious passion and dedication, MSBL Founder and President Steve Sigler has inducted Bennett into the 2024 class of the MSBL National Hall of Fame. "I feel like a lifetime of baseball memories has brought us to this point. I was one of three people who organized our league, the Houston Senior Baseball Association, in the winter of 1989 with Jim Wood and Scott Susor. I laid out a blueprint for a non-profit association that many leagues still utilize.

After forming and helping manage the HSBA, in the early 1990s, Steve Sigler asked me to join the MSBL National Board. There were many annual meetings and I hope I've provided good legal advice to Steve and Brian (Sigler) over the years. I have managed World Series teams for a number of years, but although a ring has eluded us, I think everyone has a good time, a year full of memories, and a lifetime of friendships. The honor and recognition humble me." What about the past? How did you get to this point in your baseball career? "I grew up in the Wyandanch Hills Little League (and Senior League) in Long Island, New York. After playing on the ninth-grade school team, I switched to golf but continued playing Senior Ball. As you know, baseball is a 5-tool sport. I love the game, but I've never had much more than half a tool. I can hit a little."

(continued on page 2)

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MSBL WORLD SERIES DAILY NEWS

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To see our full menu visit,
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65+ Cactus 1

Motor City Firebirds

Cal Vets (2)

Racine Blues

Long Island Yankees

Chicago Central Northstars

Vets 65+

So Cal Dodgers

Seattle Mariners

Arizona Stallions

Team Mexico

65+ Cactus 2

Arkansas Diamonds

Sacramento Royals

South Dakota Prairie Dogs

Dragons

North County Blues

Red Deer Legends

OKC Classics

Cal Vets (1)

Paladin

Chicago Maxx Cubs

Tucson Toros (div 1)

Mustangs Baseball Club

65+ National / Central

Puget Sound Mariners

SA Black Ops / Lonestars

Minnesota Bandits

LA Athletics

55+ Cactus 1

17 Calzona Angels

0 Motor City Firebirds

8 Milwaukee Rangers

21 Seattle Steelheads

22 Red Deer Legends

8 Chicago Yankees

18 Seattle Steelheads

8 Calzona Angels

10 Chicago Yankees

14 Milwaukee Rangers

Motor City Firebirds

Red Deer Legends

55+ Cactus 2

1 NTX Oilers

16 3n2 Rangers

0 Chicago Maxx Cubs

7 Nor Cal Cubs

2 Mustangs Baseball Club

18 Seattle Naranjeros

8 Rochester Redwings

11 Tri Valley A's

19 3n2 Rangers

7 Nor Cal Cubs

2 Tri Valley A's

5 Chicago Maxx Cubs

1 Mustangs Baseball Club

4 Rochester Redwings

Seattle Naranjeros

NTX Oilers

55+ Cactus 3

Houston Baseball Club

Lehigh Valley Hurricanes

Connecticut Navigators

Long Island Panthers

San Antonio Reds

Connecticut Navigators

Salt Lake Bees

Houston Baseball Club

Long Island Panthers

Salt Lake Bees

Lehigh Valley Hurricanes

San Antonio Reds

55+ National / Mountain

Sacramento Rockets

Yoner Travelers

Boston Wolfpack

Tulsa Liners

Tri Valley Tribute

Mustangs Baseball Club

35+ Cactus 1

3 Chicago Cyclones

1 Houston Gamblers

10 Minnoka Grays

3 LA Charros

13 Minnesota Bruins

13 Nuevo Mexico Conquistadors

15 Sonoma County Rebels

10 Tucson White Sox

0 Arizona Heat

15 Chicago Cyclones

14 Tucson White Sox

9 Minnesota Bruins

Nuevo Mexico Conquistadors

0 Sonoma County Rebels

7 Houston Gamblers

9 LA Charros

11 Minnoka Grays

5 Arizona Heat

35+ Cactus 2

18 Indy Heat

2 Long Island Twins

4 Minnesota Mammoth

6 Oakland Oaks

0 San Antonio River Burns

9 San Diego North County Brewers

5 Seattle Ravens

6 So Cal Monarchs

14 Long Island Twins

4 Utah Blues

9 So Cal Monarchs

12 Minnesota Mammoth

4 Oakland Oaks

18 San Antonio River Burns

4 San Diego North County Brewers

6 Seattle Ravens

16 Utah Blues

10 Indy Heat

15

55+ National / Mountain

Tulsa Liners

24 Team Victory

9

Mustangs Baseball Club

Yoner Travelers

12 Boston Wolfpack

20 Sacramento Rockets

4 FD 21 Bombers

6 Tri Valley Tribute

11

2024 MSBL National Hall of Fame Inductee: Bennett Fisher

(continued from page 1)

What are some of the highlights of your 35-year career of playing MSBL baseball? "In 2015 I was on the Houston Old Stars that featured the marquee match-up at Tempe Diablo Stadium featuring Roger 'Rocket' Clemens on the mound for us and Oil Can Boyd for the Boston Wolfpack. We had a crowd of about 500 MSBL players and others in the stands as Roger pitched a terrific six innings before giving way to the bullpen. That game was a lot of fun. I even got a bloop hit off 'The Can.' We won, although I don't remember the final score. Roger stayed around after the game and signed autographs for over an hour." "Here in Houston, we've had a number of ex-major leaguers play from time to time, including Bill Dawley, who managed a team I played on for many years, as well as JR Richard whom I recruited," Bennett continued. "JR was a client and a friend. He went to a tryout in Florida for the short-lived Florida Professional Senior League in the early 1990s, and threw 95 mph!" Bennett's passion and skill didn't just happen. There are always catalysts who assist in the journey. "I'd have to start with my Father, who coached most of my Little League teams. One of my seventh-grade school coaches was Mr. Jutze. The next season, we asked where Mr. Jutze was and found out that he went back to playing baseball in the minors. A couple of years later, he was on the Astros roster. Skip Jutze played parts of about six years in the majors. I don't know if he ever returned to teaching. Other than my father and the many coaches in my childhood and on school teams, I need to thank the dozens of teammates who have encouraged me and given me advice and support. Any final comments? "Nothing reflected the love, care, and concern we have for one another than the many teammates and others in the league who showed up to give blood in my wife's name during her cancer treatment and then for her memorial a few years ago. I will never forget their support."

55+ National / Mountain	W	L	T	Pts	RA	Win %
1 Boston Wolfpack	4	0	0	8	27	1000
2 Yonder Travelers	3	1	0	6	18	750
3 Mustangs Baseball Club	3	1	0	6	22	750
4 FD21 Bombers	2	2	0	4	38	500
5 Team Victory	2	2	0	4	47	500
6 Sacramento Rockets	1	3	0	2	27	250
7 Tulsa Liners	1	3	0	2	61	250
8 Tri Valley Tribute	0	4	0	0	28	0

55+ Cactus Division 1	W	L	T	Pts	RA	Win %
1 Milwaukee Rangers	3	0	1	7	19	875
2 Motor City Firebirds	2	1	1	5	24	625
3 Calzona Angels	2	2	0	4	28	500
4 Seattle Steelheads	2	2	0	4	32	500
5 Red Deer Legends	1	2	1	3	34	375
6 Chicago Yankees	0	3	1	1	58	125

55+ Cactus Division 2	W	L	T	Pts	RA	Win %
1 Nor Cal Cubs	4	0	0	8	19	1000
2 Seattle Naranjeros	4	0	0	8	30	1000
3 3n2 Rangers	3	1	0	6	20	750
4 Rochester Redwings	3	1	0	6	26	750
5 Chicago MAXX Cubs	2	2	0	4	30	500
6 Mustangs Baseball Club	0	4	0	0	61	0
7 NTX Oilers	0	4	0	0	63	0
8 Tri Valley A's	0	4	0	0	66	0

55+ Cactus Division 3	W	L	T	Pts	RA	Win %
1 Salt Lake Bees	3	0	0	6	17	1000
2 Lehigh Valley Hurricanes	2	1	0	4	14	667
3 Houston Baseball Club	2	2	0	4	40	500
4 Connecticut Navigators	2	2	0	4	43	500
5 Long Island Panthers	1	2	0	2	54	333
6 San Antonio Reds	0	3	0	0	50	0

65+ National / Central	W	L	T	Pts	RA	Win %
1 LA Athletics	3	0	0	6	4	1000
2 SA Black Ops / Lonestars	2	1	0	4	8	667
3 Puget Sound Mariners	1	2	0	2	17	333
4 Minnesota Bandits	1	2	0	2	23	333
5 Tucson Toros	1	2	0	2	37	0

65+ Cactus 1	W	L	T	Pts	RA	Win %
1 Team Mexico	3	0	0	6	18	1000
2 Chicago Central Northstars	2	0	0	4	8	1000
3 Long Island Yankees	2	0	0	4	13	1000
4 Motor City Firebirds	2	1	0	4	13	667
5 Arizona Stallions	2	1	0	4	19	667
6 So Cal Dodgers	1	1	0	2	15	500
7 Racine Blues	0	2	0	0	35	0
8 Seattle Mariners	0	2	0	0	38	0
9 Vets 65+	0	2	0	0	42	0
10 Cal Vets (2)	0	3	0	0	43	0

65+ Cactus 2	W	L	T	Pts	RA	Win %
1 Sacramento Royals	3	0	0	6	6	1000
2 Dragons	3	0	0	6	7	1000
3 Cal Vets (1)	2	1	0	4	14	667
4 Chicago MAXX Cubs	2	1	0	4	26	500
5 Arkansas Diamonds	2	1	0	4	30	667
6 Paladin	1	1	1	3	30	500
7 Red Deer Legends	1	1	1	3	31	250
8 OKC Classics	1	2	0	2	31	333
9 North County Blues	0	3	0	0	41	0
10 Mustangs Baseball Club	0	3	0	0	43	0
11 South Dakota Prairie Dogs	0	3	0	0	61	0

73+ National / American		St Thomas Hurricanes	10
Sacramento Solons	13	Fresno Grizzlies	9
Chicago TSP Fire	12	PSSBL Aqua Sox	0
MBI	5	Rhode Island Salty Dogs	32
Minnesota Bandits	7		
Cal Vets	15		
Red Deer Legends	9		





35+ Cactus Division 1	W	L	T	Pts	RA	Win %
1 Houston Gamblers	2	0	0	4	8	1000
2 Minnoka Grays	2	0	0	4	9	1000
3 Minnesota Bruins	2	0	0	4	11	1000
4 Arizona Heat	1	1	0	2	16	500
5 Sonoma County Rebels	1	1	0	2	17	500
6 Tucson White Sox	1	1	0	2	17	500
7 LA Charros	0	2	0	0	20	0
8 Nuevo Mexico Conquistadores	0	2	0	0	26	0
9 Chicago Cyclones	0	2	0	0	38	0

35+ Cactus Division 2	W	L	T	Pts	RA	Win %
1 Minnesota Mammoth	2	0	0	4	8	1000
2 Long Island Twins	2	0	0	4	11	1000
3 Seattle Ravens	1	1	0	2	7	500
4 So Cal Monarchs	1	1	0	2	13	500
5 Utah Blues	1	1	0	2	15	500
6 Oakland Oaks	1	1	0	2	17	500
7 San Diego N County Brewers	1	1	0	2	21	500
8 Indy Heat	0	2	0	0	12	0
9 San Antonio River Bums	0	2	0	0	16	0

73+ National / Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	RA	Win %
1 Rhode Island Salty Dogs	1	0	0	2	0	1000
2 Minnesota Bandits	1	0	0	2	5	1000
3 Cal Vets	1	0	0	2	9	1000
4 St Thomas Hurricanes	1	0	0	2	9	1000
5 Sacramento Solons	1	0	0	2	12	1000
6 MBI	0	1	0	0	7	0
7 Fresno Grizzlies	0	1	0	0	10	0
8 TSP Fire	0	1	0	0	13	0
9 Red Deer Legends	0	1	0	0	15	0
10 PSSBL Aqua Sox	0	1	0	0	32	0

Lou Patler, “How MSBL Saved My Life”

(continued from page 1)

A cardiac catheter and an impella were attached to my heart and took over artificially pumping to give my heart muscle a rest. My kidneys were hardest hit so I was placed on dialysis 24/7. In other words, my heart muscle was telling my brain and body, ‘I’m tired. I’m gonna take a long nap!’”

This is where Dr. Chester and MSBL saved Louis’ life.

“The Angels were in my corner, friends got me to ER in time, and fortunately Honor Hospital in Scottsdale had all the specialized equipment needed for keeping me alive.”

Seven days later Lou was transferred from ICU to telemetry so they could keep him under observation 24/7 via computers and video monitors. Then came the occupational therapy to learn to stand and then to walk and move with the help of a walker. He had to re-learn basic things like: brush his teeth, stand on his own, stand on a foam pad without falling over, and take a shower.

During the regular season Lou plays for the Seals in the 50-over division of the Bay Area MSBL, though he does join his age group when playing in the World Series in Arizona for over 20 years.

I love baseball but hated playing softball. When MSBL got going I returned to playing hardball. The humbling nature of real baseball, the fielding and throwing errors I made, the bad pitches I swung at sometimes...all of this turned me into a much better coach, one who understood a player’s perspective and one with considerably more patience and understanding.”

NO METAL SPIKES ALLOWED AT LEGACY PARK TURF FIELDS

Heads up - if your team has a game on one of the turf fields at Legacy Park. No metal spikes can be worn on the turf.

All MSBL players must have a government issued ID - with a photo to participate in the 2024 MSBL World Series. And they must have it with them during all games. Failure to produce this ID on demand, will result in an immediate forfeit of the game

No alcohol or tobacco products are allowed before - during or after the game at any MSBL World Series locations or stadiums!

All 65+ Cactus teams that play a National or Central team will receive two points for a win and 1 point for a loss.

Heads Up - WS Rule Change

In addition to the A/B batter or the Shared Batter position - each team can use two (2) courtesy runners.

When your team has a game at the Fitch park fields or Hohokam Stadium please park your car in the facility designated lots.



55+ Cactus Houston Baseball catcher, **Evert Aversloot** catches the ball just before the Lehigh Valley Hurricanes runner touches the plate



73+ National Sacramento Solons batter, **Lanny Ropke** rips this ball foul but singled on the next pitch in his teams 13-12 win.



55+ Cactus Lehigh Valley Hurricanes batter, **Bob Downs** reaches out and gets the end of the bat on this pitch for a seeing eye single.



55+ Cactus Long Island Panthers 1st baseman, **Robert Heinemann** just misses Connecticut batter / runner, **Manuel Varela** yesterday.



55+ Cactus Connecticut Navigators cleanup batter, **John Ivkovich** hits this curveball for an rbi double yesterday at the stadium.



55+ Cactus Long Island Panthers pitcher, **Mickey Garcia** was almost unhittable during Mondays 18-4 win over the Connecticut Navigators