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FEATURED

Englewood Men's Senior Soball League crowns champions

By RUDY DAVIS Senior Soball League

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The Rum Bay Pirates, champions of the Gold Division, are, from le, (standing) Lance Magnusen, Dennis Smith, Greg Grams, Rick Wa Don Clopein, Dennis Girard, Dan Kett, Dennis Smith (kneeling) Jeff Dooley, Neil Meneghini, Mike Fowler, Joe Siragusa and Ray Smith.

PHOTO PROVIDED

The Englewood Men's Senior Softball league season, shortened by two games due to the COVID-19 virus outbreak, concluded last week.

The season was highlighted by close competition in both the Gold and Silver divisions, and the second season of play in the popular Bronze Division.

“One of the most competitive years we’ve had,” said Bill Rice, league commissioner. “Late-inning come-from-behind wins were plentiful. More fence-clearing home runs than many years.”

Teams that finished middle to low in last year’s standings made great improvements. That starts in early January with new-player entry draft. The league set up two pre-draft tryout days solely for draftees and managers to evaluate the talent prior to the actual draft.

“That was a great idea, which we hope to improve on next year,” said Ray Murphy, Silver division coordinator.

In the Silver division, the championship wasn’t determined until the last few games, with Englewood Elks Lodge 2378 pulling away at the end.

"We had a real good run in mid-season, largely due to the hitting by the bottom of our order, and were able to hold off a bunch of challengers," said Bob Dika, manager of the Elks. "In our first season five years ago, we didn't win a game. Every team has improved, and every team is dangerous." The team went 13-6 this year.

In the Gold Division, the story was the same with back-and-forth changes at the top and three teams topping the standings. It looked like Libee's would take the title, but injuries and a strong push by the Rum Bay Pirates kept both Libee’s and New fall Inn at bay.

“We had an excellent year, but had to have a lot of bounces go our way,” said Dan Kett, Rum Bay team manager. “We won a lot of close games. The division is very competitive with high-quality play. We’re honored to have won the division again.” This is the second title in three years for Rum Bay."

2020 was the second year of the Bronze division, specifically for players 75 and older or whose skills are such that playing in the Silver division is no longer an option.

“The Bronze division has been an absolute success” said Randy Harrold, manager of the Legends and assistant coordinator. “We still love to play, and we play well. We have a great time, and the opportunity to play is terrific”.

The Bronze division is expected to expand to three teams next year.

With players and fans headed home following the last games, plans are up in the air for the Spring league, held during April. The coronavirus may disrupt those plans. But, plans are set for the fall league beginning in October, and the upcoming 2021 season, with the draft to be held in early January 2021.

For players who will be 60 or over in 2021, or those who are age eligible already and want to join the fun, open practices are usually held at 8:30 a.m. each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Englewood Sports Complex April through December. Those new to the league and interested in playing in the Fall 2020 season or in 2021 can register at www.inglewoodseniorsoftball.weebly.com.

Englewood Senior Soball Winter League Final Standings

GOLD DIVISION

Rum Bay Pirates, 15-4

Libee's 13-6

New Faull Inn 13-6

Ricaltini's 11-8

Howards 11-8

End Zone 5-14

Key Agency 4-15

Englewood Moose 4-15

SILVER DIVISION

Englewood Elks 13-6

Landy's 11-8

Ben's Barbershop 10-9

Yellow Jackets 10-9

Purple Panthers 10-9

Riverwood Relics 9-10

Restore Physical Therapy 7-12

Green Hornets 6-11

BRONZE DIVISION

Legends 14-3

Classics 3-14



The Englewood Elks Lodge 2378 consists of, from left, (standing) manager Bob Dika, Mark Higgins, Dave Rafalski, Steve Dsupin, Scott Neil Wallace, Carmen Rivera, Rick Bielski, (kneeling) Bill Rossa, Burt Thomas, Ed Wilson, John Daher, Dick Rembisz, Jerry Rideout. The team won the Englewood Senior Softball's Silver Division for the winter league.



The Legends are champions of Englewood Senior Softball's new Bronze Division. They are, from left (standing) Bill Gormley, Ric Goo, Steve Seall, Joe Nigro, Ken Helimann, manager Randy Harrold, (kneeling) Jim Alexander, Frank Vogel, Ray Perry, Bill Bricker, Al Lee & Don Matis.