

Men learning softball in their elder years

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ENGLEWOOD —

Thursday morning at the Englewood Sports Park's softball field, men took turns hitting the ball, fielding it and pitching.

Their workouts were a strong hint that it's time for the C.B. White Englewood men's senior slowpitch softball league to start. The league had its draft Wednesday and Thursday to select new players for teams.

There are two divisions in the league; the gold division for men 60 to 67 and the silver division for men 67 and over. Men younger than 67 can't play in the older division, but players older than 67 can play in the younger division if they're good enough. Most of the players that were drafted were never in the league before.

"I've never played softball before," said Micky Muzevich, "but I've coached women's softball team before and we had traveling teams. I really like the sport."

That was in Ohio. When Muzevich, 67, moved to Englewood about five years ago, he didn't know anything about the senior league.

"I heard something about it on the radio recently and I decided to come and try out," he said.

The players waiting to be drafted took their turn hitting the ball. They would have five to 10 times hitting the ball,

the last couple of times then running to first or second base. They then went to infield, outfield and pitching practice, depending on what they wanted to do.

"The purpose of the league is to encourage men who have never played before to get involved and play in the league," said Rudy Davis, the coordinator for the gold division. Davis also plays on a gold division team.

"The thing I like about the league is that we have a lot of camaraderie," said Terry Miller, a member of the league's board. "It's competitive, but it's friendly. We're all friends."

Miller, a native of Canada, also plays in the league.

"I played football, hockey and baseball there (in Canada)," Miller said. "This is a good way to stay active."

Players in the gold division were drafted Wednesday morning and the silver division players were drafted Thursday.

The season began Friday morning with four games in the gold division. More than 200 players are in the league.

The season will last until the end of March, playing at 8:30 a.m. each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Englewood Sports Complex, 1300 S. River Road, just east of Pine Street in Englewood. For more information about the league, contact Rich Entlich at 941-460-9645 or visit www.EnglewoodSeniorsSoftball.weebly.com.