

Sammy's Cafe, Blue Bolts Winners in the Menifee Valley Upper Division Senior Softball Spring 2018 Season

MVUDSS League Champions - Sammy's Cafe



Back Row (L to R): John Benedict, Dan Gutierrez, Jeff Ianone, Bill Kluck, Harold Halderson, Chick McKenney
Front Row (L to R): Jim Mangiapane, Ralph Hernandez, Marlin Gunns, Moi Hill, Randy Gomez
Not Pictured: Tony Iavarone, Steve Katosta, Rick Patterson, Guy Swick

MVUDSS Tournament Champions - Blue Bolts



Back Row (L to R): Eric Morrison, Ed Rushing, Humberto Cornejo, Larry Hixson (sub), Craig Weilein, Andy Bullington (sub),
Ernie Regalado, Ed Parris, Butch Newman
Front Row (L to R): Hank Alonzo (sub), Hank Alberts, Victor Marzan, Jim Roach (sub)
Not Pictured: Rob Hellman, Steve Norman, Anthony Paschal

Let's start with the league championship race. Going into the last game of the season, Sammy's Cafe (SC) with a 10-3 record was leading 2nd place Grayful Dead (GD) with a 9-4 record by one game and had defeated them earlier in the season by a score of 19-17.

Coincidentally, these two teams were about to go head-to-head in that game with 3 possible outcomes depending upon the results:

(1) If SC wins/ties or if GD wins by less than 2 runs, then SC will be the champions

(2) If GD wins by more than 2 runs, then GD will be the champions

(3) If GD wins by exactly 2 runs, then a one-game playoff between SC and GD will be played to determine the champions.

The league championship was decided in top of the 7th/open inning when Sammy's Cafe scored 2 runs only to lose the game by 1 run 14-13, but win the league championship by virtue of the "runs allowed" tiebreaker (see outcome (1) above).

Congratulations to both Dan Gutierrez's Sammy's Cafe and Jack Buss' Grayful Dead teams!

Now let's go to the post-season 8-team single-elimination tournament where 2 teams and several pickups played 3 games in 100+ heat. Eric Morrison and Jim Roach played 4. In the championship game between #1 seed Sammy's Cafe and #3 seed Ed Rushing's Blue Bolts, it was 104 degrees at BLD/Perris when the first pitch was delivered and 106 degrees when the final out recorded. After 6 innings, with Blue Bolts leading 12-9, Sammy's Cafe held their opponent scoreless in the top of the 7th/open inning. But Blue Bolts, on a game-ending double play in the bottom of the inning, returned the favor to win the tournament championship. Congratulations to both teams!

MVUDSS league games are played on Monday mornings at the Big League Dreams Sports Park in Perris. The league offers tournament-caliber senior softball players 55 and older an opportunity to participate in a highly competitive, well-balanced, tournament-style league. Players turning 55 in calendar year 2019 are eligible to play in the upcoming Fall 2018 Season.

The league consists of players and teams from the Temecula Valley, Riverside, Ontario, and North San Diego County areas. Traveling teams have the option of playing once a week or playing bi-weekly doubleheaders.

League President Steve Baranick said, "Our league consists of six local teams and two out-of-area teams from North San Diego County and Ontario and continues to attract new players from around Southern California."

The Fall Season will start on August 27, 2018 and run through December 17, 2018. Players and teams interested in participating should contact Steve Baranick, 951-870-0114, stephenbaranick@gmail.com or visit the league website <http://www.mvudss.org/>.