

Englewood senior softball players love the game

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ENGLEWOOD — Softball is a sport people of almost any age can play. And the Englewood Senior Softball League is proof of that.

The league held tryouts and a draft Wednesday and Thursday at the Englewood Sports Park's senior softball field for the 60-year-old-and-over Gold division and the 67-and-over Silver division's season.

Players began hitting the ball Wednesday and running to first base. From there, they went to fielding in the infield and the outfield, then the pitchers did their thing.

"Each of the players has a number," said Gold division coordinator Rudy Davis. "After the tryouts, the managers hold a draft and pick the player via the number."

Players who were already on a team from last season didn't have to try out. There are 14 players required for each team. The only players who had to try out Wednesday (for the Gold division) were new players and players from last season not protected.

Davis, who plays in the Gold division, loves the game.

"I like the camaraderie and love to play" the Michigan native said. "We

have what you could call friendly competition."

"I'm 76," said Ray Murphy. "I was one of the extra players last season on the 60 and over team so I'm trying out. I play in both divisions because I was grandfathered in."

Murphy, originally from New Jersey, has been in the league for six years.

"I played baseball, basketball, football and track in high school," he said. "Now I'm a pitcher here. What I like best about playing senior softball is the camaraderie and the competition. You get to make friends with people and it's a lot of fun."

"I hope to play until 100 if that's possible."

John Skaggs, a native of Columbus, Ohio, lives in Englewood for the winter season. He has played in the league for 10 years. At 73, he's still active and enjoys the sport.

"I'm a third baseman and playing this keeps me active," said Skaggs. "I enjoy playing with all the guys."

As the players talked, other players took their turns at bat and hit the ball. Some were able to run easily to first base and beyond. Others had a hard time running but didn't quit. Most of the league's players have played sports at some level when they were younger.

Both divisions hope to have eight teams this season. Last year, the Gold Division had eight teams and the Silver Division had six.

"The 67-and-over division begins season games Tuesday at 9 a.m., and the 60-and-over division opens play Wednesday at the same time. The 60-and-over division plays games every Wednesday and Friday, and the 67-and-over division will play every Tuesday and Thursday.

The league will continue until the end of March. Also, the field will be open every Monday, starting at 8:30 a.m. for people who just want to play softball whether they're on a team or not.