



# **SAN ANTONIO MENS SENIOR BASEBALL LEAGUE**

P.O. Box 690093 - San Antonio, Texas 78269

## Year Book 2009 Information

The San Antonio Men's Senior Baseball League (SAMSBL) started its 18<sup>th</sup> season in March with enthusiasm and excitement. We finished having won 7 Championship titles with a near –miss on another five in four different tournaments. And, we have done it again in all age divisions.

The OPEN Division had three teams finish with same records for the first time in a three-way tie. The 35+ Division was the toughest of all showing strong talent every weekend. The 35+ Hooks won that division. The 45+ Division saw the 45+ Astros team start and stay strong every game. The 55+ Division added a Texas League within the Division to have some traveling games with the Colt 45's. In all it was just excellent baseball once again.

The 2009 World Series Tournaments hosted Eleven (11) teams from the SAMSBL in all age divisions with outstanding results. A combined 48-23-3 record saw 10 of the teams make the playoff round with 6 of the teams making it to the Championship games and three (3) sets of winners of the 2009 World Series rings. The SAMSBL sent the 18+ Blaze, George Kassis; 18+ Titans, Doug Rosini; 35+ Bulldogs, Charlie Zapata; 45+ Bombers, Jerry Spencer; 45+ Reds, Phil Galloway; 45+ Red Sox, Bill Baldwin; 55+ Yankees, Dave Kellum; 55+ Texans, Bill Howard; 55+ Colts, Jeff Dravis; 60+ Texans, Bill Burgess; and 60+ Rangers, Billy Jacobs. The Titans, Bulldogs, Red Sox, Reds, Colts, and Yankees got to the Championship games. The Bulldogs, Colts, and Yankees won. Never before has any League won more than 3 in a season and we have now accomplished that feat for three years in a row!! The SAMSBL now has 14 national titles in the last 9 years. What an outstanding accomplishment for the local guys.

It is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of three of our members. Dennis Iker, 55+ Rangers, was killed by man known to him in a car theft incident. Dennis has been in the SAMSBL all of its 18 years of existence. He was an excellent man, a trusted advisor, and a good friend. He is missed so much. Another long time member has suffered a quick debilitating bout with colon cancer. Long time umpire Tino Hernandez cancelled his first assignment in twelve year just in August. He was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer in several areas of his body. He was an anchor for our League for so many years as a dependable umpire. Finally, Gary Hernandez, 35+/45+ Orioles, died of his wounds. He had recently returned from Iraq.

Rookie Managers are the lifeblood of any league. The fact that they keep coming is a testament to this game and their desire to be abused. In the SAMSBL, their first year is known as "the year of fire". They are going to learn all about people problems, line-up adjustments, dependability (& lack thereof), deadlines, winning and losing, collections, start times, and logistics all the while "burning with consternation" to complete a season. For 2009 Gil Oliva, 18+ Mets; Steve Basting, 18+ TWC; Landon DaPrile, 25+ Shockers; Luis Velaquez, 35+ Missions; Kim Fuerniss, 35+ K-Crush; Lee Huntley, 35+ Brewers; Xavier Olivaries, 35+ Nationals; Gene Snider, 45+ Cardinals; Alan Rabinowitz, 45+ Padres; Jeff Dravis, 55+ Colts; and Bill Burgess, 55+ Dillos. All had their own personal fires throughout the season. All were very glad the initial season ended and the heat finally subsided. We veteran Managers have assured them that the singed, discolored skin will heal with just one off-season.

By the same token, some veteran managers have decided to step down just to enjoy the game from a player's viewpoint: just show up, play, and leave. Many thanks are offered to Danny Williams, Tiger Jones, Jason Hild, and Joe Gutierrez for their dedicated efforts to allow their teammates to play baseball.



John Reidy kept the title of Chief Umpire for another year. His excellent administrative skills had umpires at all the games all the time. John's enthusiasm for the game shows everyday he and I talk about issues of our league. He is one of the best at what he does and I admire him so. Thank you, John, for another year well done!! Your corps of umpires includes brothers David and John Paul Boone, Mel Carter, Steve Pilette, John Martinez, Tino Hernandez, Danny Flores, Jason Levasseur, and newcomers Joey Gonzales, Kevin Curtis, and Dean Hartsook.

The outlook for the SAMSBL for 2010 and beyond is bright. It appears that our local league will have its own "Fitch" or "Papago" ball parks in the near future. It also appears that a new atmosphere of cooperation among several senior leagues is forming so we all can benefit from the game that has captured our attention, at our ages. There is a motto in the exercise industry that says "don't live to work out; workout to live". Modified slightly, that motto applies to us senior leaguers: don't live to play baseball; play baseball to live!!"

This game keeps us young, motivated, in shape, and provides a desire in each of us to do better every year. More men in the SAMSBL have improved their bodies and (hopefully) minds to continue the relationships formed over the years while sweating together on the diamond. We look forward to the next season with relish and enthusiasm of just knowing that we still can participate and compete among our peers. What a great feeling.

Thanks to all the ladies who support us. To the silent majority of wives and girl friends, we players say thank you. To those few who participate weekly in the hot, dusty stands, we players say thank you. To the even fewer "team moms" who support us with scorekeeping, etc., we players say thank you. And, for those ladies who wish their man would become more of a stud muffin; challenge them to bat 100 points higher or to make one less error per game by shaping up.

I must give many thanks to my wife, Gail, who remains behind the scenes. She, too, suffers the trials and tribulations along with the exhilarations and joys of operating the SAMSBL. Her many years of counsel and wisdom has proven invaluable when I needed input. Her steady "light" has been my beacon for years.

Steve Sigler has helped the SAMSBL over the years with his steadfast support on some sticky issues. He has built the finest organization the world has ever known. He has been my mentor for more than a decade. Even with all the doom and gloom of economics, his vision of 22 years ago have given many men a reason to wait for the next game. Only he knows the exact satisfaction one feels for doing all that. I know I experience some of those feelings on my small scale of things. I just know that Steve has stirred in me a passion of hurricane force with baseball. The SAMSBL has excelled in recent years to an unprecedented pinnacle. I know I had something to do with it. Thanks, Steve.

SKIP BRADLEY  
President, SAMSBL  
HOF '05

