

Sun City
Saints
1981

Wednesday, January 28, 1981 NEWS-SUN 5A

2 SC Saints receive nomination for award

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

Battery mates Debbie Doom and Marilyn Rau of the Sun City Saints have been nominated for Arizona Amateur Athlete of 1980 honors by the Phoenix Press Box Association.

Debbie, a 17-year-old Tempe high school student, had an outstanding year for the Saints in only her rookie season, leading the team to a third place finish in the Women's Major Fastpitch Softball National Tournament in Lansing, Mich., last August.

During the regular season Debbie posted a 26-2 record in 29 games with an earned-run average of 0.21. The hard-throwing

righthander struck out 394 while yielding just 26 walks in 203 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings of work.

DEBBIE culminated her season by being voted Most Valuable Player in the national tournament where she won six games and lost one. Ironically, her only defeat came on a no-hitter. She averaged just over 10 strikeouts a game during the tournament.

Marilyn, a veteran first team All-America catcher, led the team in hits (59), doubles (10), batting average (.358) and finished second to teammate Suzie Gaw in home runs with three.

She also had 29 RBI.

Marilyn was the national tournament's leading hitter with a .520 average and had nine RBI, one shy of the record.

MARILYN WON the award last year and also was named Arizona Female Athlete of the Year. Among those that vied with Marilyn for the honor were then University of Arizona basketball standout Larry Demic and Mossy Cade, a football player at Santa Cruz High School in Eloy.

The award will be one of several made to the state's amateur and professional athletes at the 35th annual Arizona Sports Awards dinner in March.



Marilyn Rau and Milwaukee Brewers relief pitcher Rollie Fingers discuss the finer points of the game during a break in action at Milwaukee's spring training camp in Sun City Stadium.

(News-Sun Photo by Bill Dosham)

as long as legs give cooperation

By STEVE HAWLEY

Sports Editor
Marilyn Rau gazed out at the Sun City Stadium field from a seat behind home plate the other day prior to a Milwaukee Brewers game.

She was wearing aviator sunglasses, the type issued to military flight officers.

Her eyes could not be followed through the tinted lenses, but no doubt Marilyn caught a glimpse of the home plate area.

FOR THE past 15 years, by Marilyn's recollection, she has been in combat behind the plate, knocking down errant pitches and taking foul tips off her mask.

Johnny Bench wants no more of that, but Marilyn, considered by many the finest catcher in women's softball, can't wait to get behind the plate again.

Despite winning nearly every honor available, Marilyn said she has no plans to retire. She'll be around, she said, "as long as the legs hold out."

"I HAVE to keep the

legs in shape in the off-season—jogging racquetball. Just sort of horsing around."

Marilyn will be counted on heavily this season, perhaps more so than in the past. Two of the team's leaders, veterans Lynn Mooney (third base) and pitcher Paula Noel have hung up their spikes. Marilyn now finds herself alone as the elder statesman, among youngsters and new faces.

"I've always kind of been in that role," she said. "I guess now I've kind of turned into the mother figure."

SAID manager Gerald Stapley, "Paula was a diplomat, the person that took over and ran the show. Marilyn has the same capabilities. With Lynn gone Marilyn is going to do what Lynn did in the past."

The Saints, even with two veterans gone, should be an improved club when the season opens April 18. Stapley somehow convinced Cindy Bristow to don a Saints' uniform. Cindy, a veteran pitcher,

to stay in combat

played with the Long Beach Renegades last season where she was 30-3 and instrumental in the team's second-place finish to Stratford, Conn., in the national women's major fastpitch championship.

"I think we'll be stronger because we have two strong pitchers like we did when we won nationals (1979)," explained Marilyn. "That's what it takes. She's (Cindy) a fine pitcher. I rate her in the top five nationally."

"HER BEST asset is her control."

Cindy, of course, will join Debbie Doom on the pitching staff. Debbie emerged from obscurity in 1980 to lead the Saints to a third-place finish in nationals and earned the tournament's most valuable player award.

The hard-throwing youngster, who is still in high school, gave a lot of credit to Marilyn's know-how behind the plate. Marilyn is equally complimentary and believes a year of experience should prove helpful to Debbie.

"I THINK she'll be bet-

ter because she's a year older and stronger," said Marilyn. "She pitched a lot (last season). I could see she'd get a little tired and had to push herself. She has an awful large body and she has to grow into it."

Other new faces on the Saints are infielder Vicky Smith, who played four years at Ohio University, Susan Bristow, Linda Belcher, Ann Beisser, a former catcher at Iowa State, and Barb Garcia.

Third base, with Lynn gone, will be the hardest spot in the line-up to fill. Stapley said he plans to use Vicky there, but that position could be up for grabs throughout the early part of the season.

"LYNN WAS a great defensive player," Marilyn said, "and it's hard to replace a player like that. It's going to hurt us a little bit there. The player coming in there is unproven. I'm sure we'll find a few players there until we find who is a third baseman."

And what are the Saint's chances of winning a national title again? Marilyn figures they are good now that many of the youngsters have a year under their belt. The Saints were shocked in their national tournament opener last year and never managed to fight their way back through the double-elimination format.

"Three of the last four years, I think, we've gone and lost the first game," Marilyn said. "It's like the World Series with the anxiety. Everybody builds you up and all of a sudden you stub your toe."

Marilyn also believes the team needs to play more away games to prepare for tournament play. The Saints play all regular-season games at home again this season.

"WE GO to nationals and it's like a washboard. We also get used to the umpires (at home) and it makes it easy for us."

"Our field has super lights and we go play someplace else and it hurts us."

Monday, April 13, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Saints to meet Class Saturday in '81 opener

By STEVE HAWLEY
The Sun City Saints begin their 1981 season with a 7:30 p.m. Saturday double-header against the Ontario (Calif.) Touch of Class in Sun City Stadium.

The two teams meet in the stadium again Sunday for another 7:30 p.m. double-header.

In all, the Saints will play 22 weekend double-headers at home, including 10 straight before hosting the May 23-25 Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament. The Webb tournament, held in July last season, has been moved back to avoid the hot summer weather.

FOLLOWING the Webb tournament, the Saints will play 10 more double-headers at home, including two against the Long Beach Renegades on June 27 and 28. The Renegades finished second in last year's national tournament, falling to Stratford (Conn.) in the finals. The Renegades beat the Saints to advance to the championship game.

July 3-5 the Saints will

compete in the San Bernardino (Calif.) Tournament and then return home for July 11 and 12 double-headers against the Sepulvada Raiders to close out the home season.

The Saints will play in the July 17-20 Phoenix Metro Tournament and the July 24-28 Syracuse, N.Y., Sports Festival before starting post-season play in the Cactus Regional Tournament. The regional is scheduled for July 31-Aug. 1 in Prescott. Winner advances to the National Major Fastpitch Softball Tournament in Houston.

GERALD Stapley will manage the team this season. He was appointed to that spot by the Saints Booster Club after Lynn Mooney resigned last season. Lynn and veteran pitcher Paula Noel, who now coaches women's softball at the University of Arizona, have retired.

Season ticket information may be obtained from booster club president Joe Davisson (584-4303) or Rose Schwartz (977-3544).

Tuesday, April 14, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Sun City Saints 1981 Schedule

APRIL

- 18 Ontario (Calif.) Touch of Class
- 19 Ontario (Calif.) Touch of Class
- 25 Phoenix Bobettes
- 26 Phoenix Pepperettes

MAY

- 2 Arizona State University
- 3 Mesa Community College
- 9 San Diego Flames
- 10 San Diego Flames
- 16 Long Beach Sundowners
- 17 Long Beach Sundowners
- 23 Webb Memorial Tournament
- 24 Webb Memorial Tournament
- 25 Webb Memorial Tournament
- 30 California Gold Sox
- 31 California Gold Sox

JUNE

- 6 Southern California Royals
- 7 Southern California Royals
- 13 California Blazers
- 14 California Blazers
- 20 San Diego Astros
- 21 San Diego Astros
- 27 Long Beach Renegades
- 28 Long Beach Renegades

JULY

- 3 at San Bernardino Tourney
- 4 at San Bernardino Tourney
- 5 at San Bernardino Tourney
- 11 Sepulvada Raiders
- 12 Sepulvada Raiders
- 17 Phoenix Metro Tournament
- 18 Phoenix Metro Tournament
- 19 Phoenix Metro Tournament
- 20 Phoenix Metro Tournament
- 24 at Syracuse (N.Y.) Festival
- 25 at Syracuse (N.Y.) Festival
- 26 at Syracuse (N.Y.) Festival
- 27 at Syracuse (N.Y.) Festival
- 28 at Syracuse (N.Y.) Festival
- 31 at Cactus Regional, Prescott

Stapley ponders

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

Sun City Saints manager Gerald Stapley has had several several weeks to consider a line-up for opening night Saturday in Sun City Stadium against the Ontario (Calif.) Touch of Class.

But up until the last minute, he still won't know who that line-up will include.

The reason for the uncertainty is an annual occurrence. Several of the

Saints also play for the Arizona State University women's softball team.

"I HAVEN'T set my mind firm yet on a line-up," Stapley said. "I have to see if ASU will let the college kids play. They've got two double-headers scheduled (Saturday). It may be too much for them to play."

The Saints will have a new look this season. They return 10 players from a team that finished third in the national wom-

en's major fast-pitch tournament. But there are six new faces, and one of them is certain to help from the start.

Stapley wooed a class pitcher to the club in Cindy Bristow, who catcher Marilyn Rau calls one of the nation's best. Last season Cindy posted a 30-3 record for the Long Beach Renegades, runner-up to Stratford (Conn.) in the national tournament. Her addition will allow high schooler Debbie Doom

some relief from mound duty.

DEBBIE CAPPED a standout performance in 1980 by being named most valuable player in the national tournament. Her only loss there came despite her no-hit pitching.

"It all depends on who the teams are," Stapley explained, "but I probably will split the pitching between the two of them. There's also the possibility that Shawn (Ritchey) might do a little throw-

Saints' line-up for opener

ing."

The rest of the line-up for Saturday's double-header will find Marilyn behind the plate, one of the two pitchers at first, Karen Fellenz or newcomer Ann Beisser at second and Teresa Clark or Suzie Gaw at shortstop. Vicky Smith, who played at Ohio University, "has the inside track at third," Stapley said, a position held until last year by Lynn Mooney. Lynn and pitcher Paul Noel, who now coaches the University of

Arizona women's softball team, have both retired.

GAIL Davenport and newcomer Barb Garcia will start in the outfield. The third spot will be filled by either Gail Peters or Linda Belcher.

Not only has the team changed, but so have the dimensions of Sun City Stadium. The fence will be moved in this season to 200 feet, a change Stapley feels will help the Saints.

"I think it will create more offense," he said.

"We've got several girls than can hit it over 200 (feet)."

Stapley also has more speed on the base paths and plans to use it.

"I'VE GOT more than one person that can move. We've got five or six that can move now. We'll be more aggressive. If we can generate a little offense people will know we're around."

Preseason workouts have gone well, Stapley said, but it may take

some time before the Saints jell as a team.

"I'm not sure if we're together as a team yet," he said. "But the potential is there."

THE SAINTS also host Touch of Class for a Sunday double-header.

First game begins at 7:30 p.m. both nights.

The Saints take on the Phoenix Bobettes in the stadium April 25. The Saints are also home April 26 to play the Phoenix Pepperettes.

Sports

Monday, April 20, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Saints open season with

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

The Sun City Saints did nothing to dispel their reputation as a softball team. But the Ontario (Calif.) Touch of Class might take issue with the team name.

What happened Sunday, from the visiting team's standpoint, was anything

but, an act that should be revered.

The Saints completed a sweep of their season opening home series Sunday with 9-1 and 8-0 wins over Touch of Class before 466 fans in Sun City Stadium. A crowd of 786 on Saturday watched the Saints open the season

with 5-0 and 2-0 wins.

ALL OF the Saints scoring in Sunday's opener came in the third inning when Touch of Class starter Kim Campaigne was chased from the mound.

Second baseman Sue Bristow gave the Saints a 2-0 lead, driving in Linda Belcher and Gail Davenport with a double. Linda and Gail walked and advanced to scoring position on a wild pitch by Miss

Campaigne. Designated hitter Shawn Ritchey followed with an RBI single to give the Saints a 3-0 lead. Shawn eventually came around to score on shortstop Suzie Gaw's single to make it 4-0. The Saints turned the game into a 9-0 laughter with two more hits, a pair of sacrifices and a wild pitch by Linda Harris.

Debbie Doom, 2-0, gave up three hits, two of them

series sweep at home

in the fourth inning when Touch of Class scored an unearned run. Catcher Diana Williams led off with a base hit, moved around to third on a pair of Saints' errors and came home with the lone run on Lori Pierce's single to center.

DEBBIE STRUCK out ten in going the distance. She struck out five Saturday in the Saints' 5-0 win. In the second game the

Saints scored four times in the second and added four more in the third to take an 8-0 lead.

Linda Harris, who started the game, gave up the Saints' two lone hits to Sue Bristow and Gail Davenport in the second inning. But the Saints managed to jump out to a four-run lead on three Touch of Class' errors. The Saints added four

more in the third on seven walks, three of them to Marilyn Rau, Lisa Clinchy and Cindy Bristow to open the inning, and three additional errors. Touch of Class pitchers walked 16 during the game.

CINDY BRISTOW, 2-0, gave up five harmless hits and struck out six. Cindy, who played for the Long Beach Renegades last season, won her first

game as a Saint in Saturday's 2-0 victory in the nightcap. She gave up three hits in that contest while striking out five.

Miss Rau homered in each of the games Saturday.

The Saints host the Phoenix Bobettes Saturday and the Phoenix Peperettes Sunday. Both weekend double-headers begin at 7:30 p.m.

Sports

Friday, April 24, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Opening series helps clear

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

The Sun City Saints had question marks written all over them before last Saturday's season opening double-header.

This wasn't the same team that finished third in the national tournament last season, or the one that won the national championship the year before.

The team was younger. It was without Lynn Mooney, a standout defensive third baseman that had handled that position almost flawlessly for several seasons. Paula Noel, a leader and a reliable pitcher, had retired to coach the University of Arizona women's softball team.

THERE CERTAINLY WAS reason to wonder how the 1981 version would perform.

Even manager Gerald Stapley, always an opti-

mist, showed some concern. "I'm not sure if we're together as a team yet," he said. "But the potential is there."

After a four-game sweep in the opening series, a few things that were clouded now appear more clear.

VICKY SMITH, WHO played third base for Ohio University, can handle that important position for the Saints. In her initial test she showed good mobility and a strong throwing arm.

But most importantly, Cindy Bristow, Paula's replacement, can pitch. Catcher Marilyn Rau rated Cindy as one of the nation's top pitchers. She showed that in her first two starts, winning both games against the Ontario (Calif.) Touch of Class in going the distance.

Saints' cloudy picture

Cindy was 30-3 last season with the Long Beach Renegades, who finished second in the national tournament to Stratford (Conn.).

SHE ISN'T AS overpowering as Debbie Doom, but she has a good variety of pitches and moves the ball around.

She gave up eight harmless hits in 14 innings of work and struck out 11.

As important is the fact that Cindy's presence will allow Stapley to alternate pitchers, a luxury he couldn't afford last year. Debbie, who had to pitch both ends of double-headers, was bothered by minor arm problems near the end of '80. And during the national tournament she was forced to pitch every game after the Saints lost their opener of the double-elimination format.

AS FOR OFFENSE, Marilyn Rau showed she

plans to go for the long-ball this season with the fences moved in from 225 to 200 feet. She hit solo homers in the first two games.

The Saints also have more speed on the base paths. "We'll be more aggressive," promises Stapley. "We've got five or six (players) that can move now."

The Saints' real test doesn't figure to come until 11 weeks into the season when they host the Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament. Competition will be tough, as always, and Stapley should have his full squad on hand.

TWO PHOENIX TEAMS invade Sun City Stadium this weekend. On Saturday the Saints host the Phoenix Bobettes. Sunday they take on the Phoenix Peppercakes.

Both double-headers begin at 7:30 p.m.

SC Saints Booster Club starts membership drive

Sun City Saints Booster Club is holding a month-long membership drive to raise money for the team.

Initial single memberships are \$10, which includes annual dues. Initial memberships for couples are \$15, which also includes annual dues.

People wishing to join may make checks payable

to the Sun City Saints Booster Club. They may be mailed in care of Eugene W. Smith, 10415 Prairie Hills Cir., Sun City 85351.

Further information may be obtained from president Joe Davisson at 584-4330 or Paul Morrill, 933-6114.

SUN CITY SAINTS BOOSTER CLUB

Membership Application

There are two types of membership available.
Single or Couple.

Name (Single)

or

Names (Couple)

Address Zip

Phone



Single initial membership \$5.00

Annual Dues \$5.00 Total \$10.00

Couple initial membership \$5.00

Annual dues per person \$5.00 Total \$15.00

Dues are payable at the first meeting in January

Make Checks to Sun City Saints Booster Club.

A Booster Club membership will support our champion Saints Softball Team, the pride of Sun City and Sun City West.

The Club is the sole financial support of this Team.

Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at Fountainbell Restaurant 6:30 P.M.

Mail This Handy Application Blank now to Eugene W. Smith, 10415 Prairie Hills Cr., Sun City, AZ 85351.

For Additional information call Joe Davisson, Pres. 584-4303, Col. M. Morrill, 1st. V.P. 933-6114 or Rose Schwartz, 2nd. V.P. 977-3544.

Sports

Monday, April 27, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Saints win 3 of 4

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

One of these days manager Gerald Stapley will have the luxury of managing a full squad. Until then, he said, the Sun City Saints will "just have to do the best we can."

Things haven't gone all that bad. The Saints swept a double-header from the Phoenix Pepperettes Sunday after Saturday's split with the Phoenix Bobettes. But the Saints, 7-1, have been hard to follow without a program.

SEVERAL OF the regulars play for Arizona State and Mesa Community College, forcing Stapley to scan the bench for a line-up. But he isn't overly concerned with this annual occurrence.

"We'll start getting the kids together after next weekend," he said. "I'm not worried about it."

Cincy Bristow 3-0, spun a five-hit shutout in

Sunday's first game as the Saints beat the Pepperettes, 5-0. Shawn Ritchey picked up her first victory of the season in the Saints' 3-1 second game win.

THE SAINTS provided Cindy all the scoring she needed in the opener when they scored twice on four hits in the second inning. First baseman Lisa Clinchy lashed a single to right leading off and scored when shortstop Theresa Clark followed with a triple. Theresa gave the Saints a 2-0 lead, scoring when pitcher Judy Crouse bobbled an easy chance with two outs for an error.

The Saints added two more in the third when Miss Clark tripled for the second time, driving in catcher Marilyn Rau and Miss Clinchy. Gail Davenport doubled with one out in the sixth and scampered home on Miss Ritchey's single, ending the scoring.

Miss Bristow struck out nine in going the route.

from Phoenix teams

THINGS WEREN'T quite as easy in the second game.

The Saints took a 3-0 lead with two runs in the second on Ann Beisser's leadoff single, a sacrifice and a pair of Pepperettes' errors that allowed Miss Beisser and Linda Belcher to score.

But Miss Ritchey made things interesting, working out of a jam in the third and the sixth with the Saints leading 3-1. Third baseman Sue Hughes led off the seventh with a single before Miss Ritchey got the next three batters to end the game.

SHE GAVE up nine hits while striking out three.

Sally Swain, brought up from the Saints' Angels farm club, tossed a 4-0 shutout in Saturday's opener, yielding just two hits. She picked up the defeat in Saturday's 2-1 second game loss as the Saints managed just three hits. Several Saints were in California Saturday playing for Arizona State.

Ace Debbie Doom did not see action over the weekend because of a pulled muscle in her right leg. She could have been called on, but Stapley decided otherwise.

"IT HURT her pitching motion," Stapley explained. "She could have pitched by I felt it best to let her rest."

Despite a few mental lapses Sunday, the Saints performed well, Stapley said.

"We had some mental mistakes, but we're learning," he said. "Pretty soon we'll settle down."

The Saints host Arizona State in a double-header Saturday before taking on Mesa Community College in another twin-bill Sunday.

The first game begins at 7:30 p.m. on both nights. Admission is free on Sunday.



DAVISSON

Davisson is bank veep

Joseph W. Davisson of Sun City West has been elected vice president of United Bank of Arizona, James P. Simmons, bank chairman, announced last week.

Davisson is manager at the Sun City West office of United Bank. His banking experience encompasses nearly 30 years.

His community activities include president of the Sun City Saints Boosters Club, treasurer of the American Cancer Society - Sun City Branch, member of the board of

directors of the Ohio Club and program chairman of the Lions Club.

Past offices include president of Grand Shopping Center, board of governors at the Lakes Club, president of the American Cancer Society - Sun City branch and president of the Ohio Club.

Davisson has also been asked to serve on the board for the Sun City/Sun City West Art Museum, the Sun City branch of the Phoenix Art Museum.

Saints deserve support

Sun City and Sun City West are world-famous for their recreational retirement amenities. They're also well-known in a sports area not usually associated with retirement communities.

The Sun City Saints, one of the top teams in women's softball, headquarters here at the Sun City Stadium.

The Saints started playing as a local team in 1965. Since then, the girls have taken the Sun City name and fame to Europe, to Australia and to Hawaii; they've consistently been regional winners and two years ago became national softball champions. If you want to check their accomplishments, see the new trophy case at the stadium.

They were third in the nation in 1980 and Gerald Stapley, their coach, anticipates another outstanding season this year. Among the team's engagements away from home will be a Sports Festival in Syracuse, N.Y., featuring the top four

women's softball teams in the country.

The Sun City Saints Booster Club, for the first time, will conduct a month-long concentrated membership drive, starting today, with Eugene Smith as chairman. Member fees are reasonable: \$5 for family or individual membership; \$5 per person annual dues. Boosters meet second Mondays, January through September, at the Fountainbell to hear sports-related speakers.

Since the group's principal purpose is to support Saints activities, it's logical that everyone in the two communities who cares about the Saints and wants to keep them here ought to be a Booster. Smith, 933-7574, or Joe Davisson, Boosters president, 584-4303 will be glad to take calls.

The Saints—these “adopted daughters” of the retirement communities—have done us proud. They deserve the increased support that hundreds of new Booster memberships will give them.



Thanks, Sam

Joe Davisson, left, president of the Sun City Saints Booster Club, congratulates Lion Sam Higginbotham for his part in helping raise money for a trophy case constructed in Sun City Stadium. The trophy case, built with money raised by Sun City and Sun City West Lions clubs, houses all trophies won by the Saints during the team's illustrious history. Higginbotham also is a booster club officer.

(News Sun Photo)

Sports

Friday, May 1, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Several Saints to don

by STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

The few boo-birds who frequent Sun City Stadium will have a hard time sorting out their emotions Saturday.

Some of their favorites will be on the opposing team.

The Sun City Saints clash with Arizona State, one of the nation's top college teams, Saturday

in the first of two weekend double-headers. Mesa Community College invades the stadium Sunday.

MANAGER Gerald Stapley will lead his troops into battle against several players who normally would be on his side. Suzie Gaw, Shawn Ritchey, Brenda Van Amburg, Ann Beisser, Linda Belcher, Sue Bristow and Lisa Clin-

chy, most of them Saints regulars, all play for the Sun Devils.

And Cindy Bristow is an assistant coach there.

But Stapley, for a few hours at least, doesn't plan to dole out any sympathy.

"We're going to give them a run for their money," Stapley promised. "Last year we split with them. We'll be all right."

PERHAPS, but the Saints will have to rely on six non-regulars to fill the starting line-up.

Vai Skelton will fill in at first base. Karen Fellenz will handle second and Theresa Clark will take over at shortstop in the absence of Miss Gaw. Gail Davenport will be the only regular roaming the outfield. Gail Peters and Barb Garcia will handle

ASU uniforms Saturday

the other two spots.

Vicky Smith should be ready to go at third. She cut her knee in last Sunday's first game when she fell into the dugout chasing a pop-up.

"**SHE'S HAD** to keep it immobilized to let it heal," said Stapley. "But there's a great difference between Tuesday and today. I think she'll be ready to go."

Debbie Doom will return to the pitching rotation, Stapley said, after sitting out last Saturday and Sunday with a pulled muscle in her right leg. A disappointed Debbie said she could have pitched, but Stapley opted to give the leg additional time to heal.

Will knowing the opposition give the Saints an advantage, Stapley was

asked.

"**IT'S GOOD** that you know the other team. You know what to expect, somewhat. But you can never really tell what's going to happen in a game situation," he said.

Arizona State plays in the women's softball regionals next weekend. If they win there they will advance to the college championships over Me-

morial Day weekend. That would leave the Saints again unmanned for the Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament.

Both double-headers begin at 7:30 p.m. People will be admitted free to Sunday's games against Mesa Community College.

The Saints entertain the San Diego Flames May 9 and 10.

Saints are super team

The Sun City Saints nationally-ranked women's fast-pitch softball team took three of four games from two of Phoenix's premier nines over the weekend, extending their season's record to 7-1.

The Saints and Bobettes split a pair in Sun City Saturday, the former winning 4-0 behind young righthander Sally Swain, a Moon Valley high product, then the Bobettes coming back against Swain, 2-1.

Saints' newcomer Cindy Bristow hurled her team to a 5-0 triumph over the Pepperettes Sunday evening after which ASU product Shawn Ritchey defeated the Phoenix team 3-1.

The Saints, third place finishers in last year's nationals, this week host the ASU Sun Devils Saturday and Mesa Community College Sunday, doubleheaders both evenings starting at 7:30 p.m. at Sun City Stadium, 111th Avenue and Grand.

The Saints had opened their

campaign against the Ontario, Calif., Touch of Class the previous weekend, with 5-0, 2-0, 9-1 and 9-0 victories.

The Sun City team played the Phoenix pair without the services of ace pitcher Debbie Doom. Last year's top-hurler-in-the-nation designee bruised a thigh in a workout and watched the weekend competition from the sidelines. She should be ready to play this weekend.

Sports

Monday, May 4, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Saints snap losing

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

Coaches usually strive to get the best performance they can out of an athlete, and Sandra Stultz is no exception.

Yet Sunday the Mesa Community College women's softball coach seemed more than happy to settle for second best from pitcher Kim Bickford.

"This was the second best game she's pitched this year," said Mrs. Stultz. "She did a good job."

MISS Bickford scattered three harmless hits as the Thunderbirds dealt the Sun City Saints a 1-0 loss. The Saints, who lost two games Saturday to Arizona State, snapped their three-game losing streak with a 7-1 win in the second game.

Sunday's first game was scoreless through five innings as Miss Bickford and the Saints' Shawn Ritchey hooked up in a pitching duel.

Neither team could get a runner past second until

the sixth, when the Thunderbirds touched Miss Ritchey for the winning run.

DELLA Mitchel lashed a one-out single to center, moved to third on a fielder's choice and scored when Lisa Stark smashed a two-out grounder that bounced off shortstop Suzie Gaw's chest for a hit.

The Saints threatened to tie the game in their half of the inning, but Miss Ritchey, who doubled off the right-center field wall, was stranded when Lisa Clinchy popped to catcher

Joyce Pickenheim. Miss Bickford intentionally walked the hard-hitting Miss Gaw to get to Lisa.

Miss Bickford, a freshman, kept the Saints constantly off stride with a jerky motion and assortment of breaking balls.

"WHEN SHE came out of high school she got a lot of hitters on her speed," said Mrs. Stultz. "Lately she's been working on mixing up her pitches."

Pitcher Annette Leos wasn't as fortunate in the second game.

streak with 7-1 win

The Saints, leading 1-0, jumped on Miss Leos for five runs in the second inning. Miss Clinchy singled and eventually scored on an error by Miss Mitchel, the second baseman, to give the Saints a 2-0 lead. But the big blow of the inning came when Barb Garcia doubled home Theresa Clark and Gail Davenport to put the Saints up 4-0. Marilyn Rau followed with a base hit to drive in Miss Garcia and scored herself to make it 6-0 on a single by Miss Gaw.

THE SAINTS, leading 6-1, added a run in the fourth.

Saints pitcher Debbie Doom sat out the weekend with a bad right leg that has bothered her the last two weeks. She suffered a simple muscle pull, but it has now become inflamed, she said. She is scheduled to see a doctor today.

"Debbie's going to be a little while getting back into shape," said manager Gerald Stapley. "She's only thrown three games. She's going to have to

start all over again, so to speak."

THE SAINTS (8-4) missed Debbie's presence on the mound Saturday, both games to Arizona State, 10-0 and 6-1.

In Saturday's opener, Gayle Bauerman hurled a no-hitter for the Sun Devils and was aided by former Saint Paula Stufflebeam's three hits and two RBI. Miss Gaw, a Sun Devil when she isn't playing for the Saints, victimized her part-time teammates with four hits.

Sherri James, who was brought in from Phoenix to pitch for the Saints, gave up 15 hits and 10 runs, eight of them earned.

CINDY Bristow was colored with the loss in the second game. She gave up five earned runs on nine hits.

Miss Ritchey, who also plays for Arizona State, worked the last four innings for the win. She contributed two hits and two RBI to the Sun Devils' cause.

Sports

Wednesday, May 6, 1981 NEWS-SUN

College schedules force

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

Player commitments to college softball programs have forced the Sun City Saints Booster Club to scrap the Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament and consider holding a smaller four-team tournament.

The announcement to hold the smaller tournament May 23-25 was expected today after a meeting between booster club and Del E. Webb Develop-

ment Co. officials. Webb is owner of Sun City Stadium, which is leased to the Saints.

"We weren't getting anywhere with the tournament for May 23, 24 and 25," said Paul Morrill, booster club vice president. "We only had four teams, including the Saints.

"THE reason (teams couldn't compete), especially in California, is they've all got players on college teams and the col-

lege nationals are on that weekend."

Morrill, who handles scheduling, has contacted teams across the country hoping to receive commitments from eight so the Webb tournament could be held under a double-elimination format. He even called officials of the Stratford (Conn.) Brakettes, defending women's national fastpitch champion, but was told the team didn't have money to travel.

Four teams have said they would compete May 23-25, Morrill said. They are the Phoenix Bobettes, Phoenix Pepperettes and Vancouver Alpha Sports, a Canadian club. The Saints also would take part, although like the other teams many of its players might be competing in the college nationals. Several Saints, including many of the regulars, play for Arizona State University, one of the nation's top college squads.

tournament cancellation

"UNTIL THE regionals are held they won't commit themselves," Morrill said. "In fact, one of the teams that goes to nationals might be ASU. We'd have no business holding a tournament if they go."

"We won't schedule the Del Webb Memorial Tournament in the future until the colleges close. We can't go through this business of fighting teams because they're short of players.

"Everybody is short-

handed, using a lot of substitutes. We had trouble in just making the (regular) schedule to start with."

THE BOOSTERS are considering the possibility of holding the Webb tournament July 3-5. Webb has given the boosters clearance for those dates even though the annual fireworks show is held July 4 in the stadium, Morrill said. "They are perfectly willing to add the fireworks to the ballgame, which would be a

great night," he added.

Yet Morrill admitted that that he's having trouble getting teams to participate at that time. The only team interested in playing July 3-5 is the Lansing Laurels, Morrill said, adding he has "already called six teams and got five flat noes."

"Maybe we could shift the tournament and get more people interested," Morrill explained. "But we're not getting many people interested in July 3, 4 and 5, either."

THE WEBB tournament was held during the July 4 weekend last season. The decision to move it up to Memorial Day was made because of the hot weather experienced during July. Even if a tournament wasn't held May 23-25, Morrill said a series of double-headers might be arranged.

"The four teams have already paid their entrance fees and we have the stadium," Morrill explained. "We could go ahead with that."

Booster club reschedules Webb tourney for July 3-5

The Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament, originally scheduled for May 23-25, will be held July 3-5, the Sun City Saints Booster Club announced Thursday.

The double-elimination event will be held in Sun City Stadium. In addition, the booster club, in cooperation with the Del E. Webb Development Co., will present an aerial fireworks display between games July 4.

Four teams already have made commitments to take part in the Webb

tournament, said Joe Davisson, Davisson, president of the booster club, said those teams are the host Saints, Phoenix Bobettes, Utah Stars and Phoenix Pepperettes.

DAVISSON said several other squads, including many from Phoenix, have shown an interest in competing in the eight-team tournament.

"We're coming along fine," Davisson explained. "Things are pretty well falling into place. We'll have some extremely fine teams."

The Webb tournament was moved to July because the dates conflicted with the women's national college tournament.

SEVERAL California teams and the Saints are heavily made up of college students, many of whom play for some of the nation's top-ranked squads.

The May 23-25 dates will be filled with a round-robin invitational. Teams that will take part are the Saints, Phoenix Bobettes, Phoenix Pepperettes and Vancouver (Canada) Al-

pha Sports, one of that country's top clubs.

Davisson said California squads were contacted about the July 3-5 Webb tournament, but they have prior commitments. Most will be playing in the San Bernardino (Calif.) tournament where an at-large bid to the nationals will be at stake.

The Saints host the San Diego Flames Saturday and Sunday.

Both double-headers begin at 7:30 p.m.

6-THE PEORIA TIMES-May 8, 1981

At random

Saints have rough week

It was close to a lost weekend for the Sun City Saints; at least it was an atypical one for the usually-potent women's fastpitch softball team.

First there was the double-dip loss to an excellent Arizona State University team Saturday; then came the split with a good Mesa Community College nine Sunday.

Tough also was the fact that the Saints were playing shorthanded.

Fact is, Saturday's debacle with the Sun Devils wasn't really that bad — tongue in cheek intended — in that the ASU lineup really resembled a

Saints lineup what with Lisa Clinchy, Brenda Van Amburg, Shawn Ritchey, Sue Bristow, Suzie Gaw and Cindy Bristow bedecked in Sun Devil colors.

Add to that the fact that brilliant hurler Debbie Doom continues to nurse a thigh injury and backup hurler Sally Swain was out of town and you have the makings of a long weekend.

So long was that first game Saturday that the Saints succumbed 10-0 with nary a hit — and pundits were searching their memories to come up with a time that happened before.

DECA students from Peoria High school held a skate-a-thon, KXAM Basketball game, and Peoria High basketball game to benefit Muscular Dystrophy during the month of April.

The skate-a-thon was held at the Great Skate, 43rd Avenue and Peoria, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Students who brought in the most amount of money were Jarrod Nixon, first place, Karen Bawowski, second, and Christina Carroll, third.

The basketball game was a coaches game between the two schools, which Peoria won for the third consecutive year.

For the 11th consecutive year, ABC Sports will air exclusive coverage of the greatest auto race in the world, in a same-day, prime-time presentation of the Indianapolis 500, from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, May 24.

More than a million dollars in prize money goes with a win at Indy.

This n' Data.....with Al Reznik

Saints: truly behoooving

For fastpitch softball at its finest, it behooves you to stop in almost any Saturday and Sunday evening at Sun City Stadium, 111th and Grand.

That's the spring and summer home of the world-famous Sun City Saints, as fine a women's team as exists, anywhere.

That may seem like an awfully big mouthful to swallow, but history has a way of talking; in other words, the records speak for themselves.

This is year 16 for the Saints; it's a year in which Coach Gerald Stapley and his field leader, all-everything catcher Marilyn Rau, say the Saints will return to the very top of the heap.

The Saints, you see, have made it to the national finals every year of their existence; a couple of runnerup finishes, a few thirds, nothing lower than sixth, and a national championship in 1979 dot their record book.

The spanking new trophy case that adorns the side of the press box at the stadium holds a ton of trophies symbolic of not only the national honors but the almost countless tournament victories they've recorded over the years.

Individual Saints have been accorded honors longer than your leg — they far outdistanced your arm years ago. There are three current all-Americans on the team now, Debbie Doom, pitcher, outstanding utility player Brenda Van Amburg and Rau. And in the 18-year-old Doom, the Saints sport the pitcher last year voted the nation's best, an honor not simply bestowed.

Fact is, when Debbie won that award at Lansing, Mich., it was the second straight such honor brought home by a Saints hurler. Michelle Thomas, a brilliant lefty now retired, won that award in '79 when she pitched the Saints to the national crown. All Debbie did last year was bring her team from the losers' bracket to third place via six straight brilliant victories.

This is basically a new-look Saints team this year. Co-field managers Paula Noel and Lynn Mooney have hung up their uniforms, leaving some 27 years of Saints competition behind them. Noel, now the softball coach at the University of Arizona, long was considered softball's premier pitcher — she was the first woman named to Arizona State University's athletic hall of fame. And Mooney was considered the game's premier defensive third sacker and one of the finest clutch hitters in women's softball history.

Gone, also, are first baseman Deanne Clark, a true slugger, outfielder-infielder Paula Stufflebeam and utility player Val Skelton.

End of a dynasty? No way!

Premier replacements for all have been found — and more. Topping the list is Cindy Bristow, a veteran pitcher who at one time played pro ball with the Orange, Calif., Lionettes. She compiled a 30-3 record last year for the Long Beach, Calif., Renegades.

Her sister, Sue, plays catcher and infield more than competently. Vicky Smith, a brilliant infielder, figures to replace Mooney at third. And Ann Beiser, Linda Belcher and Barb Garcia give the Saints tremendous balance.

Returning are Lisa Clinehy, an all-star outfielder converted to first base; Karen Fellenz, a high school all-stater at second;

Suzie Gaw, considered college softball's premier hitter, at short; defensive whiz Gail Davenport in center; and Van Amburg and Rau. Shawn Ritchey, a pitcher-outfielder-designated hitter-supreme, also is back.

If this wasn't enough, the Saints even have seasoned-veteran batgirls returning in Lori and Kathy Pfab and Dana Reznik — and few teams have such a luxury.

The Saints annually play from 80 to 100 games and this year will be no different. In addition to the 20 home doubleheaders, the Saints will host the annual Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament, May 23-25, and will play in the Phoenix Metro Tourney, the Syracuse, N.Y., Sports Festival and the Cactus Regional Tournament in Prescott.

So confident a team is this one that their printed schedule includes the nationals in Houston, despite the fact the Saints will have to win the regionals to earn a 16th consecutive berth.

Now you may wonder about this game. I mean, I did some five years ago when I first took scorebook, note pad and pencil in hand to cover a game. Lest ye wonder, you won't be watching powder-puff softball out there. No balloon ball played here. Consider that Debbie Doom, all 6-3 of her, zips that ball plateward in excess of 90 mph. Scores of 1-0, 2-1 and extra-inning games aplenty mark each season's schedule.

And there are softball fans around who well remember the doubleheader that started at 7:30 p.m. (constant Saints starting time) and ended about 3:45 a.m. after two games of 48 innings.

If you're a sports fan who likes action and athletic brilliance, you owe it to yourself to make Sun City Stadium a regular weekend stop on your schedule. You won't regret a moment, nor will you mind the miniscule ticket price.

Line-up juggling becomes part of Stapley's routine

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

Gerald Stapley must feel like a drill sergeant who is forced to call the roll to determine who's in attendance. At any given time it's questionable who's going to be on hand.

Through four weeks of the season, Stapley's job as manager of the Sun City Saints has tested his ability to assemble jigsaw puzzles more than it has his ability to manage a group of athletes.

"At least they're in condition," said Stapley, referring to the seven Saints who also play for Arizona State University.

"WHEN YOU get two people coaching (the same players) it's a little difficult. They get out

there and hesitate and think 'This isn't school ball.'

"It makes it harder, especially harder to play together."

Stapley has been forced to juggle his line-up several times this season. Last weekend, for instance, regular catcher Marilyn

Rau was moved to first base and outfielder Gail Davenport took over behind the plate. That move was forced because regular first baseman Lisa Clinchy was playing for

Arizona State. Shortstop Suzie Gaw and pitcher Cindy Bristow also were pulling duty for the Sun Devils. Cindy is an assistant coach for Arizona State.

THOSE three players,

along with four other Sun Devils, will be on hand this weekend. But they may miss part of the Sun City Saints Invitational (May 23-25). The Sun Devils received at at-large berth to the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women national tournament.

There has been some cause for celebration, however, with Debbie Doom on the road to recovery from a nagging muscle pull in her right leg.

Debbie (3-0) saw limited pitching duty last weekend after 2½ weeks of no work.

SHE PITCHED three innings Saturday and four Sunday.

"She's coming along

fine," Stapley said. "She should be able to go one game each night (against the California Stars). She felt good. It wasn't hurting her."

Debbie, generally considered one of the nation's top pitchers, did have trouble with location, a problem Stapley figures she'll overcome as she gets more work.

"SHE'S NOT where she'd like to be condition wise. We're trying to get her back to where she feels good."

Saturday and Sunday double-headers between the Saints and Stars begin at 7:30 p.m. in Sun City Stadium.

Saturday's second game will be broadcast live on KWAQ-FM (106.3).



The 1981 edition of the Sun City Saints will be looking to improve on a 13-5 mark when the California Stars invade Sun City Stadium for Saturday and Sunday double-headers. From left, front row: batgirls Dana Reznik and Kathy Pfab; Karen Fellenz and manager Gerald Stapley; second row:

batgirl Lori Pfab; Barb Garcia, Linda Belcher, Ann Belser and Vicky Smith; third row: Sue Bristow, Brenda Van Amburg and Gail Peters; back row: Marilyn Rau, Lisa Clinchy, Cindy Bristow, Debbie Doom, Gail Davenport, Suzie Gaw, Shawn Ritchey and Maria Stapley.



Sports

Friday, May 22, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Stapley declares Debbie,

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

Sun City Saints manager Gerald Stapley has always been able to go to the bank with Debbie Doom over the last year, but lately he has found himself digging into his savings account.

Debbie, a hard-throwing youngster who rose to national softball prominence last season, has been bothered by injuries this year.

First it was a pulled muscle that became inflamed and hindered her pitching delivery. Then, after nearly a two-week layoff, she developed another nagging problem.

LAST SUNDAY DEBBIE was forced to leave the mound with a bruised right hip which she said was caused by her elbow banging against it when she delivered the ball.

"She'll just have to learn to rotate that hip out of the way," Stapley said Thursday. "We've been working on it this week."

Stapley declared Debbie and the rest of the team "fit as a fiddle" heading into the four-team Saints Invitational Tournament, which will be played Saturday through Monday in Sun City Stadium.

FOR THE FIRST time this season the Saints on Wednesday were able to hold practice with a full squad.

"We had a good practice Wednesday," he said. "We're coming along. We're finally getting together now."

That hadn't been the case through much of the season, even though the Saints are more than respectable at 16-6. Several of Stapley's players were also on the Arizona State University women's softball team. Stapley feels that created some confusion because they had to deal with two coaching philosophies.

THE SAINTS PLAYED near flawless softball last weekend and, more importantly, their bats are beginning to show signs of life.

teammates 'fit as fiddle'

"The kids played a lot better than they had at other times," Stapley said. "We had more hits. If you can get nine or 10 hits a game you should win."

The Phoenix Pepperettes and Phoenix Bobettes open the tournament with a 5 p.m. Saturday contest. The host Saints will take on Canada's Vancouver Alpha Sports at 6:30 p.m. before playing the Bobettes in an 8 p.m. contest.

VANCOUVER ALPHA Sports is the 1980 Canadian champion, the Bobettes winner of last year's Cactus Regionals.

The Saints and Bobettes split a double-header earlier this season.

Double-elimination play between the four gets under way Sunday and concludes Monday with the championship game.

FOUR GAMES WILL be played Sunday, beginning with a 5 p.m. Alpha Sports-Bobettes contest. The Saints and Pepperettes are scheduled to meet at 6:30 p.m.

The two winners then meet at 8 p.m. with the two losers playing a 9:30 p.m.

Winner of the 9:30 p.m. Sunday game will play the loser of Sunday's 8 p.m. contest at 6:30 p.m. Monday. The winner will advance to the championship bracket to play Sunday's undefeated team at 7:30 p.m. A second game, if needed, will be played at 9 p.m. to determine the tournament champion.

STAPLEY SAID HE probably will open with Debbie (5-0) Saturday and follow with Cindy Bristow. Pitcher Shawn Ritchey, who also doubles as designated hitter, shortstop Suzie Gaw and utility player Sue Bristow had prior commitments and will not play.

Stapley said Theresa Clark would start in Miss Gaw's place.

Tickets to each session will be sold only at the gate. Prices are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children under 12.

Sports

Friday, May 29, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Injuries slow Saints' progress

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer
It's been a "frustrating" season so far.

The Sun City Saints have seen injuries and cancellations slow progress on their way to a 19-9 record. In addition, several lineup changes have hampered the squad's cohesiveness, coach Gerald Stapley explained at the team practice Wednesday.

Nevertheless, he said, players' attitudes are "better than ever" and several key people are beginning to blossom.

Unfortunately, one of the blossomers isn't pitching whiz Debbie Doom.

PULLED AND bruised muscles have sidelined her for most of the season. Stapley said a doctor's report today would give him a better idea of when she could start throwing again, but his "guess" was about 10 days.

Outfielder Brenda Van Amburg, an All-American, has also been downed by an injury. A stress fracture in her leg (a problem she had about this time last year) has

sent her home to California for the season.

The rest of the problems are beginning to clear up, Stapley said. Conflicting schedules are about over, so the whole team, rookies and veterans, can play together.

"WE WON'T be hardly ready this weekend, but by next weekend we'll be ready to go," he explained.

With the exception of Debbie, Stapley will go with the line-up he's used the past few weeks.

"Any time you lose a

player like her it's going to hurt you, but we'll get by," he said.

SHAWN Ritchey and rookie Cindy Bristow will pick up most of the load on the mound until Debbie's return, he said.

"Shawn has improved greatly over last year. She's won more games so far than anybody else for us," Stapley said.

He also praised Marilyn Rau, who has cast aside her catcher's garb a few times and filled in at first base, and Gail Davenport, who seems to be climbing

out of a batting slump that's hindered her this year.

"AT TIMES the team is frustrated...and so am I," Stapley said, looking forward to improvement the rest of the way.

The Saints play the California Gold Sox in a pair of double-headers at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in Sun City Stadium.

Stapley expects the Gold Sox to be "a young and hustling team, pretty much like the other California teams we've played so far."



Vicki Smith Ann Beisser Linda Belcher Cindy Bristow
Barb Garcia Sue Bristow

NEWCOMERS

Suzie finds home-run stroke;

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

"You Gotta Have Hope," blared the loudspeakers during the pom-pom girls' Sunday night show between games, but it could very well have been a report of the Sun City Saints' play in Sunday's opener of a double-header.

For most of the game fans had little to be hopeful for with the Saints

trailing the California Gold Sox throughout.

Heading into the bottom of the seventh inning the Saints were down, 7-5, but had the meat of their lineup coming up. Marilyn Rau swung on the third pitch, Suzie Gaw on the second and both sent the ball over the center field fence.

TOGETHER, Marilyn and Suzie either knocked in or scored six of the

Saints' runs in the 8-7 win. All three of Suzie's hits cleared the fence, upping her home run total to four. Marilyn's homer was her eighth of the year.

At the end of the third inning, the Saints had taken advantage of a Gaw homer and a Gold Sox error to tie the game, 3-3, but pitcher Cindy Bristow allowed three hits and Suzie, Marilyn and third

baseman Vicki Smith all had errors to allow the Sox four runs and a 7-3 lead.

The Saints chipped away at the lead in the next inning when Marilyn and Suzie teamed up again. Miss Rau walked and Miss Gaw followed with her second round-tripper of the night.

IN THE sixth inning, speedster Linda Belcher reached on a walk, made

Saints sweep series

it all the way to third on Sue Bristow's sacrifice bunt and scored on a fielder's choice. The Rau-Gaw connection put the game away in the seventh.

It was the Saint's third victory of the weekend, but they went on to make it four, breezing past the California squad, 5-1, in the nightcap. That was a game the Gold Sox would like to forget, as they made four errors.

All five Saints runs came in the fourth inning, beginning when pitcher Shawn Ritchey got on via an error by the second baseman. Gail Peters was hit by a pitch and Miss Belcher layed down a sacrifice bunt but reached first to load the bases

when the third baseman made a poor throw.

SOX PITCHER Karen Jeffries then walked Miss Smith, scoring Shawn. Second baseman Ann Belcher then slammed a shot to the shortstop, who bobbled it, allowing Gail to score. Miss Belcher tried to take third but was tagged out.

Barb Garcia followed with a double, scoring Miss Smith. Ann and Barb finished out the scoring when they came home on a Gail Davenport single to left-center.

Saturday night, the Saints won both games, 6-0, and 7-1. Shawn upped her record to a team-leading 9-2, while Miss Bristow climbed to 8-4.

Miss Ritchey also smacked a home run Saturday, going 2-for-5 both nights.

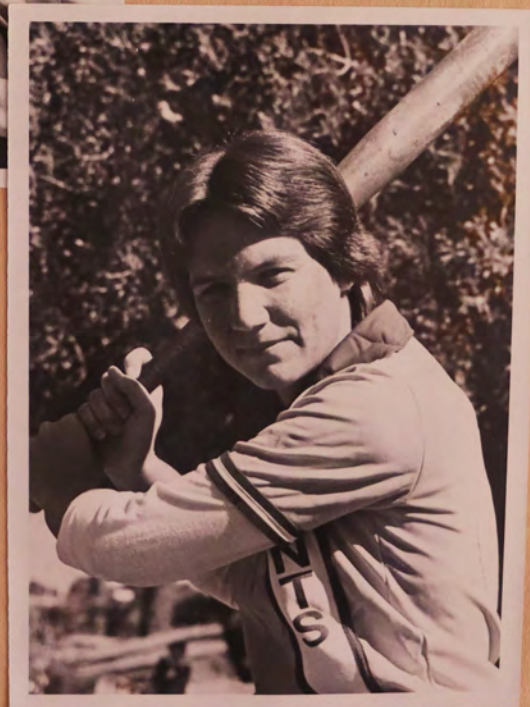
THE SAINTS improved their record to 23-9, but coach Gerald Stapley obviously wasn't pleased with his team's performance, saying simply

"we're making too many errors."

The team will have a chance to work on their mistakes Saturday and Sunday when the Southern California Royals invade Sun City Stadium for a pair of 7:30 p.m. double-headers.



Suzie Gaw



Marilyn Rau

Sports

Friday, June 5, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Shawn Ritchey adds

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

Shawn Ritchey's booming bat has been an asset to her since the eighth grade.

Not until this year, however, has she been recognized as a top-notch pitcher.

She made the Western Collegiate Athletic Association All-Conference team and the All-Regional team as a designated hitter for Arizona State University this year and is now the Sun City Saints' leading pitcher as well as a top hitter.

She first heard about the Saints as a high school senior when she played with a Des Moines, Iowa team in the Amateur Softball Association regionals.

On a softball scholarship to Arizona State University the next year, her first game was against Phoenix College, then coached by ex-Saint Paula Noel. Paula made sure Shawn knew when and where the Saints' try-outs were held.

That happened three seasons ago, and Shawn can finally appreciate her experiences that first year with the Saints.

When Paula Noel went to the Pan American games Shawn saw a lot of action on the mound, but "didn't last very long," she said, laughing. "I was hit out of the park a lot."

At the time, however, she didn't think her performance was funny. In fact she thought just the opposite.

"I knew I was better than that," she explained. It was hard for her to get excited about playing — frustrated, yes; excited, no.

Shawn can now get excited about her sport.

Last year she improved her skills and spelled Paula and Debbie Doom on occasion, but was used primarily for her powerful bat as designated hitter.

This year, pitching the most wins, with an 8-2 record, she said playing softball is like second nature to her.

When Shawn returned from nationals last summer, she consulted the pitching expert that helped Debbie develop her motion. He worked with the foundation Shawn already had and helped her to use her whole body instead of just her arm in the pitch.

Shawn started softball in the eighth grade.

pitching to

playing on the varsity squad for Fort Dodge High School in Iowa. Because of her excellent hitting ability, she earned an exceptional five varsity letters in softball.

In Iowa, high school softball is played in the summer, so Shawn had plenty of time for swimming, basketball and track during the school year. She excelled in the discus, winning the state track meet two years in a row.

résumé

Since last fall, Shawn has been playing and practicing non-stop softball — with ASU for most of the year and with the Saints since college season ended.

"It's just like breathing," Shawn said.

The soft-spoken hurler will have another chance to "breathe" Saturday and Sunday nights when the Saints do battle with the Southern California Royals at 7:30 in Sun City Stadium.



Shawn Ritchey

Rare play assures Saint win, 5-0

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

A rare triple play in Sunday's opener of a double-header, summed up best the Sun City Saints' defensive play that night — unbeatable.

The almost unheard of play happened in the top of the seventh inning with California Royals runners on first and second. Pitcher Dale Munn hit a one-hopper to shortstop Suzie Gaw, and the outs went like this:

— The lead runner went outside the base path between second and third.

— Suzie threw to second baseman Karen Fellenz for the force out.

— Karen pivoted and threw to Lisa Clinchy in time to get Miss Munn at first.

THE SAINTS took the game, 5-0, on the strength of a five-run third inning and flawless defensive play.

They also took advantage of the Royals' one miscue, which allowed Miss Fellenz to reach first when the first baseman couldn't

handle her bunt. Barb Garcia got on with a walk and both advanced on Gail Davenport's sacrifice.

Marilyn Rau — going into the game with a team-leading .462 batting average — started the scoring with a two-RBI triple, her second extra-base hit of the night. Miss Gaw then wallowed her sixth home run of the year and second of the series, to up the score, 4-0.

PITCHER, SHAWN Ritchey finished it off with her second round-tripper of the year and clinched the win, her ninth.

Sunday's nightcap didn't have the scoring of the first game, but the defense was still spotless.

It was also another Royals' error that put the winning run on base. Miss Garcia's one-hopper of third was throw over the first baseman's head and Barb made it to second.

MISS DAVENPORT'S single to center field sent the speedster Garcia home. The Saints held off the Royals for the 1-0 win.

The victory upped Cindy Bristow's record

to 11-4, as she also won Saturday's first contest, 3-1.

Shawn came out even for the weekend, losing Saturday's game, 6-4, and winning Sunday's first outing. She is now 9-3.

EVEN THOUGH the Saints Committed four errors and gave up six runs in Saturday's nightcap, coach Gerald Stapley was still pleased, and perhaps relieved, with his team's performance.

"That's a good ball team," he said confidently about his squad after Sunday's games.

He switched the lineup in Sunday's second game, however, saying he wanted to give some of the substitutes experience in a game situation in case a starter was injured. Gail Peters and Sue Bristow saw action at third and second bases, respectively.

Stapley will have another chance to decide who goes where when the Saints face the San Diego Astros Saturday and Sunday at 7:30 p.m. in Sun City Stadium.

NEWS-SUN Thursday, June 11, 1981

PM Magazine films

pom pom line

PM Magazine will film the Sun City Saints' "Pom Pom girls" for an upcoming segment before and after Saturday's first game between the Saints and the California Blaz-ers.

Bob Goldstein, producer and writer for PM Magazine, said the segment will air July 1 as the lead story, and then will be

submitted to the national file.

If used, he said, a story will usually air nationally, three to six weeks after its local presentation.

Goldstein said other sequences shot of the pom pom line performing at the Pointe Resort in Phoenix will also be used in the show.

Joni Heil, hostess, will produce the segment.

Suzie's drive spawns

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

When a Southern California Royals batter hit a ground ball to the Sun City Saints' shortstop last weekend, she could just have easily tried to outrun a bullet than beat the throw to first.

Not very many people can beat the arm of Suzie Gaw. She scoops up grounders and one-hop-pers and fires them like a cannon to make the out, making tough plays look commonplace.

Many will remember her three home runs in one game against the Cal-

ifornia Gold Sox, but Suzie said that was just the start.

WHEN THE college season ended at Arizona State University, where Suzie is now a senior, she started to work on her hitting with a former softball coach at Iowa State University, Karmen Booth. The game with three homers was Suzie's first since she began putting in the extra work.

Even though her bat is now feared by opponents — she hit her fifth and sixth home runs Saturday and Sunday — hitting has not been the strongest

part of her game. "I feel much stronger about my defense," she said, especially since the hits didn't come last season at ASU.

She explained that when her defense is at its best she feels aggressive and is able to charge the ball. It's when she's timid and waits for the ball that she makes mistakes.

"SOMETIMES I'm real hard on myself when I don't do something the way I should have," Suzie said. "I feel like I'm a strong motivator."

In the early days of softball for Suzie it was her grandfather that did

Friday, June 12, 1981 NEWS-SUN

defensive ability

the motivating. She said he would take her and a bunch of kids out and play softball with them. It was that beginning that got Suzie involved in organized sports.

At Scottsdale High School, she played both volleyball and softball, but a softball scholarship to ASU made her specialize in just one sport.

THAT HASN'T slowed her down.

When she's not playing softball she might be working at Kitchie's Ice Cream parlor like she's done the past five years. If it's around 7 a.m. she might be out practicing

her golf — a new sport to her this summer.

There's also her motorcycle she likes to ride, and on occasion a camping trip. "I like to be active. I very seldom sit around and watch T.V.," she added.

AND, WHEN there's time, she even likes to watch softball. "It seems like I never get sick of watching my own sport."

In the off season, Suzie makes time for lifting weights, bike riding and jogging, exercises she prefers to do alone.

"I've grown up pumping myself — pushing myself. So I like to do things by

myself," she explained. But that doesn't stop her from being a team player with ASU or the Saints.

IF ANYTHING she feels a little more responsibility as a veteran. "Hopefully I can help some of the players that are new," she said, adding that her extra experience doesn't buy her any extra privileges. "As a team there are no double-standards ... I'm not anything more so than anybody else."

Suzie and teammates will have a chance to show off their talents Saturday and Sunday when the California Brazers enter Sun City Stadium at 7:30 for double-headers both nights.

Prior to and following Saturday's first game, PM Magazine, a television variety show on ABC, will film the "Pom Pom Girls" for an upcoming segment.

Sports

Monday, June 15, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Saints win three against

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

Against the toughest team they've faced all season, the Sun City Saints came out on top, winning three of four games Saturday and Sunday.

"This is one of the best team's in the country," coach Gerald Stapley said about the California Blazers, who last year, known as the Glendale Blazers, won the North American Softball Tournament, beating the Saints in Sun City.

On Saturday night, in the first contest, the game was scoreless going into the seventh, and final, inning when Suzie Gaw walked her seventh home run of the year to score Vicki Smith for the 1-0

win.

IN SATURDAY'S nightcap, the Saints jumped to a 2-1 lead in the third and California tied it up with a run in the fourth. The two teams tied once again in the fifth inning, 4-4.

The Blazers broke it open in the sixth with four runs on three Sun City errors to win the game, 8-4. In all, the Saints had four errors in that outing and two in the first game. Debbie Doom picked up her fifth win of the year in the opener, after sitting out for two weeks due to injury.

CINDY BRISTOW was stuck with the loss, putting her at 11-5 for the season.

The Saints were just as error-prone in Sunday's double-header, but man-

aged to take advantage of eight California errors to win both outings.

The Blazers took an early lead in the opener when shortstop Patty Ervin singled and then scored when Saints' third baseman Miss Smith overthrew second.

THE SAINTS came back in their half of the inning when Barb Garcia singled, Gail Davenport walked, Marilyn Rau was hit by a pitch and Suzie walked to score Barb. Lisa Clinchy then smacked a fly to the center fielder who dropped it, scoring two runners.

In the third inning, the Saints were ahead 5-3 when Miss Clinchy and Marla Stapley each walked and advanced on a

Karen Fellenz sacrifice. Both runners scored on Vicki's single to right-center field.

Those runs proved to be the winning margin as the Blazers tallied once each in the fifth and sixth innings, making the final score 7-5.

DEBBIE UPPED her record to 6-1, with three strikeouts in the process.

The nightcap was again dominated by the Saints who scored twice in the third inning and held on for a 2-1 victory.

Barb got her third hit of the evening to start the inning off and went to second when the left fielder bobbled the ball. She made it to third on Miss Davenport's sacrifice.

WHEN MARILYN got a walk the very next play,

familiar foe

the stage was set — with runners on first and third — for the classic double-steal.

Marilyn immediately led off of first and Barb moved off of third, thus confusing the Blazers' infield. They finally chased Marilyn back to first and threw the ball to the pitcher, but since Barb was still off of third base, the play was not officially over and Marilyn could still steal second...and she did.

Meanwhile, the pitcher overthrew third base, trying to get Barb, and let both runners score.

IT WAS pitcher Shawn's tenth win against three losses, as she gave up just four hits, three coming in the sixth and seventh innings.

As in previous weeks, Stapley shifted the lineup around in Sunday's nightcap. This time he moved right fielder, Miss Davenport to catcher, making Marilyn designated hitter and putting Gail Peters in the outfield. He also played Cindy Bristow at first instead of Lisa, a position Stapley said Cindy plays well.

"WHEN THEY start to think they're married to their position, that's when I move them around," he explained. "Hopefully it'll make them work harder."

The Saints' next outings are Saturday and Sunday nights when they do battle with the San Diego Astros in double-headers starting at 7:30 in Sun City Stadium.

Softball's challenge

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

"I love it when they hit fly balls to you and they're impossible to catch."

Perhaps it is a sadistic desire, but Barb Garcia smiles when she says it because she makes those catches, and that's what makes the sport of softball a challenge to her, an outfielder for the Sun City Saints.

Hyperactive, intense, humorous are all accurate descriptions of this 22-year-old rookie from the University of Arizona.

At Wednesday's practice she sat in the dugout and joked with Debbie Doom, tried on Gail Dav-

enport's new pith helmet, stretched and talked with Linda Belcher and Ann Beisser and played a game of pepper with the rest of the outfielders.

And after practice was over, she got into a softball throwing contest with Gail Peters and Shawn Ritchey. The object was to see who could throw the softball from home plate, over the 200-foot fence. Gail won.

Barb also arrived at the stadium early on bicycle from her temporary Sun City home and ran the stadium stairs. In fact, she said, a large part of her free time is spent riding the ten-speed to Sun City Stadium and

working out.

So softball isn't all fun and games for Barb.

"It's something I've really had to work at," said the 5-foot-4 senior.

Fortunately she's had a little while to work.

In junior high school in Tucson, Barb played on church teams in softball and volleyball. In fact, volleyball was her main sport throughout her tenure at Saguaro High School.

When she went to college she made a complete switch, trying out and making the basketball team "for something fun to do," she said—again smiling. It was just by coincidence that a team-

B2 NEWS-SUN Friday, June 19, 1981

Ohio Club sponsors night at stadium

The Ohio Club of Sun City is sponsoring "Ohio Night" at the Sun City Saints ballgame June 27. Tickets, at \$1.50 apiece, are available from Harley Brewer, 977-5748, or Betty Webb, 974-1487.

The club invites all Buckeyes to attend the double-header beginning at 7:30 p.m. The club is also planning a picnic at the Sun Bowl on October 3.

thrills Barb Garcia

mate convinced her to play softball, too.

For the last two years she has also been a member of the school's field hockey team; this year on the varsity.

"If it's not one thing it's another," she said, describing her tastes in sports.

But playing on the Saints seems now to be in the forefront of Barb's desires. Last year she competed for the Ponderosa Playmakers from Tucson and had a chance to play against the Saints in Sun City, so she knew how good they were.

She remembers hearing of the Saints since her church softball days and

wanted to play for them eventually.

"It's always been in the back of my mind to play for the Saints. I just didn't know when," she explained.

Now she knows.

The difference between the Saints and other teams she's been on is simple: "I've never played with so many good ball-players before in my life."

But it's not as though the rest of the Saints aren't playing with a good ballplayer in turn. Barb's batting average is second only to Marilyn Rau's and ahead of home run slugger Suzie Gaw's. That is unusual for a normally

weak-hitting Barb.

She admits her hitting with the Saints is "surprising," but attributes it to a "relaxed" atmosphere and expert advice from Marilyn. "I knew I had it in me," she added.

But what she likes the most, she said without hesitation, is fielding. A split-second dash from deep center to just behind second base is a regular, and enjoyable, outing for Barb.

She said that kind of competition, plus the travelling and team spirit on the Saints are all great, but what really makes the Saints—and softball—so special is just "going out there and getting dirty," she explained with a laugh—and a smile.

Saturday, June 20, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Saints host Astros

The Sun City Saints will host the San Diego Astros tonight and Sunday in double-headers, starting at 7:30 p.m. each night. Sunday night, Father's Day will be celebrated between the games. Festivities will include a marching band and a performance from the Pom Pom Girls.

Sports

Monday, June 22, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Saints win 3 of 4

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

Going into the four-game weekend series, the Sun City Saints knew little about their opponent, the San Diego Astros.

It's a mystery no more. The Astros had five members of the collegiate national championship softball team from Utah State in their ranks, coach Gerald Stapley explained, and they fought toe-to-toe with the Saints for four games, but came away with just one win.

The San Diego squad didn't show much tenacity in the first game Saturday, however, dropping a 4-1 decision.

THE SAINTS opened with a bang in the first

inning. After Debbie Doom struck out the first three San Diego batters, Barb Garcia smacked the first pitch offered her into center field for a double.

Barb advanced on a pitch that hit Gail Davenport, and scored on a wild pitch. Suzie Gaw then hit a fly to deep center that was dropped, scoring Gail and sending Suzie to second, in range to score on Marilyn Rau's single. She scored later on an error by the first baseman.

The Astros didn't tally until the seventh when a runner on third scored during an inning-ending pickoff play.

SATURDAY'S nightcap wasn't nearly as easy for the Saints, as they fell

behind in the first half of the third inning on Kelly Smith's home run.

The Saints regained that run in their half as Miss Garcia walked, advanced to third on a Miss Davenport sacrifice and an error on the shortstop and scored on Marilyn's sacrifice fly to center.

The rest of the game was scoreless until, in extra innings in the bottom of the ninth, Marilyn walked and scored on two errors, giving the Saints a 2-1 triumph.

CINDY Bristow picked up the win in that contest, her 12th against five losses. In the first game, Debbie upped her mark to 7-1, allowing just one hit and

News-Sun June 19, 1981 **Fathers Day celebrated at stadium**

Fathers will be honored Sunday evening at Sun City Stadium when the Saints host the San Diego Astros in a double-header at 7:30.

"Take Me Out to the Ball Game" will be the theme song played between the games by the Agua Fria River Bottom Marching Band, with Bill McEchern as drum major and Jim Pryor as master of ceremonies.

The Sun City Pom Pom Girls will also salute Sun City's fathers and join the band in the finale "When the Saints Come Marching In."

Fathers will have the opportunity to win autographed baseballs and free tickets to future games.

from Astros

one run.

In Sunday's opener, Miss Rau walloped her ninth round-tripper of the season to score the game's only run.

In fact, the Astros threatened only once, in the third when Lori Turken got to third on a Vicki Smith error, a passed ball by Miss Davenport and a fielder's choice, but Debbie ended the threat, striking out San Diego's hot-hitting Miss Smith.

MISS DOOM had 15 strikeouts in her two outings, and Sunday's 1-0 win sent her record to 8-1.

The Saints' only loss to the Astros came in Sunday's nightcap.

They fell behind in the

fourth when San Diego first baseman Yo Arvizu doubled and scored the next play on Miss Smith's single. What turned out to be the winning run scored in the sixth when lead-off batter Sandi Adler tripled down the third base line and scored on a sacrifice fly.

THE SAINTS put together a rally in their half of the inning when Barb and Suzie each singled and advanced on the center fielder's error. Barb ended the inning when she was thrown out at the plate attempting to score on Shawn Ritchey's ground out to second.

Miss Garcia upped her .330 batting average,

going 3-for-3 in that game and 5-for-12 in the series.

Marilyn also padded her average with a seventh-inning homer—not enough for the win but upping her season total to 10. She was 5-for-8 on the weekend, playing first base twice, designated hitter once and substitute once.

SHAWN TOOK the 2-1 loss in Sunday's second game, putting her at 10-4 for the season.

The Saints will face an old foe Saturday and Sunday in Sun City Stadium, as they battle the Long Beach Renegades.

The Renegades ousted the Saints from last year's national tournament in the finals of the loser's bracket. They in turn lost to the Brakettes of Stratford, Conn., in the championship.

THE double-headers will start at 7:30 p.m.

In addition, the Saints will play an all-star team from Surprise, in Surprise, at 8 p.m. Wednesday. The game replaces their normal Wednesday practice.

88 NEWS-SUN Tuesday, June 23, 1981

Saints play Surprise to 'benefit softball'

The Sun City Saints will travel to Surprise Wednesday to battle the Surprise All-Stars in lieu of their regularly scheduled practice.

Saints coach Gerald Stapley said spectators are welcome to watch the game, which is played "to benefit softball in this

area." To get to the softball diamond: take Grand Avenue to the stoplight in Surprise and turn right. Take another right at Santa Fe and drive east two blocks to Nash and turn left. Drive two more blocks and the diamond is on the right.

Monday, June 29, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Saints, Renegades

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

The Sun City Saints would like to forget Sunday night's second game with the Long Beach Renegades.

Long Beach managed to get 11 hits off losing pitcher Shawn Ritchey and her replacement, Cindy Bristow, in a 7-1 rout.

That loss came after three more closely played games Saturday and earlier Sunday, with the Saints winning two.

SATURDAY'S OPENER saw the Renegades jump all over pitcher Debbie Doom to score two runs in the first on two walks, a fielder's choice and a double. They added another run in the fourth inning on a ground-rule double, a sacrifice and a

single.

The Saints tallied in the seventh when Barb Garcia scored on a Marilyn Rau double to deep right. That was the only Saints' run, however, as they fell, 3-1.

In the nightcap, the tables were turned. Suzie Gaw walloped her eighth homer of the season in the second inning to give the Saints a 1-0 advantage going into the bottom of the sixth.

BARB DOUBLED TO start the inning and advanced on Gail Davenport's sacrifice. She scored the next play, but for awhile there was a question as to whether she scored on a Marla Stapley home run or a Marla Stapley ground-rule double.

The umpires ruled it a ground-rule double, then upon consultation with the Long Beach shortstop,

Pairings announced

The Sun City Saints will begin their defense of the Del E. Webb Memorial Softball Tournament championship against the Tucson Broad Squad at 8:15 p.m. Friday.

Pairings were announced Friday by Joe Davison, Saints Booster Club president at a public drawing.

The Utah Salt Lakers will open the tournament at 5 p.m. Friday against the Phoenix Peppercakes. At 6:30, the Utah Bees will play the Phoenix Westerners.

Short opening ceremonies will be conducted at 8, after which the Saints will play the Broad Squad. At 9:45 the Phoenix Arrows will meet the San Diego Trendsetters in the final game of the night.

The tournament will continue through July 5. Tickets for evening series will be \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children under 12. For morning games Saturday and Sunday, admission will be \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

A 10-minute aerial fireworks display is scheduled between the second and third games Saturday night.

split 4-game series

changed their minds and ruled it a home run.

The enraged Renegades manager argued with the home plate umpire and was ejected from the game. Meanwhile, the center fielder also consulted the umpires and persuaded them to switch the call back to a double.

THE SQUABBLE was unnecessary, as it turned out, because Marilyn sent the next pitch over the fence, scoring Marla for the third and fourth runs in the 4-0 win. It upped Miss Bristow's record to 11-4.

Sunday's opener wasn't as unbalanced as the previous two games, as Miss Doom and Long Beach pitcher Tippy Borrego combined allowed only four hits in eight innings. Debbie allowed only a hit to the first batter and proceeded to strike out seven in the 1-0 win.

Barb ended 7½ scoreless innings when she scored on an RBI single by Suzie. It was Debbie's ninth win against two losses.

IF COACH GERALD Stapley could have acted on hindsight, he would have sent the Saints home right then and avoided the nightcap.

"We're just not as sharp as we should be," he said.

The game included Marilyn's 12th home run of the year. The Saints couldn't get a runner past second and left five on base in the defeat.

The Saints, 33-14, face two days of optional batting practice and their regular Wednesday workout before meeting the Tucson Broad Squad at 8:15 p.m. Friday in the first round of the Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament.

Sports

Tuesday, June 30, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Saints begin title defense against Tuscon contingent

Prepared to defend their six consecutive Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament titles, the Sun City Saints will battle the Tucson Broad Squad in their first game of the double-elimination tournament at 8:15 p.m. Friday. The Utah Salt Lakers open the tournament at 5 p.m. in Sun City Stadium.

against the Phoenix Peperettes, a team the Saints have beaten three times this year.

Following that contest, another Utah team, the Bees, will play the Phoenix Westerners. That game is slated to begin at 6:30.

At 8, the Luke Air Force Base color guard will lead the eight teams onto the field for opening ceremonies. Trumpeter Leon Bristow, brother of Sun City Saints Sue and Cindy Bristow, will play the "National Anthem."

The ceremonial first pitch will be thrown by Doug Morris of the Sun City Citizen to Burt Freireich, publisher of the

News-Sun. Ed White of KWAQ radio will be the umpire, and tournament coordinator Col. Paul Morrill will serve as the hitter.

Sun City plays Tucson following the ceremonies, and the Phoenix Arrows will face the San Diego Trendsetters at 9:45.

IF THE Saints win their opener, they will play the Arrows-Trendsetters winner at 5 p.m. Saturday. If they lose, they will face the loser of that contest at 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

An abbreviated fireworks display will be presented at 8 p.m. Saturday between the second and third games.

Since the tournament is a double-elimination format, each team can lose one game before being eliminated. The winner of the losers' bracket will face the winners' bracket victor in Sunday's final at 8 p.m.

IF THE losers' bracket winner should win the first game of the finals a second game would be played for the championship.

Tickets for Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening sessions are \$2.50 each night for adults and \$1 for children under 12. For the Saturday morning games, tickets are \$2.00 for adults and \$1 for children.

6—July 1, 1981—SUN CITY CITIZEN

On the Town:

Local editors face off in Saints game

By Doug Morris
Editor

There's a wild rumor going around town that a couple of local editors will square off in the Sun City Stadium, Friday evening July 3.

No "ok corral," this. Weapons will be plastic horseshide.

The editor of the News-Sun—a trusting soul—will be on the receiving end of the smoking delivery by

the Citizen's editor. He actually believes the missile will be a softball. Hah!

The scene will be the opening of the Del Webb Tournament. The time is somewhere between 7:30 to 8 p.m. the exact time depends on the physical capacity of the headlined performers to stand up straight long enough to perform their assigned functions.

In a previous demonstration of pitching prowess the Citizen editor got the ball two-thirds of the way to the plate. Cortisone treatments, and guru meditations, are expected to improve this performance. The News-Sun editor has taken a solemn vow not to laugh out loud.

Ed White, impresario of radio KWAQ, will umpire. He was selected for this exacting respon-

sibility because of his theological training. It's figured that only someone in direct contact with higher powers would dare to stand in judgment of a battery so obviously in need of re-charging.

Col. Paul Morrill will be at bat. If the ball ever gets close enough to the plate for him to swing at it—and if he swings—thus disrupting the precarious communication bet-

ween pitcher and catcher, his name will never again appear in either paper. We will not tolerate sports.

No local underwriter would have any of these corpses, but Lloyd's of London has indicated interest—provided they're given exclusive rights to "Believe It Or Not" syndication.

□□□
The heart of Big

Business. The Prudential Insurance Co., owner of the shopping centers, has rescinded its decision to oust the Resident's Gallery from the Sun Bowl Center. The lease will be renewed at the same one dollar per year rental. This is a very welcome and very generous action. Maybe the Pru should change its symbol from a rock to a big heart.

'Fascination' led Cindy

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

Oh that sweet taste of revenge.

It's what the Sun City Saints will be looking for this weekend when they battle the Long Beach Renegades, the team that bumped the Saints out of last year's national championships one game before the finals.

On that team was an ace pitcher—not the one that beat the Saints, but a one-time professional named Cindy Bristow.

ADMITTEDLY, SHE DOESN'T have the blazing speed of a Debbie Doom. Instead, she chooses to throw "junk"—off-speed pitches, change-ups, drops and rise balls—a combination of pitches to confuse the batter.

Whatever it takes to get the batter out, that's the junk she'll throw. "If it takes 50 foul balls and a change-up, that's fine," Cindy explained.

"It's a brain game. I've got to figure out what the batter can't hit."

DURING THE off-season, however, she made a switch. She transferred from Cal Poly-Pomona, where she had been playing softball and attending school, to Arizona State University, where she assisted the softball coach and continued her education.

The move also brought her to Sun City to play for the Saints.

"This team is exceptionally lucky," she said, referring especially to the financial backing the Saints receive.

"WE (THE RENEGADES) paid our own way. It made it especially tough for us to go to nationals. We had to borrow money to go," Cindy explained.

In 13 years of organized softball, Cindy has played for the Orange Lionettes, amateur as well as professional, the Long Beach Renegades and now the Saints to mention just a few teams.

"I can't even remember learning how to play softball," she said, trying to think back.

HER FATHER PLAYED softball in the Air Force before the 24-year-old was born, and so Cindy was naturally drawn in.

Another softball player from the Bristow family is Sue, the next youngest, a Saints second baseman and, as a student at ASU, part of the reason Cindy chose to come to Arizona.

When Cindy started she was a third baseman, but when a pitching coach saw her throw underhand, he called her a "natural pitcher."

"FROM THEN ON it became a fascination," Cindy said. "I could stand in the backyard for an hour and throw every one of them over the fence." Unfortunately she was aiming for the strike zone.

Eventually the technique came. A little bit from watching Lionettes teammate Nancy Welborn pitch and a little bit from "figuring out what made it hard for me to hit, and then throwing it," she said.

"I'm what anybody would call a junk pitcher. It's harder to hit junk pitching, I think," she said.

CINDY'S PITCHING, however, is being affected more and more by diabetes, a disease that makes it difficult for the body to accept starches and carbohy-

into softball career

drates and leaves a person feeling very tired at times.

"It's like you have a monster inside of you," she said, describing it as a "Jekyll and Hyde" effect. One minute she'll feel fine and the next she'll feel weak and sleepy.

Presently, Cindy regulates the disease by controlling her diet—limiting sugars and starches—and does not yet require insulin injections.

"IT'S HARD TO accept," she said, sounding frustrated. "I used to love to pitch in the heat of the day." Now she is forced to play in the second game of a double-header when the temperature is milder.

Cindy's main ambition, upon completion of her physical education degree at ASU, is to coach women's basketball at the college level.

"I like to help kids," she said, explaining that for five years in California she coached a high school girl's basketball team, and feels like she has a talent for coaching.

"IT WAS A challenge for me to become a pitcher. I don't have that Debbie Doom ability. But where she is good at pitching, I'm just as good at coaching.

"I play basketball bad enough that it's easy for me to anticipate what the kids are going to do wrong," she explained.

But for now, she'll be concentrating on something else entirely—playing the Renegades.

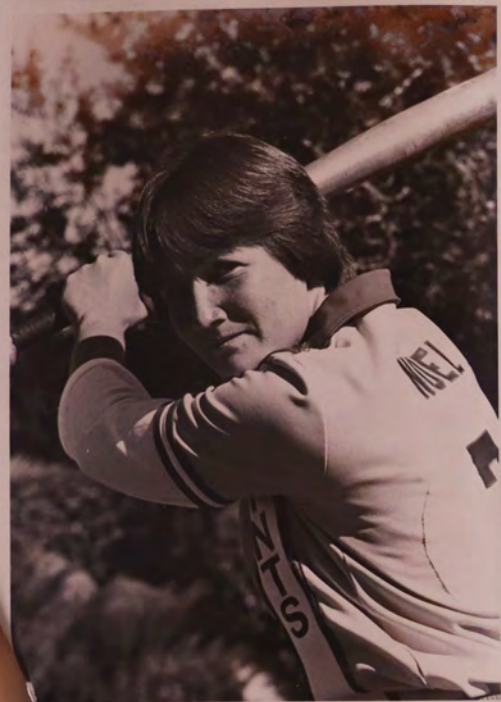
"IT'LL BE A challenge because they're really good," Cindy said about her former teammates.

"They're still friends, but you want to win just as much as they do. It'll be different."

The Saints hope it will be different than the last time the two teams met, when the Saints lost.

THE TEAMS WILL play double-headers at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in Sun City Stadium.

At 5:30 p.m. on both days, the Sun City-Sun City West Senior Softball League Travel Team will play a senior all-star team from Las Vegas.



Cindy Bristow

Bat Girls

Dana Reznik
Kathy Pfab
Lori Pfab



Several teams hope

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

For six straight years the Sun City Saints have won the Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament, last year fighting their way through the losers' bracket to take the title from the Utah Salt Lakers.

The Salt Lakers will again try to be the first team other than the Saints to win the championship, but will have to contend with six other teams in the process.

The first step in their quest will be against the Phoenix Pepperettes at 5

p.m. today, but it won't be a piece of cake.

SALT LAKERS' coach Fern Gardner said her team has been plagued by weak bats so far in their 15-3 season. Nevertheless, they managed to win the Denver Mile-High Tournament.

"Normally we're really a good defensive team," she said, with players like Mel Kent, an AIAW All-American center fielder, Star Orullian, catcher, and Mona Stevens, pitcher, leading the team.

The Pepperettes, however, feel they have "as

good a chance as anybody" to walk away with the championship. Leading the way, says coach Herb Brakebill, will be pitcher Venita Hokai of Auckland, New Zealand. She pitched a four-hitter against the Saints earlier this season.

ALSO STRONG for the Pepperettes, he said, is Gayle Cannon, catcher, and Judy Callahan, who pitched 11 innings of a no-hitter against the Vancouver Alpha Sports in the Saints Invitational earlier this year.

Other teams from Phoe-

nix will be the Westerners and Arrows, both members of the Copperstate League, unlike the Pepperettes who belong to the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Women's Open League.

The Arrows will face the San Diego Trendsetters at 9:45 tonight, and coach Jerry Shearer isn't taking the first-round game lightly.

"Getting by the Trendsetters is serious," he said.

SHEARER SAID his team played the San Diego squad earlier this sea-

to dethrone Saints

son and feels they should be favored slightly over the Saints to win the tournament. But he's not counting the Arrows out of it.

In the last seven games, he said, his team hasn't allowed an earned run. Pitcher Kim Bickford from Mesa Community College, he said, without question is a team leader. Also strong will be Meg Conner, catcher, and Tammy McKinney, a 15-year-old shortstop, who Shearer calls "a real comer."

Trendsetters' coach

Pete Theriot explained that his team this year is made up of mostly first- and second-year players, with only three members returning from the Trendsetters that won the Mini World Series in April 1980.

"WE'RE just going through a cycle like most ball teams," he explained. Yet several players have proved outstanding so far in the team's 16-3 season. Among them are Pam Stone, a pitcher from the championship squad, Michelle Row, at second base and outfielders Cindy Moran and Cindy Capis-

tran.

The other teams blocking the Saints' way to the championship are the Utah Bees and the Tucson Broad Squad.

The Saints will play the Broad Squad tonight at 8:15, following opening ceremonies. Peggy Steger, coach of the Tucson team, expects a tough match against the Saints and considers them the favorites.

THE BROAD Squad placed second in Phoenix and Tucson tournaments earlier this year.

The other match-up to-

night will find the Bees playing the Westerners at 6:30.

Opening ceremonies will follow that game at 8 and will include the ceremonial first pitch and the national anthem, played by trumpeter Leon Bristow.

KWAO-FM will broadcast tonight's Saints game and, if the Saints win, 5 and 10 p.m. games Saturday.

If the Saints lose Friday, their 6:30 p.m. Saturday game will be broadcast.

The tournament ends Sunday.

Saints roll to Webb Memorial

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

If the Sun City Saints were looking for a test in the Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament they must have been surprised.

Taking early leads in all four of their games, the Saints rolled to the tournament championship, beating the Utah Salt Lakers, 3-0, in the title contest.

This year's memorial to the builder of Sun City was won for the seventh straight time by the Saints, and, for the second year, they beat the Salt Lakers to do it.

THIS YEAR, however, the Salt Lakers were at a disadvantage. Due to injuries, only nine players were on the roster.

Four of those were named to the All-Tournament team along with

four Saints and two players from the Utah Bees, the third-place team. Suzie Gaw of the Saints earned Most Valuable Player honors for her .583 batting average.

In the championship game, the Saints got five hits off of Mona Stevens, Salt Lakers' pitcher, but scored on two errors and a stolen base. Miss Stevens pitched the entire tournament for the Utah squad.

"WE DIDN'T play well either night (Saturday and Sunday) against the Saints," said Miss Stevens, discounting the number of players as the reason for losing. The Salt Lakers normally have only 11 players on the team and one of those injured is their other pitcher, she explained as she iced her arm.

On Friday night, the Saints won their opener against the Tucson Broad Squad, 2-1. In that contest, Barb Garcia scored in the first inning after three walks and a single, and Linda Belcher tallied in the second when she singled, stole second and came home on an error.

Tucson didn't threaten until the seventh when Debbie Doom loaded the bases by allowing two singles and a walk. A throw from catcher Marilyn Rau to Suzie nipped one runner trying to steal second as a second runner scored. Suzie's throw back to Marilyn was in time to get the third baserunner out at the plate and end the game.

THAT WIN pitted the Saints against the Phoenix Arrows, who beat the San Diego Trendsetters, 2-1 in

11 innings Friday night.

Pitcher Cindy Bristow struck out seven and Miss Rau and Miss Gaw sent three balls over the fence to give the Saints a 4-3 win. The victory upped Cindy's record to 14-5 for the year.

Marilyn walloped a line drive home run in the fourth inning to score the Saints' first run and Suzie followed suit.

IN THE sixth inning, Marilyn singled and was replaced on the base paths by Sue Bristow. The switch was needless, however, as Suzie smacked her third hit and second homer of the night to score them both. The homers were Marilyn's 13th round-tripper of the year and Suzie's ninth and tenth.

Cindy was replaced in the seventh after allowing

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Tournament crown

four hits and two runs in the sixth and two hits in the seventh. Miss Doom gave up a double to allow another run, but a double-play and a strikeout ended the threat.

The Saints earned a berth into the finals by beating the Salt Lakers Saturday night. In last year's tournament the Salt Lakers sent the Saints to the loser's bracket, forcing them to win three straight for the championship.

THIS YEAR, the Saints tallied in the second inning on a three-RBI double by Barb Garcia, and scored their final run of the game in the fourth when Suzie singled, stole second and scored on the catcher's errant throw to second.

The Salt Lakers scored in the seventh, but Miss Doom ended the game, 4-1, with her seventh strikeout of the night.

Sunday, for the second time, the Salt Lakers beat cross-town rivals the Utah Bees, 2-1, to set the stage

for a rematch of last year's championship.

IN THE championship game, Suzie got on with a fielder's choice and advanced on the second baseman's poor throw. Vicki Smith's hard grounder to the shortstop was too hot to handle and Suzie scored when a wild throw went into the dugout.

Miss Garcia started the action in the third, getting on with a fielder's choice. Gail Davenport then made it to first when the shortstop's throw to second ended up in center field, and Barb Garcia scored when the centerfielder threw wildly.

Marla Stapley walked and rounded the base to steal second while Gail edged off of third towards home, Marla's successful steel and a late throw to home scored Gail for the Saints' final run.

"**THIS IS** more like we should have been playing for quite some time," coach Gerald Stapley said, referring to the

Saints three double-plays, 22 hits and three lone errors in the tournament. He was also happy with Miss Doom's progress after injuries sidelined her earlier this season.

Debbie picked up her 12th win of the year against two losses, and earned a spot on the All-Tournament team, as pitcher, with a 0.00 earned run average.

Accompanying her on that team were teammates Miss Gaw at shortstop, Miss Rau at catcher and Miss Stapley as designated hitter.

ROUNDING OUT the squad were Salt Lakers Jane Hughes at first, Becky Anderson, second, Mel Kent in center field and Vikki Allred in right. Cindy Lyon and Lotta Thornley of the Utah Bees were all-tournament picks in left field and at third base, respectively.

Results of other games played were: Salt Lakers 8, Phoenix Peppercakes 0; Bees 5, Phoenix Westerners 0; Westerners 3, Peppercakes 2; Broad Squad 6, Trendsetters 2; Salt Lakers 2, Bees 0; Arrows 7, Westerners 0 (forfeit); Bees 4, Broad Squad 1; Bees 1, Arrows 0.

The Saints will battle the Sepulveda (Calif.) Raiders Saturday and Sunday in a pair of double-headers. Both twin-bills begin at 7:30 in Sun City Stadium.

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Saints shortstop Suzie Gaw puts the tag on Dawn Knappenburger Saturday in a game against the

Phoenix Arrows. Suzie then threw home to complete a double play. (News-Sun Photo by Bill Dosham)

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LORI PFAB

Batgirl wins finalist spot in pageant

Sun City Saints batgirl Lori Pfab, 14601 55th Ave., Glendale, has been named a finalist in the Miss Arizona Teen-ager Pageant to be held July 10-12 in Phoenix Hyatt Regency.

The winner of the pageant will receive a \$500 cash scholarship, a full Barbizon Modeling scholarship, and an all-expense paid trip to Atlanta, Ga., to compete in the Miss National Teen-ager Pageant.

FROM left field

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

Gerald Stapley would have no problem keeping busy without the sport he is so deeply involved with.

Even a "gone fishin'" sign is useless when there are seven daughters, three sons and a bushel of grandchildren to keep track of.

Yet this man with the assuming stature and unassuming nature doesn't seem to have enough to keep him occupied. He lives for the game of softball. And these days the living must be a little easier.

AFTER A SLOW start, Stapley's beloved Sun City Saints have begun to show evidence of life, in sharp contrast to the team that registered weak vital signs under his direction earlier in the season.

And the recovery couldn't have come at a better time.

The Saints suddenly find themselves resembling the team that won the 1979 national women's major fastpitch title. Until this past weekend, when they rolled to their seventh straight Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament title, they could have been arrested for impersonating the team that has built a national reputation.

GRANTED, THE SAINTS' haven't run up a 40-14 record by losing the majority of their games. But they have been inconsistent. And there's no time for inconsistency during the latter part of the season.

Part of the problem can be attributed to a shake and bake line-up caused by the loss of several regulars to college softball. Although school has been out for more than a month, it takes time to mold players into a working unit, regardless of whether they have played together in the past. It requires a few hours on the job to smooth out the wrinkles and get used to the habits of the other player on the end of a double-play attempt.

The brightest light on the horizon, however, is Debbie Doom's performance after several weeks of nagging injuries.

DEBBIE, WHOSE ARM the Saints rode to a third-place national finish last season, has been bothered most of the season by two injuries that haven't allowed her to round into shape.

First it was a pulled leg muscle, then a bruised hip that was caused by her pitching arm banging against her hip on the delivery.

The 18-year-old right hander is showing evidence that she's beginning to round into form. She threw 22 innings of softball in the Webb tournament without giving up an earned run. While her strikeout pitch may not be up to par, (she fanned five in the title game) that will return in time.

THE SAINTS HAVE four weeks to prepare for the Cactus Regional Tournament in Prescott, where they must win to advance to the national tournament in Houston Aug. 10-15.

They may find the competition weak in Prescott. That won't be the case in Houston, where the Raybestos Brakettes, Of Stratford, Conn., will defend the title they took from the Saints last year. Unless Debbie Doom is healthy, there's little hope of a second national championship trophy being displayed in Sun City Stadium.

As Debbie goes, so go the Saints.



Debbie Doom

Saints win 7th straight

News-Sun Photos
By
Bill Dosham



Suzie Gaw rounds the bases after blasting a home run



... and fires from the hip. Bristow pitched Saturday night to give Debbie Doom some well-earned rest.

Webb tournament

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

In 1966, the Del E. Webb Development Co. and the Grand Center Merchants sponsored the first Sun City Saints softball team.

So it is only fitting that the Saints should win the one tournament dedicated to the man who built Sun City and gave the Saints their start.

In the seven Del E. Webb Memorial Tournaments held, the Saints have emerged victorious each time. In 1980, they beat the Utah Salt Lakers twice in a row for the title and this year whipped the Salt Lakers again, 3-0, for the championship.

Last weekend, eight teams from Arizona, California and Utah competed in the three-day tournament. Even though temperatures edged toward the 110-degree mark throughout the weekend, 1,300 fans crowded Sun City Stadium Saturday night to watch the competition.

The Saints are coached, managed and cajoled by Gerald Stapley, the man who led the team to its first national championship in 1979.

In the Del Webb tournament, Debbie Doom, the 18-year-old pitching whiz from Tempe, earned All-Tournament honors as pitcher. Cindy Bristow (top left) also pitched brilliantly Saturday evening for the Saints, striking out seven Phoenix Arrows.

Also excelling in the battle with the Phoenix team were Suzie Gaw (left), the tournament's Most Valuable Player, and Marilyn Rau (bottom), voted outstanding catcher. Suzie had two home runs in that game and Marilyn one—to the delight of the team and the fans.



Cindy Bristow begins the whirlwind motion unique to fast pitch softball.



Saints coach Gerald Stapley barks instructions and encouragement to his team during the weekend competition.



Forced out

Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament Most Valuable Player, Suzie Gaw (22), is forced out at second base by the Phoenix Arrows' shortstop Saturday. Miss Gaw went on to lead the

Sun City Saints to their seventh straight tournament championship. Highlights of this year's tournament are featured on page B3. (News-Sun photo by Bill Dosham)



Saints team members congratulate Marilyn Rau after her home run Saturday night.

Gail's study of softball reaches beyond confines of playing field

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

Softball has given Gail Davenport, outfielder for the Sun City Saints, an education.

Not just in terms of an athletic scholarship to the University of Arizona. Several Saints have scholarships.

And not just in terms of learning to play a position totally unfamiliar to her, from catcher to outfielder. Several Saints have made similar shifts.

HER EDUCATION CAME in the form of advanced studies at Arizona, Arizona State University and, next year, the University of Iowa.

Her research project, in softball, started as a requirement for her master's degree at Arizona, Gail said, and hopefully will continue when she pursues her doctorate at Iowa.

Eventually, Gail would like to be involved in some phase of women's athletics, she said, and her ultimate goal is to be a college-level women's athletic director, preferably at a level below that of a major university.

"WINNING HAS become so paramount that they forget about the other good things in sports," she said, referring to some of the athletic programs at major universities.

It's understandable why Gail feels so strongly about athletics. Sports are what

brought Gail all the way from her native Canada to the Arizona desert.

Following her graduation from high school in 1970, Gail spent the next five years working in Canada and nearby Michigan. In her spare time, she said, she played winter basketball, a holdover from high school, where she also played volleyball and competed on the track team.

SINCE SOFTBALL wasn't played at her high school, it was only after some basketball friends invited her to try the sport that she picked up a bat and glove.

On a Michigan team that qualified for the Amateur Softball Association National Championships at Tucson, Gail got her first taste of Arizona life and her first glimpse of the Sun City Saints, all at the same time.

The Saints were well known then as perennial contenders for the national championship. Along with the Orange Lionettes, Orlando Rebels and Raybestos Brakettes, Gail said, Sun City was one of the premier softball teams in the country and a place where people just getting started dreamed of playing.

GAIL WENT ON to receive an athletic scholarship to Arizona, where she lettered three years in basketball and softball, including a year when she made all-conference in both.

Two years later, she was asked to try out for the Saints because catcher Marilyn Rau would be going to the Pan-

American Games along with several other Saints.

That was the opportunity Gail wanted. She hadn't tried out for the Saints earlier because, as a catcher, she would always be playing behind Marilyn.

BUT WHEN THE players from the Pan-Am Games came back, she had to move to another spot in the line-up, so she went to the outfield. She earned All-America honors as an outfielder that year, even though she had never before played the position.

"The first year I played it (outfield) I was scared to death," she confessed. She remembers saying to herself "please don't hit it" whenever someone came to bat.

Even now, after two years in the outfield, Gail still prefers the excitement behind the plate. "You're in the game on every single play," she said, as opposed to frequent dry spells in the outfield.

NEVERTHELESS, SHE explained, it would be difficult for her to leave the Saints for another team.

"It's a class organization. Once you've played for the Saints, I'd find it difficult to play for another team."

The fans, the facilities and the level of competition combine to make it "as close to professional as you can be," Gail said. "You've earned respect as a ballplayer and as a person."



Gail Davenport watches play during the Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament. Gail plans to attend the University of Iowa next year to pursue her doctorate, hoping to use softball as a research project.
(News-Sun Photo)

Sports

Monday, July 13, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Saints come within out

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

The Sun City Saints were one out away from a sweep of the Sepulveda (Calif.) Raiders Sunday. But, as the saying goes, the game isn't over until the last out.

In Sunday's nightcap, the two teams had fought a see-saw battle for six innings. Saints pitcher Cindy Bristow fanned three straight Raiders in the top of the sixth inning and Barb Garcia scored

the go-ahead run in the Saints' half of the inning. It appeared the game was over.

THE FIRST two Raiders went down in order in the seventh, but a single and double knotted the game at 3-3 and the winning run tallied when a cutoff throw got by third baseman Gail Peters.

The 4-3 loss gave the Saints a regular season record of 41-15. Even with the loss coach Gerald Stapley was beaming after

watching what he called "great" performances Saturday and Sunday.

"We're pulling together at just the right time," he said.

IN Saturday's first game, Lisa Clinchy took advantage of a walk, two wild pitches and a Karen Fellenz single to score the Saints initial run, but the Raiders followed suit, scoring once in the third inning.

Designated hitter Shawn Ritchey broke the tie in

the fourth, scoring on an error after she doubled. The Saints scored again in the sixth when Miss Fellenz reached on a fielder's choice, stole second and scored on Linda Belcher's single.

The 3-1 victory gave Debbie Doom her 13th win of the season. She allowed three hits while striking out eight.

IN THE nightcap Saturday, the Saints allowed only one Raider runner past first in winning 3-0.

of series sweep

Barb scored first for the Saints when she singled, advanced on Gail Davenport's sacrifice and scored on an errant throw by the second baseman.

In the second Shawn walked, advanced on Miss Clinchy's sacrifice and Vicki Smith's ground out and scored on Miss Peters' single.

THE SAINTS tallied once more in the fifth when Suzie Gaw, hitless in five trips to the plate in the two games, hit her

11th home run over the left field fence. That gave Shawn win No. 11 AGAINST FIVE LOSSES.

In Sunday's opener, the Saints needed only one run to back Miss Doom's 11-strikeout performance. They tallied in the third on Miss Garcia's single, Miss Davenport's sacrifice and Miss Ritchey's single. The 1-0 win upped Debbie's record to 14-2.

The Saints played the weekend series without

utility player Teresa Clark, who is "no longer on the team because of personal conduct," Stapley said.

PRECEDING the Saints' games Sunday, the Senior Softball League Travel Team rallied for six runs in the seventh inning, but fell short of overcoming the Sun City Post Office team, losing 22-18.

At 7:30 p.m. Friday the Saints will play the Phoenix Apaches in the first round of the four-day Phoenix Metro League tournament in Sun City Stadium.

The Saints must finish first or second in the six-team tournament to qualify for the regional tournament July 31-Aug. 3 in Prescott.

Metro tourney opener pits Saints, Apaches

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

The Sun City Saints were national champions in 1979 but didn't regain the title in 1980. So, they'll have to compete in the Phoenix Metro Tournament, which begins Friday in Sun City Stadium, like everyone else to qualify for the regionals.

John McGonigle, Phoenix Metro commissioner, said since the Saints won the national championship in 1979 they were given a free ride to nationals in 1980, bypassing the regionals.

The top two finishers in the tournament will qualify for the regionals. The winner there will qualify for the national championships.

The tournament starts at 7:30 p.m. with the Saints playing the Phoenix Apaches and continues at 9 with the Phoenix Arrows playing the Phoenix Flames. The Phoenix Blues and Westerners both drew a first round bye and will play their first games Saturday against the winners of Friday's contests.

The tournament will continue with four games

Saturday night, three games Sunday night and one or two games Monday night, McGonigle said.

ADMISSION WILL be \$2 for adults and \$1 for children 12 and younger.

All the Phoenix teams in the tournament are from the Copperstate League, which McGonigle said he founded in 1961.

McGonigle is also the founder of the Phoenix Blues, this year's Copperstate champions, and coached that team until he was appointed to the ASA position several years ago.

Copperstate teams block

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

Five teams in addition to the Sun City Saints will be vying for the Phoenix ASA Metro Women's Major Fast Pitch Tournament championship starting at 7:30 p.m. today in Sun City Stadium.

Those teams—the Blues, Arrows, Apaches, Westerners and Flames—are all from the Phoenix Copperstate Softball League.

Their game of softball is somewhat different from what Sun City Saints' fans are accustomed to seeing.

AT PAPAGO Park, home of the league, there are no booster organizations hawking their wares.

There is no admission charged to games at the four-diamond complex.

There are no people in golf carts gathered by the stands honking approval for good plays.

INSTEAD OF a stadium, bleachers are positioned behind the backstop and even those aren't filled with fans.

There is no voice announcing the number and position of each batter.

The 100 or so spectators have their choice of four well-lit games to watch, all going on simultaneously.

TUESDAY night, the Blues beat the Arrows to assure themselves of the

league championship. Also in the league, but not playing in the metro tournament, are the Bobbettes and Chargers.

The Blues, behind pitching from Arizona State University starter Lucy Casarez, beat the Arrows, 5-0, and wound up with a 26-4 record. That was enough to edge the second-place Bobbettes, who finished 25-5.

"It's been a hell of a year," said John McGonigle, founder of the Blues and the Copperstate League and now the Phoenix Metro commissioner.

HE WAS referring, in part, to the fact that two Copperstate teams—the

Sun Devils and Fencers—switched from Copperstate to the Phoenix City League, thus reducing the number of teams in the 20-year-old league.

He was also referring to the first-ever opportunity Copperstate teams will have to play the Saints in the metro tournament.

The tournament is a qualifying round for nationals. After placing first or second in the metro tournament, two teams will compete in regionals in Prescott July 31-Aug. 3. The winner there will head to the national championships in Houston Aug. 10-15.

THE SAINTS have won

Saints' path to title

the Cactus Regionals every time they've competed. Each year, the winner of the previous year's regionals automatically qualifies for the tournament the following year.

In 1979, however, when the Saints won the national title, they qualified automatically for the '80 nationals, bypassing the regional event. Now that the Saints are not defending regional or national champions anymore, they have to start from scratch.

McGonigle said the Copperstate teams are "ticked" to be playing Sun City. He said that some of the Copperstate teams

feel the Saints have just glamorized the sport and are not that much better than any other team.

MCGONIGLE has referred to the Saints and Copperstate teams as "two Cadillacs, only one has gas and the other doesn't."

It's that "gas," or money, that the other teams resent, and they feel now is their chance to get back.

With last year's regional champion Bobbettes going straight to regionals this year, McGonigle said he favors the Saints and Blues in the metro tournament.

HE SAID the Blues rely heavily on the pitching of Miss Casarez, who is 24-4 for the season, with 234 strikeouts.

They also have five hitters batting over .300, led by second baseman Woody Woodcock at .413. The average age of the players is 18½, McGonigle said.

The Saints' first concern, however, are the

Phoenix Apaches. The two teams square off in Sun City Stadium at 7:30 p.m. today and will be followed by the Arrows and Flames game. The Blues and the Westerners received first round byes.

The tournament continues through Monday. Tickets to each session of the four-day tournament are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children under 12.

Sports

NEWS-SUN Saturday, July 18, 1981

Saints win error-filled

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

Errors spelled the outcome of Friday's opener of the Phoenix Metro Women's Major Fast Pitch Tournament, allowing the Sun City Saints four runs in the first three innings against the Phoenix Apaches.

The two teams combined for eight errors in all and the Saints added 10 hits off three Apache pitchers to win the contest, 7-1.

"We just weren't ready to play," coach Gerald Stapley said about his team's two miscues, both in the first inning.

"WE'RE lucky it didn't hurt us any worse than it did," he admitted.

The Apaches connected twice against pitcher Debbie Doom, in the first and second innings, but she didn't give up a single hit the rest of the way and struck out 10.

The other game of the night pitted the Phoenix

Arrows against the Phoenix Flames, with the Arrows winning 8-0 in five innings.

THE ARROWS balanced their attack, scoring in all but the second inning, and forced the game to end after taking an eight run advantage in five completed innings.

In the tournament, if any team takes an eight-run lead over another team, with five or more completed innings, the game is called.

In the Saints-Apaches battle, Barb Garcia got on via the shortstop's wild throw and went all the way to third on Gail Davenport's sacrifice.

Suzie Gaw sent the first pitch offered her over the center field fence to score them both, and Marilyn Rau looked as though she would repeat the feat, but was robbed when the Apaches' centerfielder, Monica Galuski, caught it and flipped over the 200-foot fence. She was shaken but not hurt on the play.

THE SAINTS gave up the lone Apaches run in the bottom of the first on a single, a wild throw by Suzie

tournament opener

and an error by Vicki Smith, when she couldn't handle Marilyn's pick-off throw from home.

Miss Smith came back in the second to score on a single and an errant throw by the first baseman.

After tallying twice in the third, the Saints ended their scoring in the sixth inning.

LISA Clinchy singled sharply past third and went to second when Vicki's attempted sacrifice turned into a single. The Apaches then sent in their third pitcher of the game, Darlene Spiva.

Sue Bristow then loaded the bases via the shortstop's error and Linda Belcher reached base with a fielder's choice.

The next two batters, Miss Garcia and Miss Davenport, were hit by pitches, scoring two runners

to nail the Saints' victory.

THE WIN put the Saints into tonight's battle against the Phoenix Westerners, starting at 7:30 p.m. The Arrows' win put them in an earlier, 6 p.m., game against the Phoenix Blues. The Blues and Westerners received first round byes.

Three teams—a figure changed from the original two—will qualify from this tournament into the Rocky Mountain-Cactus regionals June 31-August 3.

The Phoenix Metro tournament continues through Monday in Sun City Stadium. Four games are scheduled tonight, three games Sunday and one or two games Monday evening for the championship.

Tickets each night are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children under 12.

Monday, July 20, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Saints earn regional berth,

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

It took an 11-inning, 1-0, contest, but the Sun City Saints gained a spot in today's championship game of the Phoenix Metro Women's Major Fast Pitch Tournament.

The championship is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in Sun City Stadium.

The extra-inning contest came against the Phoenix Blues Sunday after the Saints had already as-

sured themselves a trip to the upcoming regionals in Prescott by beating the Phoenix Westerners.

The mini-marathon found the Saints and Blues deadlocked in a pitchers' battle between Debbie Doom and the Blues' Lucy Casarez. Miss Casarez allowed eight hits and struck out eight, while Debbie allowed six hits and fanned 18 Blues.

COACH Gerald Stapley said the winner would be

the team that made the breaks, "and we happened to be the one that made the break."

He was referring to the Saints' 11th-inning rally that started when Gail Davenport bounced a single over the glove of Miss Casarez. Suzie Gaw followed with a walk and Marilyn Rau smacked a change-up over the third baseman's head to score Gail on a close play at home.

The lone error in the contest was made in the fifth by Miss Casarez when she bobbled a Karen Fellenz bunt, allowing her to reach base. The Saints threatened three other times, getting runners in scoring position in the fourth, sixth and 10th innings.

THE BLUES posed a threat early when a single and a double in the first inning put runners on second and third, but Miss

seek tourney title

Doom's second strikeout ended the Saints' worries.

Stapley admitted that a couple of base-running errors may have prevented his team from scoring earlier, but he praised the squad's defense.

"That's the way we need to play to do what we want to do," he said.

ON SATURDAY night, the Saints beat the Westerners, 7-0, as Debbie struck out 17. In other

games, the Blues beat the Phoenix Arrows, 3-0; the Phoenix Apaches eliminated the Arrows, 1-0; the Westerners eliminated the Flames, 10-2, in six innings; the Westerners eliminated the Apaches, 3-1; and the Blues eliminated the Westerners, 3-2.

The Blues' victory over the Westerners sent them into a rematch against the Saints for the championship.

If the Saints lose the

first contest they will play a second to determine the tournament winner.

Stapley said he is considering pitching Shawn Ritchey instead of Debbie, 17-2, who has seen action three straight nights.

BOTH TEAMS in the finals have assured themselves of a trip to regionals, as have the Westerners, who finished third.

Tickets for the finals are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children under 12.



Saints shell Blues

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

There was no question about it, the Sun City Saints did not want another extra-innings fight with the Phoenix Blues.

In the bottom of the first inning, Monday night, leadoff Saints batter Barb Garcia walloped the first pitch offered her over the left-centerfield fence for her first home run of the year.

Coach Gerald Stapley, admitted he was surprised the five-foot-four-inch centerfielder could hit it over. "She just got underneath a rise ball and it went

That really takes the pressure off," he said.

THREE INNINGS later, Suzie Gaw repeated the feat and blasted a booming shot far past the 200-foot marker for her 13th home run of the year, tying her with Marilyn Rau for the team lead.

The Saint's final run scored the next inning when normally weak-hitting Linda Belcher smacked her second hit of the night and stole second base.

Gail Davenport, who scored the winning run in Sunday's 11-inning battle, hit a blooming single that

dropped in front of a charging centerfielder to score Linda from second.

The apparent difference between Monday's 3-0 win and Sunday's 1-0 squeaker was the Blues' pitcher, Lucy Casarez.

SUNDAY, THE Saints scattered eight hits across 11 innings, against Miss Casarez. In Monday's game they connected on seven pitches in just six innings.

"It wasn't breaking at all," she explained, referring to her normally explosive pitches. Also, Miss Casarez said, "I was just tired; just plain tired."

Tuesday, July 21, 1981 NEWS-SUN

in title game

She pitched 18 innings on Sunday and seven in the early game Saturday.

For the Saints, Debbie Doom pitched all four games—32 innings—and struck out 53. That feat, coupled with an ERA of 0.00 earned her Most Valuable Player honors.

Assistant Tournament Director Gene Downing said Marilyn's batting average of .500 and excellent defensive play made the decision for MVP a toss-up between the two. "It was decided by a coin toss," he admitted.

STAPLEY attributed the team's success to

"plain old nitty-gritty, hard-nosed ball."

He also felt the team was "peaking at the right time."

Six of the nine starters had a batting average of .300 or better for the tournament. Included in that figure is Suzie's .385 with two home runs, and normally light-hitting Vicki Smith and Lisa Clinchy each with .333.

The Saints' next game is Friday at the National Sports Festival, in Syracuse, N.Y.

Following that tourna-

ment, they will travel to the Rocky Mountain-Cactus Women's Major Fast Pitch Regionals in Prescott, July 31-August 3.

The winner of regionals will qualify for the national championships, August 10-15, in Houston.

Thursday, July 23, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Saints to face stiff competition

The nation's top four women's fastpitch softball teams will begin a five-day round-robin tournament Friday in the National Sports Festival at Syracuse, N.Y.

The Sun City Saints, third-place finishers in the national tournament a year ago, will meet the fourth-place Macomb (Ill.) Magic at 3:30 p.m. and then battle the national champion Raybestos Brakettes at 6.

On Saturday the Saints will meet the Long Beach Renegades, a team they split a series with in Sun City Stadium earlier this year.

Sunday the Saints will again play Macomb and Monday they will take on the Brakettes and Renegades a second time.

The two teams with the best records after the round-robin competition will play at 6 p.m. Tuesday for the championship.

Friday, July 24, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Porter hopeful softball

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

The National Sports Festival may answer a big question that's being asked by people associated with amateur softball.

When is softball going to become an Olympic sport?

The answer seems to be a definite "soon."

"WE ARE very optimistic and have been for some time," said Don Porter, executive director

of the Amateur Softball Association.

He means that for a long time the ASA hoped softball would be a part of the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

They wanted it to be an "exhibition sport," with hopes of eventually including it among the regular sports, much the same way volleyball was adopted at the Tokyo Olympics. But the Los Angeles or-

ganizing committee chose baseball and tennis instead.

NOW THE ASA is looking toward the 1988 Games, not just as an exhibition sport this time, but as a permanent part of the competition.

Events like the Sports Festival, Pan American Games, Southeast Asia Games and others that include softball on their list of sports are making the International Olympic

will become Olympic sport

Committee take a closer look at softball, Porter said.

Another reason Porter is optimistic for softball's eventual inclusion is that the IOC is looking for more sports that include women as well as men.

"THEY (IOC) are very much intent on having more women participate in the Olympics," he said.

In the inaugural Sports Festival, held in Colorado Springs, Colo. in 1978, the

Sun City Saints beat the Raybestos Brakettes to win the softball title. The Brakettes won the 1979 title and the festival wasn't held last year because of the Olympics.

Coach Gerald Stapley feels the Saints have a good chance to win it again.

"We've got the kids that we need to win it," said an optimistic Stapley.

ALONG WITH the Saints and Brakettes, the

Long Beach Renegades and Macomb (Ill.) Magic will battle for the title.

The Brakettes, however, seem to be the toughest competition and have the manpower advantage over the Saints, who beat them 1-0 in the 1978 finals.

The team's statistics are awesome:

-SINCE they were founded in 1947, they have won 1,708 games and lost only 266.

-Since 1958 they have won 16 ASA national titles, including eight in a row (1971-78).

-They have won two World Championships as U.S. representatives.

THE SAINTS and Brakettes square off at 2 p.m. today (Arizona time) in the first day of round-robin competition. The two teams with the best records after round-robin play will meet at 2 p.m.

(Arizona time) Tuesday for the championship.

The 1981 festival began with opening ceremonies Thursday night and will end Wednesday.

About 2,500 performers will participate in 33 sports on the Syracuse University campus and at sites throughout Onondaga County. The events include both summer and winter Olympic disciplines.

Single by Fellenz slays

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

One of the Sun City Saints' weakest hitters proved to be a giant killer Friday as the Saints defeated the defending national champion Raybestos Brakettes.

In their second victory of the National Sports Festival, the Saints went ten innings against Raybestos pitcher Barbara Reinalda when, thanks to International Softball Federation rules and a Karen Fellenz single, they scored the game's lone run.

ISF rules state that if the game is tied after nine

innings, the last runner out the previous inning is automatically stationed at second base to make scoring easier.

IN THE bottom of the tenth, Marla Stapley was put on second as a pinch-runner for Marilyn Rau. Lisa Clinchy bunted to the pitcher who threw to Missy Mapes, the Brakettes third baseman, but Miss Mapes forgot to tag Marla.

Vicki Smith then grounded to shortstop Kathy Strahan, who threw out Marla at home. Pitcher Cindy Bristow advanced both runners with a sacrifice bunt.

Then 18-year-old Karen Fellenz hit her second consecutive single, a line drive to left field, to score Lisa.

MISS BRISTOW gave up five hits, as did Miss Reinalda, and each team made one error in the 1-0 squeaker.

The Saints had threatened earlier, in the fifth, when Lisa hit a one-out single and advanced when an error allowed Vicki to reach first on an attempted sacrifice. Cindy's sacrifice advanced both runners, but Karen's pop-up to second ended the inning.

The Brakettes managed to get a runner to third in

National Sports
Festival
Syracuse, N.Y.

Saturday, July 25, 1981 NEWS-SUN

softball giants

the eighth inning, their only threat.

THE WIN upped Miss Bristow's record to 15-6 and, coupled with an earlier victory over the Macomb (Ill.) Magic, gave the Saints the best record so far for the tournament.

In the Saints' earlier game against Macomb, Suzie Gaw's 14th home run of the year in the fourth inning gave Debbie Doom the only run she needed in another 1-0 victory.

Debbie gave up just three hits, walked one batter and struck out four to post her 19th win of the year against two losses.

IN THE only other

game of the day, Raybestos beat the Long Beach Renegades in a 1-0, 16-inning marathon.

Today, the Renegades played Macomb at 10:30 a.m. (Arizona time), the Saints played the Renegades at 12:30 p.m., and the Brakettes played Macomb at 3.

Sunday, the Renegades and Brakettes will battle again at 10:30 a.m. (Arizona time) and the Saints and Macomb will battle at 12:30 p.m.

MONDAY, the Brakettes and Saints will square-off in a rematch at 10:30 a.m., the Renegades and Macomb will play at 12:30 p.m. and the Saints and Renegades will meet at 3.

The final game of round-robin competition will be played Tuesday between the Brakettes and Macomb with the teams with the best records playing for the championship at 3 p.m. (Arizona time).

Saints earn another

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

As expected, the Sun City Saints had few problems winning the Cactus Division of the Rocky Mountain Regionals in Prescott and qualifying for the national tournament.

What was a surprise was how far a team, added to the tournament at the last minute, advanced.

The Phoenix Arrows, fifth-place finishers in the Phoenix Metro Tournament held in Sun City, battled the Saints in the finals of the winners' bracket on Sunday, after their Saturday night confrontation was postponed

because of rain. The Arrows lost the contest, 4-0, but finished third in the tournament.

IN SUNDAY'S finals it was two of the favorites, the defending champion Phoenix Bobettes and the Saints, going at it for the championship. Another favorite, the Phoenix Blues, suffered a first-round loss and then fell to the Bobettes in their second game of the loser's bracket competition.

The Bobettes beat the Arrows, 3-2, to make it to the finals.

The obvious standout in the championship game was Saints' center fielder Barb Garcia. She went 3-

for-3 at the plate with one walk to lead the Saints to a 3-0 win in the title contest and was 8-for-12 in the tournament with seven RBI.

"I'M REALLY hitting out of my mind," she said referring to her .666 tournament batting average. "I guess I'm peaking."

The Saints got runners on base in every inning of the title game, but the Bobettes managed to quell the threat each time until the fifth.

Barb started the rally with a single down the first-base line and was sacrificed to second—for the third time in the

game—by Gail Davenport.

SUZIE GAW'S double to left scored Barb and a miscue by the outfielder allowed Suzie to advance to third. Marilyn Rau's towering fly ball to right was dropped allowing Suzie to score and Marilyn to advance to second.

Marilyn advanced on Shawn Ritchey's ground out and scored on Lisa Clinchy's triple up the middle.

The Bobettes threatened only once when they loaded the bases in the fifth inning with one out.

CATCHER Peggy McAbee hit a booming shot



Baserunner Marilyn Rau, left, is welcomed at home by Barb Garcia after Shawn Ritchey, right, walloped a home run Sunday in the Saints win against the

Phoenix Arrows in the regional tournament in Prescott. Barb led all Saints hitters in the tournament with a .666 average. (News-Sun Photo)

trip to nationals

to Miss Davenport in right field, but Gail's throw was in time to keep the runners from advancing. A quick rundown between Vicki Smith at third base and Marilyn at home caught the Bobettes' Joyce Lytle off guard for the final out.

The win gave Debbie Doom her 24th victory of the season, upped the Saint's record to 53-17, and assured the team of their 16th straight trip to nationals.

Because of the rain-caused delay, an all-tournament team was not selected immediately, but Tournament Director A.C.

Williams said the team will be announced soon.

COACH Gerald Stapley was happy with the way the team performed, especially offensively.

He said the Saints normally have had trouble hitting "junk" or off-speed pitching, but apparently have corrected the problem.

"They've adjusted a little bit," Stapley explained. "They're watching the ball more."

The Saints picked up their other win in a 19-1 trouncing of the Phoenix Westerners Saturday with Cindy Bristow gaining the victory.

The five-inning victory came just before the tournament was delayed because of rain.

MISS GARCIA hit her second home run of the season, an inside-the-park round-tripper for three RBI, as she went 3-4 at the plate. The Saints had back-to-back eight-run innings in the second and third, and the game was finally called after five frames.

In the battle with the Arrows, the Saints scored three runs in the fourth and one in the fifth for the 4-0 margin.

Suzie Gaw started the rally with a triple to left,

and Marilyn got on via a first baseman's error. Then Shawn walloped an inside-the-park homer to score all three. It was her third of the year.

THE FINAL run tallied when Linda Belcher doubled up the middle, advanced on Barb's sacrifice bunt and scored on Gail's sacrifice fly deep to center.

Barb, Gail, and Lisa all batted .500 or better in the tournament and Suzie and Shawn each hit over .350.

The Saints will travel to Houston for the national tournament August 10-15 and try to regain the title they won in 1979.

Monday, August 3, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Saints shed more glory

The Saints, as usual, came through.

Not only did they garner the gold in the National Sports Festival last week in Syracuse, N.Y., they won the Rocky Mountain-Cactus Women's Major Fastpitch Regionals in Prescott a few days later.

The regional championship makes them eligible for the national women's softball tournament, which will open in Houston Aug. 9. The Saints' principal aim, of course, will be to conquer the Raybestos Brakettes, traditionally the team to beat in the nationals.

The Saints' win over the

Brakettes in the Sports Festival was after a rain washout, but it was a good win. The Saints had scored 11 runs in the tourney and allowed seven scores; the Brakettes scored eight runs and gave up six, so the Sun City team got the gold.

In a season that many thought might be so-so, the Saints have once again proven their ability. The Sun Cities can be proud of these young women who, as "adopted" granddaughters of the retirement communities, shed so much glory on their sponsors and their fans. They deserve solid support going into the nationals.

NEWS-SUN Tuesday, August 4, 1981

Saints douse Hot Peppers in first round of regionals

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

PRESCOTT—The Sun City Saints apparently had recovered from jet lag Friday after their Wednesday flight from Syracuse, N.Y., where they won the women's softball competition in the National Sports Festival.

The Saints, bidding for another trip to the national tournament, made short work of the Sierra Vista Hot Peppers with a 7-0 win in the first-round of the Rocky Mountain-Cactus Women's Major Fastpitch Regionals at Lindley Park in Prescott.

That win, coupled with a loss by the Phoenix Blues to the Tucson Por Soles, made the way to a another regional champi-

onship a little easier for the Saints.

OTHER GAMES at Roughrider and Lindley parks saw the Phoenix Arrows beat the Tucson Broad Squad, 4-2, in nine innings and the Phoenix Westerners edge the Phoenix Apaches, 3-0.

The Arrows were a last-minute addition to the tournament when the host team Prescott Merchants dropped out.

The Westerners played without starting pitcher Tonja Adreon. Veteran Juana Fredrick got the win.

Debbie Doom, 22-4, who allowed a harmless triple in the first, was staked to a 3-0 lead in the Saints half of the inning.

Barb Garcia started the

rally with a walk and advanced to third on Gail Davenport's single. Gail then stole second base. Suzie Gaw walloped a triple to the base of the left field fence, 260 feet away, scoring Barb and Gail. Suzie then came home on a wild pitch to give the Saints a 3-0 lead. The Saints added a run in the third when Barb singled and stole second. A high throw from the catcher allowed her to advance to third and she continued home, scoring when the center fielder threw low to the plate.

Suzie then unexpectedly bunted her way on and moved to second on a sacrifice by Marilyn Rau. Shawn Ritchey's triple to deep left scored Suzie

and she came home on Lisa Clinchy's base hit up the middle which put the Saints on top 6-0.

The final run scored in the fifth when Gail Davenport singled for the second time, stole second and came home on a ground out by Marilyn.

Debbie gave up two hits and two walks while striking out 11 hitters.

The Saints played the winner of the Westerners-Las Cruces (N.M.) Flames at 1 p.m. today. If they win that game they play at 8:30 tonight. A win there would put the Saints in the championship game at 7:30 Sunday. All winners' bracket games will be played at Lindley Park.

Sports

Wednesday, July 29, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Saints stake claim to gold; weatherman gets big assist

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

The rain had threatened throughout the tournament.

Tuesday it did a lot more than that. After 4½ innings, the championship game of the women's softball competition was "washed out" at the National Sports Festival in Syracuse, N.Y.

But thanks to International Softball Federation rules, the Sun City Saints were awarded the championship over the Raybestos Brakettes based on a runs scored-runs allowed formula.

"WE TRIED to get them to not even start the game," coach Gerald Stapley said. "The mud was over the top of their shoes."

Stapley had complained about the poor conditions of the playing field even before the rainout. He said there were rocks "the size of dollar bills" on the infield.

"It's a shame to play this type of ball on such a poor field."

TOURNAMENT officials finally called the game as the Saints were coming to bat in the bottom of the fifth inning.

"Neither pitcher could throw the ball" because of the wet field, Stapley said.

Nevertheless, Brakettes' pitcher Kathy Arendsen had managed to strike out 12 Saints and allowed only two hits, both in the first inning.

The Saints had threatened in the first when Barb Garcia and Gail Davenport hit back-to-back singles to load the bases. But two quick strikeouts by Miss Arendsen ended the threat.

DEBBIE Doom allowed one hit in the first inning and struck out two Brakettes.

The Saints had scored 11 runs in the tournament while allowing seven to score. The Brakettes tallied eight runs and gave up six. That difference gave the Saints their second National Sports Festival title. They won their first in 1978.

Tournament officials said there was no way to postpone the game because the teams involved had other commitments. The Saints had to prepare for the Cactus-Rocky Mountain Regionals Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Prescott, and the Brak-

ettes had to travel to World Games I in Santa Clara, Calif.

STAPLEY was encouraged after his first look at the Brakettes this season.

"They are weak on their hitting," he said, adding that Miss Arendsen, the pitcher, makes it very difficult for other teams to score.

He said he will be working on a way to score against the Brakettes in preparation for nationals August 10-15.

But first the Saints have to win the Prescott regional.

Few surprises await Saints

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

There won't be many surprises for the Sun City Saints in this year's regional tournament. In fact it could almost be a carbon copy of the Phoenix Metro tournament.

Since he began preparing brackets for the Rocky Mountain Cactus Women's Major Fast Pitch Regional Tournament in Prescott, A.C. Williams, Arizona Amateur Softball Association commissioner, has had to make adjustments.

Immediately following the Phoenix Metro Tournament in Sun City a few

weeks ago, New Mexico No. 2 team dropped out of regionals, so Williams added the Phoenix Apaches, who finished fourth in the six-team metro tournament.

JULY 24, while the Saints were at the National Sports Festival, the Prescott Merchants, host team, dropped out of the tournament, leaving another open slot.

Williams added the fifth-place team from the metro tournament, the Phoenix Arrows. That addition means that only one team from the metro tournament, the Phoenix

Flames, won't be competing in regionals.

The additions shouldn't affect the Saints' chances in the tournament, but some non-Phoenix teams, like the Las Crusas Flames—two-time class A regional champions from New Mexico—may bring a few surprises, said John McGonigle, ASA Phoenix Metro commissioner.

"UNLESS something really fluky happens up there it should be between the Saints, Blues and Bobettes," he said, adding that since teams are allowed to "pick up" players from other ASA

squads for regionals, the Flames may bring some surprises.

Williams said the Flames had wanted to compete in class A regionals—a division lower than major—but a new ASA rule states that a two-time regional winner must move up to the next higher class to continue competing in regionals.

The addition of the fifth-placed Phoenix Arrows also posed some problems for several of the other Phoenix teams in the tournament, McGonigle said. The Phoenix Westerners

in regional tournament

had wanted to use the Arrows' top pitcher in regionals and another team also wanted to use some of the Arrows' infielders.

THE PRESCOTT Parks and Recreation office said teams are allowed to add players to their roster up until the first game of the tournament if the players have not played for another team in an ASA qualifying tournament.

The Phoenix Blues were the second-place team in the metro tournament and the Phoenix Bobettes are defending regional champions.

The third-place metro squad, the Westerners, will also compete in regionals, along with the Tucson Broad Squad, Tucson Por Soles and Sierra Vista Hot Peppers.

WILLIAMS said "there's no doubt" that the Saints are tournament favorites.

"Last year for the first time in 25 years... a team other than the Saints or (Phoenix) Ramblers went to nationals from Arizona."

He said that before the Saints began dominating the regionals when they

were founded in 1966, the Ramblers—a team from Phoenix that preceded the Saints—were perennial regional champions. Since the Saints were defending national champions last year they received a bye and didn't have to compete in regionals.

"THAT'S A lot of the reason so many teams are dropping down" from major division to class A, he explained.

Nevada isn't sending any teams to regionals because they all have either dropped down to class A or are playing slow pitch and the Flames are the only major division team left in New Mexico.

The tournament begins tonight in Prescott at Lin-

dley and Roughrider parks.

AT 7 P.M. the Westerners and Apaches will battle on the Lindley field and the Arrows and Broad Squad will meet at Roughrider Park.

At 8:30 the Saints and Hot Peppers will meet at Lindley and the Blues and Por Soles will fight it out at Roughrider.

The Flames and Bobettes will each meet winners from Friday's games at 10 a.m. Saturday on Lindley and Roughrider fields.

Heavy rains pelted Prescott on Wednesday, soaking the fields. But a parks department spokesman said they should be ready for the tournament today.

27, 1981 NEWS-SUN B1

B1

Suzie's bat keeps Saints in hunt

By MARK COAST

Staff Writer

Relying heavily on the power of Suzie Gaw's bat, the Sun City Saints have managed to stay at the top of the pack in the National Sports Festival.

They dropped a 4-3 game to the Long Beach (Calif.) Renegades on Saturday and came back to wallop the Macomb (Ill.) Magic on Sunday, 5-1.

In Sunday's battle, the Saints scored all five runs—the most runs by any team in the tournament—in the top of the fifth.

LINDA Belcher started it off with a single to right and advanced on Gail Davenport's sacrifice. The extra base was unnecessary as Suzie smacked a tournament-leading third home run over the left field fence for the first two Saints' runs.

Marilyn Rau then scored thanks to two errors, a stolen base and a passed ball.

Shawn Ritchey followed with a walk and stole second base. Lisa Clinchy then walked and Vicki Smith drove in Shawn with a single to left.

LISA CAME home on a miscue by the third baseman.

It was Debbie Doom's second win of the tournament in a less-than-sparingly performance as she struck out just one batter and gave up three hits.

Two of those hits came in the bottom of the seventh when Macomb's Kathy Steele singled and made it to third on two infield outs and scored on a single by Marcia Grzanich.

THE SAINTS' only loss so far came at the hands of the Renegades, who

played without their No. 1 pitcher, Tippy Borrego, who suffered a hamstring pull in the first game.

Suzie's second homer of the tournament gave the Saints a 2-0 advantage after a half inning, but the Renegades wiped that out when they scored three times on a triple off Debbie.

The Renegades and Saints each scored again, but the Saints ended up on the short end, 4-3, their only loss so far.

THE SAINTS battled the Raybestos (Conn.) Brakettes today at 10:30 a.m. (Arizona time).

Brakettes' pitching sensation Kathy Arendsen was scheduled to start. The Saints and Renegades will meet for a second time at 3 p.m.

The Renegades and Saints each have 3-1 records thus far in the tournament. The two teams with the best records after round-robin competition will meet in a championship game at 3 p.m. (Arizona time) Tuesday).

The defending national champion Brakettes are 2-2 so far in the tournament and Macomb is 0-4.

Saints edge Renegades,

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer
There's no doubt about it now. The Sun City Saints have assured themselves a spot in tonight's finals of the National Sports Festival softball tournament. They did it the hard way, however, losing to the Raybestos (Conn.) Brakettes, 2-0, Monday

before rebounding later in the day to beat the Long Beach (Calif.) Renegades, 1-0. Those games put the Saints' tournament record at 4-2, and depending on how the Brakettes fare against the Macomb (Ill.) Magic today, either the Brakettes or the Renegades will battle the Saints for the champion-

ship at 3 p.m. (Arizona time). The Renegades-Saints battle went seven scoreless innings before Suzie Gaw started the fireworks.

SHE SINGLED to right-center and advanced on Marilyn Rau's ground out. Lisa Clinchy then scored Suzie from second with a sharp single to center.

The only other hit for the Saints came in the first inning when Barb Garcia singled.

Debbie Doom, 21-4, fanned six Long Beach batters, gave up three hits and walked one.

IN THEIR earlier loss to the Brakettes, the Saints yielded a run in the first inning via three base hits and Raybestos added

Tuesday, July 28, 1981 NEWS-SUN

earn championship berth

another despite a hitless third.

Kathy Arendsen fanned 12 Saints and walked only one in that battle.

The Brakettes, 3-2 in tournament play, must win their game today against the Macomb Magic to assure themselves a spot in the finals against the Saints. If they lose

they and the Renegades will have identical records and a formula computing total runs allowed against total runs scored will determine who plays the Saints.

COACH Gerald Stapley, however, is expecting the Brakettes to beat Macomb and is "debating whether to throw Cindy (Bristow) again."

She beat the Brakettes in a 10-inning contest Friday and has beaten them on several previous occasions.

"WE'RE RIGHT where I figured we'd be. On the right day we can beat anybody," Stapley said.

The fact that the bottom of the Saints lineup is now starting to hit pleases Stapley the most.

"It gives you a lot of confidence when they can hit after you get past the first four (in the lineup)."

Rain delays tourney; Saints stand unbeaten

Rain washed out most of the afternoon and all of Saturday evening's games in the Rocky Mountain Women's Major Fast Pitch Tournament and a revised schedule has games picking up today at 9 a.m. at both Ken Lindley and Roughrider Parks.

At the time the downpour hit Prescott, the Phoenix Arrows and the Tucson Por Soles were deadlocked at 1-1 in fifth inning winner's bracket action. That game will be resumed at 9 a.m. today at Ken Lindley Field where it left off.

In addition, the Phoenix Bobettes and the Phoenix Blues were tied at 5-5 in the tenth inning in a loser's bracket game that will resume today at 9 a.m.

at Roughrider Park.

The Sun City Saints, favored to win the regional crown after a gold medal performance at the National Sports Festival in Syracuse, N.Y., are unbeaten in two attempts and face the winner of the Arrows-Por Soles game at 11 a.m. at Ken Lindley Field.

The winner of that contest moves automatically into the championship game scheduled Sunday evening at 7 p.m. at Lindley. An 8:30 p.m. game is scheduled if needed in the double elimination tournament.

In loser's bracket play today, the Tucson Broad Squad and the Las Cruces Flames meet in a battle for survival at 9:30 a.m. at Lindley.

The Saints, 1979 national champions, opened the tournament by riding the two-hit pitching of Debbie Doom to a 7-0 victory against the Sierra Vista Hot Peppers. Doom fanned

Turn to Page 9

From Page 1

11 and walked just two batters without throwing a single wild pitch.

Suzie Gaw provided the Saints all the runs they would need with a two-run triple in the first to score Barb Garcia and

Gail Davenport. Shawn Ritchey tripled to drive Gaw home in Sun City's three-run third.

Lisa Clinchy, a former Mesa Community College player now holding down first base at Arizona State University,

singled to send Ritchey home. Gaw and Davenport were each 2-for-3 with two runs scored in the game.

Gayle Kirby tripled in the loss, but was picked off third base for the final out of the Sierra

•SAINTS

Vista first inning.

In the second game, Cindy Bristow recorded a two-hit 19-1 win and was backed up by a potent 16-hit attack against two Phoenix Westerner pitchers.

The Saints iced the victory with eight runs on five hits in the second when Davenport and Karin Fellenz each collected two rbi.

Clinchy finished the game with three hits in four trips while Vicky Smith was 3-for-3, Garcia was 3-for-4 and Fellenz was 2-for-2.

Juana Fredrick, the starter, absorbed the loss after going one-plus innings but she returned to the game again in the third to relieve Tina Volero.

The Westerners opened the tournament with a 3-0 success against the Phoenix Apaches. Losing pitcher Darlene Spiva allowed two hits while Fredrick was touched three times

in the win.

A three-run sixth inning, aided by three Apache errors, provided the win.

To meet the Saints, the Westerners stopped the Las Cruces Flames 2-1 as Frederick picked up her second victory and Jo Kord took the loss.

Back-to-back run producing singles by Tina Volero and Sue Maida in the third inning gave the Westerners the victory.

The Phoenix Arrows needed nine innings Friday night to stop the Tucson Broad Squad, 4-2. Dawn Knappenberger walked with one out in the top of the ninth and scored on an Irene Gray double. Gray came home on Tammy McKinney's base hit to give Kim Bickford the five-hit win.

Denise Gorman was the loser. Saturday, Bickford

picked up her second win, a 3-1 decision against the Phoenix Bobettes, as Irene Gray singled and the Bobettes committed two costly errors in the fifth inning to provide the Apaches two runs.

Dennise Wilson held the Phoenix Blues to just one hit Friday and struck out seven in the Por Soles' 2-0 win against the Phoenix Blues and Luci Casarez, who struck out 13 and scattered three hits in the loss.

Vicky Anzoloua and Wilson smacked run-producing singles in Tucson's two-run third inning for the win.

TOURNAMENT

SCORES

Westerners 1, Apaches 0
Saints 7, Hot Peppers 0
Arrows 4, Broad Squad 2
Arrows 3, Bobettes 1
Por Soles 2, Blues 0
Westerners 2, Flames 1
Saints 19, Westerners 1

Loser's Bracket

Broad Squad 6, Hot Peppers 2
Blues 4, Apaches 0



DOUBLED — Karin Fellenz of the Sun City Saints slides safely into second base with a double yesterday while Phoenix Westerners' shortstop Debbie Creighton gets the ball too late. Fellenz drove in two runs with the double as the Saints claimed a 19-1 victory to remain unbeaten. (Courier photo)

Sports

Monday, August 3, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Saints earn another

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

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The obvious standout in the championship game was Saints' center fielder Barb Garcia. She went 3-

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CATCHER Peggy McAbee hit a booming shot



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Phoenix Arrows in the regional tournament in Prescott. Barb led all Saints hitters in the tournament with a .666 average. (News-Sun Photo)

trip to nationals

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THE FINAL run tallied when Linda Beicher doubled up the middle, advanced on Barb's sacrifice bunt and scored on Gail's sacrifice fly deep to center.

Barb, Gail, and Lisa all batted .300 or better in the tournament and Suzie and Shawn each hit over .350.

The Saints will travel to Houston for the national tournament August 10-15 and try to regain the title they won in 1979.

A4 NEWS-SUN Tuesday, August 4, 1981

Editorials

Saints shed more glory

The Saints, as usual, came through.

Not only did they garner the gold in the National Sports Festival last week in Syracuse, N.Y., they won the Rocky Mountain-Cactus Women's Major Fastpitch Regionals in Prescott a few days later.

The regional championship makes them eligible for the national women's softball tournament, which will open in Houston Aug. 9. The Saints' principal aim, of course, will be to conquer the Raybestos Brakettes, traditionally the team to beat in the nationals.

The Saints' win over the

Brakettes in the Sports Festival was after a rain washout, but it was a good win. The Saints had scored 11 runs in the tourney and allowed seven scores; the Brakettes scored eight runs and gave up six, so the Sun City team got the gold.

In a season that many thought might be so-so, the Saints have once again proven their ability. The Sun Cities can be proud of these young women who, as "adopted" granddaughters of the retirement communities, shed so much glory on their sponsors and their fans. They deserve solid support going into the nationals.

Stapley declares Saints

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

Earlier this season manager Gerald Stapley may have questioned his team's chances in the national tournament. The Sun City Saints were, to him, less than ready.

But following championships in the Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament, Phoenix Metro Tournament, National Sports Festival and the Cactus Division of the Rocky Mountain Regional Tournament last weekend at Prescott, Stapley has become excited about the Sun City Saints' chances to regain the national championship they won in

1979. "I just think we're peaking at the right time. We've played pretty good ball ever since the Del Webb tournament," he explained.

THE TEAM will leave Saturday morning for Houston, practice Saturday afternoon and then wait for the drawing Sunday morning to see who they play first.

"It really doesn't matter who we play first," Stapley said. "We'll have to play them all sooner or later anyhow."

The tournament starts Sunday with the host Houston Natural Lite Comets and defending

champion Raybestos Brakettes of Stratford, Conn., playing teams yet to be determined.

The finals are scheduled for Saturday August 15 and Stapley feels his team has what it takes to get there.

The strongest qualities Stapley feels the Saints possess are their ability to score and their defense, making them "a well-rounded team."

"WE DON'T give up many runs," he explained. "If we get one run they've got to get two to beat us. We're good at holding the other teams down."

Complimenting the defense, he said, is the improved hitting of the bottom half of the line-up. Players like Karen Felten, Vicki Smith, Linda Belcher and Lisa Clinchy, who haven't gotten many hits throughout the season, are hitting more often now and providing the difference in close games.

"ALSO THERE'S no substitute for that hustle on the base paths like we had last weekend (at Prescott)," he added.

Three other teams, said Ernie Feille, a tournament director, all have a good chance of winning the nationals.

—The Brakettes, 16-

Friday, August 7, 1981 NEWS-SUN

ready for Houston

time national champions and two-time world champions.

—THE LONG BEACH Renegades, second in last year's nationals after winning the first game of the finals against the Brakettes behind the pitching of Cindy Bristow, now with the Saints.

—The Orlando Rebels, a team that, like the Saints, has qualified for the national tournament and battled for the title year after year.

Stapley couldn't pick a favorite among the top contenders because he feels that each of the teams could beat the other under the right circum-

stances. He pointed out that in the Sports Festival the Saints, Brakettes and Renegades each beat, and were beaten by, the other.

"IT'S GOING to be whoever can make the other team make the errors," he said.

The Saints' strategy against the Brakettes will be to make them handle the ball, which is easier said than done against Kathy Arendsen, the Brakettes' outstanding pitcher.

The other teams at nationals will be the Lansing (Mich.) Lassies, Allentown (Pa.) Pats, Coors of Missouri, Stockmans-Stark (Sioux Falls, S.D.),

California Blazers, Westfield (Maine) Whips, Buffalo (N.Y.) Sunbirds, Toppen (Pa.) VIPs and Eastridge (Tenn.) Spirits.

ALSO THE River Gamblers (Memphis, Tenn.), Greater Milwaukee Brakettes, Macomb (Ill.) Magic, Shimers (Bloomington, Minn.), Langhkeest Collins (Marion, Iowa), Bay Area Bandits (Palo Alto, Calif.), Yakima (Wash.) Steelers, Utah Salt Lakers and United Eagles (Conroe, Texas).

All games will be played at Houston Memorial Park.

Last year the Saints dropped their first game to the unknown Palo Alto

Bandits, but Stapley doesn't foresee that happening again.

LAST YEAR, Stapley said, the team's mental outlook was different.

Players went home the week before nationals because school started for most players right after the tournament, he explained, so when they arrived in Lansing, Mich., at different times from different places, they weren't prepared to compete.

"The mental attitude has improved," Stapley said. "This year we're all going up there as a team. I just feel we'll be ready to play ball."

Marilyn: Opener provides test

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

Competing in national softball tournaments has become a routine for All-American catcher Marilyn Rau over the last several years.

When the ASA Women's Major Fastpitch Softball National Tournament begins Sunday in Houston, it will mark Marilyn's 16th appearance in the postseason event.

But that doesn't mean she's at a loss for words when the subject comes up for discussion again. "IT'S KIND of like the world Series with the festivities and everything," said the Sun City Saints veteran. "It seems like everyone's nervous. That's the main thing, you have to get over the case of the nerves. It's impor-

tant to win the first game."

Marilyn, the tournament's Most Valuable Player when the Saints won their first national championship in 1979, only has to look back to last season in Lansing, Mich., to prove her point.

The Saints lost their tournament opener to the unheralded Palo Alto (Calif.) Bandits. They fought back through the losers' bracket with six straight wins, but had to settle for third place when they were defeated in the semi-finals by the Long Beach (Calif.) Renegades. The Renegades eventually finished second to the Stratford (Conn.) Raybestos Brakettes, who notched their 16th national championship.

THAT EARLY tourna-

ment loss will be on everyone's mind, Marilyn feels, when they take the field either Sunday or Monday for their opening game.

"You have to win that first game," she repeated. "Once you get by that one you can settle down."

But settling down won't necessarily make things easier. Somewhere along the line the Saints will have to face the powerhouse Brakettes and their pitching sensation, right-hander Kathy Arendsen.

LAST SEASON Miss Arendsen was 34-3 with a 0.07 ERA. She averaged better than two strikeouts an inning, hurled 14 hitless, 11 perfect games and blanked the opponent 29 times. Her performance earned her the ASA's Female Softball Athlete of

the Year Award in 1980.

"I'm sure they're going to throw her the whole time," Marilyn said. "She threw all six games last year. When you're in the national tournament you have to go with your best."

The Saints defeated the Brakettes, 1-0, last month on their way to the National Sports Festival's gold medal. Miss Arendsen pitched the championship game and struck out 12 Saints before the contest was canceled after 4½ innings due to wet playing conditions.

MARILYN said the Brakettes, on the basis of last year's championship, have to be considered tourney favorite. And the key to beating them, she

believes, lies in hitting, especially with Miss Arendsen on the mound.

"We have a good defense so that shouldn't be the problem," Marilyn said. "I think the answer is going to be hitting. We've been hitting good but we haven't been getting the key hits. You need that timely hit."

Marilyn, who is hitting better than .400, fell into a slump during the Prescott regional last weekend. But if past performances in the national tournament are any indication, that slump will vanish when competition in Houston gets under way. Last year she hit .329 in the national tournament with one homer and nine RBI.

Saints begin tournament

Monday, August 10, 1981

By BURT FREIREICH

HOUSTON—Host Houston opened the 1981 women's national softball tournament Sunday with a 4-1 win over the Bloomington (Minn.) Shimers to gain a shot at the Sun City Saints tonight. The game is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Sun City time.

The tourney's inaugural session was auspicious, including a thrilling, scoreless duel which went 12 innings and Kathy Arendsen's perfect game as the Raybestos Brakettes of Stratford, Conn., opened their title defense.

Kathy struck out 14 and didn't allow a ball out of the infield in a 2-0 defeat of Chillicothe, Mo. Stratford

nicked Texas A&M ace Lori Stoll for three sharp singles and a run in the first. A hit batter in the sixth, sacrifice, and a single that gave Sue Enquist her second RBI ended the scoring.

THE ORLANDO REBELS settled the overtime contest with a five-run outburst in the 12th to drop the Yakima Stealers into the losers' bracket, 5-6.

Houston's Comets fell behind 1-0 in the first inning as Sandy Mayon gave up a single, sacrifice and a single but came back for a pair in the second on a walk, two singles that produced one run and two more walks for a cheap tally. Three walks in the

play today against Comets

sixth and Sylvia Ortiz's two-out, two-run double iced the win.

The Comets probably will send Angie Swanagen (0.30) or Barbara Masterson, another right-hander, to the hill tonight against the Saints' Debbie Doom, who as a rookie won the most valuable player award in last year's nationals. Debbie's catcher, Marilyn Rau, won 1979's MVP and last year's outstanding hitter trophy.

HOUSTON CAME INTO the tourney with a 30-18 record, led offensively by catcher Rhonda Reese (.410), shortstop Pat Adams (.360) and third base-

man Karen Guerrero (.330).

Chillicothe failed to send a representative to the bracket drawings but probably won't make that mistake again. A tournament official drew for the Missourians and they wound up facing the defending champions in the first round.

If the Saints win tonight, they won't see action until Wednesday evening. If they lose, they will play next at 2 p.m. (Sun City time) Tuesday.

A spokesman for KWAQ-FM today said it will broadcast the championship game if the Saints advance that far.

Saints squeak past Comets

By BURT FREIREICH

HOUSTON—Sun City's Saints get a day to relax from their national softball championship campaign, and they can use it after surviving last night's tension-packed opening win over host Houston, 2-1.

It looked like the Saints were headed for a "piece of cake" when designated hitter Shawn Ritchey ripped a two-out run-scoring

single to center in the sixth to give Debbie Doom an insurance run for her shutout.

But the shutout quickly became a memory as the Houston Comets blasted four sharp singles to open the sixth's bottom half. It took Barb Garcia's rifle throw from center field, cutting down the tying run at the plate, to preserve the lead.

HOUSTON threatened initially in the second, when Judy Glazener and Diane Kosub posted back-to-back singles with one out. But Debbie got out of that with a strikeout and an infield popup. A hit batsman and infield error gave the Comets another chance in the fourth, but nothing came of it.

Karen Guerrero, however, opened the sixth with a single to center, and Rhonda Reese ripped another to left. Gail Davenport dove for Miss Glazener's sinking liner to right and failed to make the catch but somehow kept it from getting past her as Houston loaded the bases. Miss Kosub then ripped

a single over second base to drive in one run, but Miss Garcia charged it and her on-the-money throw to all-American catcher Marilyn Rau nailed the sliding Miss Reese at home. The runners advanced to second and third on the play, but Miss Doom wiffed the next two to escape further damage.

MISS RAU, who won the 1980 national tourney's batting trophy, led Sun City offensively again. In three trips she bounced two shots over the right field fence to key both Saint scoring efforts.

Her first came as she led off the second inning. When pitcher Sandy Mayon picked up Miss Ritchey's bunt and threw into right field, Marilyn raced home.

Marilyn doubled again in the sixth with two out, and pinch runner Maria Stapley scooted in on Shawn's single up the middle.

MISS DAVENPORT singled in the first and Linda Belcher singled in the fifth, but the only other

Sun City scoring threat came in the seventh on an infield error and Miss Garcia's double to left. That hit might have scored a run, but it bounced over the fence for a ground-rule two-bagger. Miss Davenport's long liner to center ended the inning.

Coach Gerald Stapley's crew will take on Langhurs-Collins of Marion, Iowa, Wednesday at 6 p.m. Sun City time if the schedule holds. Monday's game started about two hours late.

The Iowans Monday posted a 4-0 win over Utah's Salt Lakers, who won Sunday's nightcap, 4-0, over the Buffalo Sunbirds.

Westfield became the first eliminated team, losing 10-0 to Allentown.

The Saints, in the lower bracket, seem headed toward a Friday showdown with the upper bracket's Stratford. Following Wednesday's Sun City game, the champs will take on Orlando.

Saints 2, Comets 1

SUN CITY	ab	r	h	bi
Garcia, cf	3	0	1	0
Davenport, rf	3	0	0	0
Reese, c	3	1	2	0
Stapley, pr	0	1	0	0
Ritchey, dh	2	0	1	1
Clintony, lb	3	0	0	0
Smith, 3b	3	0	0	0
Fellens, 2b	2	0	0	0
S. Bristow, 2b	1	0	0	0
Belcher, lf	2	0	1	0
Doom, p	2	0	0	0
TOTALS	27	2	4	1

HOUSTON	ab	r	h	bi
Ortiz, cf	2	0	0	0
Oslett, 2b	4	0	1	0
Guerrero, rf	3	1	1	0
Reese, c	3	0	1	0
Glazener, dh	3	0	2	0
Kosub, lb	3	0	2	1
Adams, ss	2	0	0	0
Caubatz, lf	2	0	0	0
Romero, ph	1	0	0	0
McClinn, 3b	2	0	0	0
Mayon, p	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	27	1	4	1

SUN CITY 0-1
HOUSTON 0-2
E. Fellens: Mayon, Adams 2. To: Rau 2. Garcia. HP: Guerrero (by Doom). SO: Doom 8. Mayon 1. BB: Doom 2. HP: Mayon.



MARILYN RAU

Saints resume action tonight

The Sun City Saints are scheduled to meet Langhurst-Collins of Marion, Iowa today in the women's national softball tournament in Houston.

The game, the second for both clubs, is scheduled for 6 p.m. Sun City time.

In a thrilling opener Monday, the Saints fought off a sixth-inning threat by the host Houston Comets to win, 2-1.

All-American catcher Marilyn Rau paced the Saints' hitting attack with two doubles. Both hits keyed scoring efforts.

Langhurst-Collins, meanwhile, rolled to a 4-0 win over Utah's Salt Lakers.

The Saints, playing in the tournament's lower bracket, appear headed for a Friday showdown with the upper bracket's Brakettes of Stratford, Conn., 16-time national champion and winner of the title last year.

Following the Saints game tonight, the Brakettes take on Orlando Fla. The Brakettes are 2-0 and Orlando 1-0 in tournament play.

The Saints, who won their first national crown in 1979, finished third last year.

Debbie Doom, most valuable player in this event last year, is expected to take the mound for the Saints.

Wednesday, August 12, 1981 NEWS-SUN

NEWS-SUN Thursday, August 13, 1981

Saints blank lowans;

By BURT FREIREICH

HOUSTON—It's showdown time again tonight between rock-ribbed rivals Sun City and the Long Beach Renegades in the winner's bracket semifinals of the women's national softball championships.

The Saints, led by Suzie Gaw's two-run homer in the first and Barb Garcia's three singles, downed Marion, Iowa, 3-0, as Debbie Doom whiffed 15.

Long Beach went 11 innings to drop Ashland, Ohio, behind Mary Lou Ramm's no-hitter.

SUN CITY-Long Beach will follow the other winner's bracket clash which pits the Milwaukee Bankettes against Orlando, Fla. Milwaukee Wednesday dropped Lansing Mich., 4-2, while Orlando stunned the defending champions Raybestos Brakettes of Stratford, Conn., 1-0.

It was the Renegades who last year bested the then defending champion Saints in the tourney's next-to-last game, 1-0, on an unearned run and wound up as runnerup. Coach Gerald Stapley will be looking for vengeance.

He probably will go to Miss Doom again as his pitcher but Long Beach is expected to return Tippy Borrego, who fanned 16 in a 2-0 shutout of East Ridge, Tenn., Tuesday.

FOR THE SECOND straight game Miss Garcia uncorked a super throw from center to cut down a run at home. Catcher Marilyn Rau blocked the plate to make the play possible, and then made it look routine as she took the slightly wide throw and applied the tag from behind the runner.

Debbie had been rolling along behind a two-hitter when she walked the leadoff batter in the sixth and Kelly Phipps dropped

Orlando stuns Brakettes

a Texas League single down the left field line. A strikeout led to Joe Drabell's sharp one-base message to Garcia in center. A tapper to the mound ended the threat.

Miss Garcia singled three straight times before flying deep to center. Miss Gaw propelled a fast ball "with a slight rise" over the right-center fence for her 17th homer.

SUZIE SAID SHE just waited on the pitch so she could see it better. "I didn't see the ball well in the first game," she said. She was 0-for-3 in that one.

The Saints scored an insurance run in the fifth when Miss Rau singled to left and was lifted for a pinch runner, Maria Stapley. Maria raced all the way to third on a Shawn Ritchey sacrifice bunt and scored on Lisa Clinchy's sacrifice fly.

The Saints left two on in the first, second

and fourth. Their base runners came on a walk and a Clinchy single in the first and on a walk and a Garcia single in both the second and fourth. They also stranded Miss Ritchey, who singled in the third, and Vicki Smith, who reached on an error in the fifth.

THE VICTORY CLINCHED at least a sixth-place finish for the Saints—ahead of 18 other teams.

Milwaukee, previously known as West Allis, came from behind on two walks and Nancy Nelson's three-run homer.

Orlando managed only two hits against Stratford, but they both counted. Dot Richardson doubled with one out in the sixth. Snookie Mulder dropped in a bunt single, and Patty Pyle lined a shot to the left fielder that went as a sacrifice for the lone run. Stratford was scheduled to face Salt Lake in a loser's bracket contest this afternoon.



SUZIE GAW



DEBBIE DOOM

Saints' small packages

By BURT FREIREICH

HOUSTON—Sometimes heroines come in small packages, and it was the tail end of the batting order that early this morning propelled the Sun City Saints into tonight's winner's bracket finals of the national women's softball championships.

The Saints' big hit—their only one—was designated hitter Shawn Ritchey's leadoff double down the left field line in the sixth. Then came a series of miscues by the Long Beach Renegades, aided and abetted by Sun City's littlest troops who hung tough in the clinch.

The final score was 3-0, but Debbie Doom had to survive a bases-loaded seventh inning to preserve her win.

COACH GERALD STAPLEY and his Arizonans tonight will face Florida's Orlando Rebels, who nosed out Milwaukee Thursday night, 1-0. Game time is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Sun City time.

Rain delayed last night's program, and the Saints did not get under way until after midnight. They finally fled the field at 2 a.m.

After the Ritchey double, Lisa Clinchy worked Tippy Borrego for a walk, Vicki Smith advanced them via a bunt and little Karen Fellenz hung tough for another walk. No. 9 hitter Linda Belcher drove a grounder

Box score, B2

to short for an RBI, but the late throw to the plate went wild so a second run scored as Karen took third and Linda moved to second. Barb Garcia's sacrifice fly to right drove in another.

MISS DOOM SEEMED to have an easy wrapup when she got one Renegade to pop up in the seventh and Sue Lewis to loft an easy fly to right but Gail Davenport dropped

provide 3-0 surprise

it for a three-base error. Then came a walk, a popout, and another walk to load the bases.

It became desperation time when pinch hitter Yo Arvize worked a 3-1 count, but Debbie blew two strikes past her to end the game.

The Saints had multiple chances in the early innings but could not muster a base hit. They had a walk in the first, an error and a walk in the second, two hit batsmen and a walk to load the bases with one out in the third, and walks in the fourth and fifth.

MISS GARCIA MISSED the first two innings because she couldn't find her contact lenses, but someone journeyed back to the motel to pick up her reserve specs. Her return to action was timely.

In the fourth Miss Doom took a tapper from Miss Lewis and proceeded to throw the ball into right field for a two-base error.

Shelley Bly crashed a liner into right center which looked like it had RBI written on it, but Barb speared it and threw to shortstop Suzie Gaw for a double play.

Miss Lewis had singled in the second and stole second base on a strikeout to give Long Beach its only other threat, but her mates couldn't get the ball out of the infield.

DEFENDING CHAMPION Stratford, Conn., stayed alive in the loser's bracket by ousting Utah's Salt Lakers, 1-0. The run came strangely. Sandy Cloutier led off the first with a walk, stole second, went to third on a passed ball, and scored on a grounder when the shortstop's homeward throw hit the pitcher for an error.

Stratford will face Chillicothe, Mo., 5-1 conquerors of Lansing, Mich. Other survivors were Bloomington, Minn., 3-1 winner over Ashland, Ohio, and Macomb, Ill., 2-0 victor over Marion, Iowa.

Stratford ousts Sun City, 2-0

HOUSTON—Defending champions Stratford, Conn., today eliminated the Sun City Saints in the Women's National Softball Championships, 2-0, and moved into tonight's final against the lone unbeaten Orlando, Fla., Rebels.

It was the Saints' second third-place finish in a row.

Stratford's Raybestos Brakettes and the Saints dueled scorelessly for five innings. Then Stratford broke through for a run in the sixth without getting the ball out of the infield.

After a pop-up, Debbie Doom walked Kathy Strahan, and Missy Mapes singled off Debbie's glove. Sue Enquist grounded to short but Suzie Gaw got an error on her throw to third to load the bases. Allyson Rioux bunted, and Debbie's throw to the plate was too late for the force. She then whiffed two to end the inning.

A hit batter and singles to center by Gina Vecchione and Miss Mapes produced an insurance run in the seventh. Barb Garcia's throw to the plate just missed nailing the sliding Pat Dufficy. That would have given Barb 3-for-3 on such plays during the tourney.

The Saints got singles from Miss Garcia in the first and Lisa Clinchy in the second, plus a hit batter in the fourth; but their biggest threat came in the seventh.

Marilyn Rau walked and Shawn Ritchey bounced one over the third baseman's head for a single. After a strikeout, Vicki Smith lined a shot to the shortstop, who threw to second to double up Maria Stapley, running for Marilyn.

Miss Doom struck out 11, while Kathy Arendsen fanned 10 for Stratford.

(See earlier story on page B1)

Saturday, August 15, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Saints fall to Rebels,

By BURT FREIREICH
HOUSTON—Sun City's Saints, lackluster in a 1-0 loss to the Orlando Rebels here last night, will need three big victories to regain the national women's softball title they relinquished a year ago.

They already have assured themselves of at least equalling 1980's third-place finish, but to improve on that they'll first have to win today's

loser's bracket finale at noon. Their foe was decided in a 10 a.m. game between defending cham-

Box score, B2

pion Raybestos Brakettes of Stratford, Conn., and Macomb, Ill.

The Brakettes edged Macomb 2-1 in regulation. The Saints lost the Orlando affair early, giving up a run in the first and

lucky to hold the damage that low.

DOT RICHARDSON led off Orlando's attack with a line single to right. Third baseman Vicki Smith picked up Snooki Mulder's bunt and elected to go for the forceout. Her throw was too late and the end was near.

Patty Pyle legged out a bunt to load the bases, but Jo Ackerman filed harm-

lessly to left. Then Shirley Burton rapped a grounder to second baseman Karen Fellenz, but her throw to the plate failed to come close to the hoped-for forceout.

Shortstop Suzie Gaw went into short left for Joan Blackford's popup and dropped it, but she threw home for a forceout, and a strikeout ended the inning.

THE REBELS, now the tourney's only unbeaten

must fight Brakettes

team, failed to get another baserunner until Miss Ackerman lined a two-out single to right in the sixth.

The Saints had almost nothing to cheer about offensively. Lisa Clinchy lined a two-out single to left in the second and moved up on Miss Smith's single to deep short. But Lisa was picked off by the catcher's rifle throw to end it.

Shawn Ritchey led off

the fifth with a walk but nothing came of it. Little Linda Beicher opened the sixth with a Texas League single to center. It took two sacrifice attempts to move her to second, and then Miss Gaw grounded to third.

THE SAINTS' best inning was the seventh, although they never got a runner past first. Second baseman Pyle made the game's outstanding defen-

sive play when she leaped to spear Marilyn Rau's screeching liner. Miss Ritchey lined a single to left, and the game ended on well-hit but easily handled liners to center by Miss Clinchy and to left by Miss Smith.

If the Saints survive today's noon game, against the Brakettes, they will need two victories tonight over Orlando to win the title. First of the night

games is scheduled for 7 p.m. (5 p.m. Arizona time).

Yesterday Stratford stayed alive by ousting Chillicothe, Mo., 1-0, and Long Beach, 1-0. Macomb bested Bloomington, Minn., 1-0 and Milwaukee, 3-0.

The Saints will fly back to Sky Harbor airport Sunday aboard Continental's flight 53, scheduled to arrive at 7:58 p.m.

Rebels edge Brakettes,

By BURT FREIREICH

HOUSTON—Florida's Orlando Rebels became the national women's softball champions Saturday in storybook fashion, but four Sun City Saints joined them as winners in another sense.

The four—first baseman Lisa Clinchy, center fielder Barb Garcia, catcher Marilyn Rau and pitcher Debbie Doom—received and accepted invitations to join an Amateur Softball Association all-star team for a two-week "Friendship Trip" to Japan.

The American team is scheduled to assemble in Los Angeles Sept. 1 and fly to Tokyo the next day. The Yanks will play an exhibition double-header in Tokyo, move on to Kyoto for a couple of twin bills, and then play again in Tokyo on their way home.

AN ASA OFFICIAL said the association will pick up transportation costs in the U.S. and to Japan plus pay for uniforms, with a Japanese association

similar to the American Olympic Committee assuming all costs on Japanese soil.

Unlike past years the all-American teams were not announced on the final day of this year's nationals in which the Saints took third place after a 2-0 loss Saturday to defending champion Raybestos Brakettes of Stratford, Conn. The team is expected to be announced from national ASA headquarters in Oklahoma this weekend.

However, it is expected to show Misses Rau, Garcia and Clinchy on the first team and Miss Doom on the second team. The first team contains three pitchers and two catchers.

IT IS INCONCEIVABLE that the first team will not include at least two Orlando players—Lou Piel, who won the Bertha Tickey Trophy as outstanding pitcher, and shortstop Dot Richardson, who won

win national championship

trophies as outstanding defensive player and most valuable player.

The leading hitter trophy went to Patty Cutright of the Macomb (Ill.) Magic, who went 9-for-23 for a .391 average. Sun City designated hitter Shawn Ritchey was ineligible for that award because she had only 10 official at-bats instead of the required 15. She had four singles and a double in those 10 trips for a .500 average.

Shawn went to the plate 15 times, but she walked three times and sacrificed twice—none of these being official at-bats.

STRATFORD NEEDED four victories on the final day to defend its title successfully and almost pulled it off.

After disposing of Macomb, 1-0, and Sun City, 2-0, the once-beaten Brakettes went 10 innings for a 1-0 win over Orlando, forcing another "final" game.

Diane Schumacher blasted Miss Piel's first pitch in the 10th out of the park for the lone tally, but the Rebs, who had been held hitless up until then, loaded the bases in their half of the inning on two singles and an error before Kathy Arendsen retired them on a forceout at the plate and a strikeout.

STRATFORD TOOK A 1-0 lead in the finale in the fourth via Sue Enquist's single, a hit batter, an error and a long sacrifice fly to center by Doreen Denmon, and Miss Arendsen had a perfect game going until the seventh.

That's when Dot Richardson broke up a no-hitter for the second time that night with a line single to right. She then was sacrificed to second, and Patty Pyle was walked intentionally. Jo Ackerman singled to right and the throw got past the catcher for an error and the tying run. A grounder to short brought home the winning tally.



A member of the Sun City Saints Booster Club lets players and skipper Gerald Stapley know where his loyalty lies Sunday. Several fans turned out at Sky Harbor International Airport to greet their favorites when they arrived home from the national tournament in Houston. (News-Sun Photo)

Fans turn out to greet Saints

By MARK COAST
Staff Writer

Passersby didn't quite know what to make of the 40 or more people dressed in red and gold clothing waiting Sunday night at Continental Airlines gate 11.

But when most of the members of the Sun City Saints walked into the waiting area off their flight from Houston, scene of the national tournament, the applause and cheers said it all.

The third-place team in the nation for the second straight year seemed pleased to see the group

of boosters, friends and family there to greet them.

ALTHOUGH the national tournament directors decided to wait until later in the week to name the All-America team, Marilyn Rau, Barb Garcia, Lisa Clinchy and Debbie Doom were all selected to the squad representing the United States in the Tri-National Tournament between the U.S., Japan and China, to be played in Japan Sept. 2-14.

Several boosters confessed to spending a few sleepless nights while the Saints were in the nation-

al tournament. Some said they had waited until early in the morning listening to the radio for reports on the Saints progress.

Of the four members going to Japan, all but Debbie will face conflicts with class schedules if they were to go.

Barb said there was no question about it, she would definitely go and worry about her schedule later. On the other hand, Lisa said she would wait until she could check her class schedule. Classes for her and Barb start Aug. 24.

SUN CITY, ARIZONA

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 1981



Welcome

Barb Garcia, center, is surrounded by Sun City Saints boosters and other fans at Sky Harbor International Airport when she and the rest of the team returned Sunday night from the national softball tournament in Houston. Vicki Smith, left, and

Sue Bristow, right, with their backs to the camera, also were mobbed by more than 40 well-wishers. Barb was one of four Saints named to a U.S. team that will tour Japan next month. Related stories, B1.

(News-Sun Photo by Mark Coas)

Thursday August 20, 1981 NEWS-SUN



Honors go to 4 Saints

The Amateur Softball Association officially announced its All-America team Wednesday and, as expected, four Sun City Saints made the select squad.

Barb Garcia, Lisa Clinchy, Marilyn Rau and Debbie Doom all earned a spot on the team. Their selection was determined on their performances at last week's national tournament in Houston, where the Saints finished third.

Also, those four athletes were chosen to the team representing the United States in the Tri-Nation Softball Championship to be held in Japan September 3-14. Bill Plummer, ASA communications coordinator, said no other team had four or more players selected to that squad.

At the national tournament, Miss Doom pitched 34 innings for the Saints, striking out 45 batters and allowing three earned runs. Miss Rau batted .231 with two doubles in the tourney and, as catcher, was on the receiving end of several close plays at the plate.

Miss Clinchy also shined defensively at first base and hit .273 with one RBI. Miss Garcia, a rookie center fielder, batted .357 with one double and one RBI and twice threw out runners attempting to score.



4 Saints join select team

Four Sun City Saints and 11 other top U.S. softball players have been selected to represent the United States in the first Tri-Nation Championship next month in Japan.

The USA team, comprised of players who were selected following the recent Amateur Softball Association Women's Major Fast Pitch National Championship in Houston, will compete against women's teams from China and Japan in round-robin competition beginning Sept. 3 and concluding Sept. 13 in Tokyo and Osaka.

The Saints players selected are Lisa Clinchy, first base, Barb Garcia, outfield, Marilyn Rau, catcher, and pitcher Debbie Doom.

Rounding out the squad are Patty Pyle, Lou Piel and Dot Richardson of the national champion Orlando, Fla., Rebels; Kathy Arendsen and Sue Enquist of the Raybestos Brakettes, Stratford, Conn.; Sue Kragseth and Mary Owen of the Shimers, Bloomington, Minn.; Lori Stoll of Coors, Hamilton, Mo.; Patty Cutright of the Macomb, Ill., Magic; Starleen Orullian of the Utah Salt Lakers; and Sue Lewis of the Long Beach, Calif., Renegades.

Coaching the team will be Marge Ricker, whose Rebels won their first national championship ever August 15.

Besides their competition against Japan and China, the U.S. teams will play a series of exhibition games in a Friendship Series against Japanese teams.

The U.S. team will depart Sept. 2 for Tokyo and return Sept. 14.

Monday August 24, 1981 NEWS-SUN

NEWS-SUN Thursday, August 27, 1981

Saints Boosters schedule team appreciation night

Sun City Saints Appreciation Night, sponsored by the team's booster club, will be held Sept. 19 in the Lakes Club.

No-host cocktails will be served at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7.

Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased through

Sept. 16 by calling Rose Schwartz at 977-3544 after 2 p.m.

Members of the Saints, who finished third in the women's national softball tournament earlier this month, will be on hand for the festivities, which are open to the public.

Tables will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

SUN CITY CITIZEN — September 2, 1981 —

Saints banquet

The Sun City Saints appreciation and awards banquet will be held at the Lakes Club Saturday, Sept. 19, 7 p.m. at \$10 per person.

Reservations may be made by calling Rose Schwartz, 977-3544, after 2 p.m. Tables will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Everyone is welcome whether a Saints Booster Club member or not.

Anyone who admires our Saints is urged to attend. This is an opportunity to meet the players socially.

Event to feature award presentations to Saints

Awards for the Sun City Saints' most valuable player, rookie of the year, most improved player and team spark plug will be presented at the team's appreciation night dinner Sept. 19 in the Lakes Club.

Dinner will follow the 6-7 p.m. no-host cocktail hour.

Doug Morris will be master of ceremonies and featured speaker.

Saints catcher Marilyn Rau will talk on the trip to Japan this month made by a U.S. all-star softball team. Teammates Debbie Doom, Lisa Clinchy and Barb Garcia joined Marilyn on the squad.

Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased by calling Rose Schwartz at 977-3544 between 2 and 6:30 p.m.

The public is invited.



Lisa moves up

Sun City Saints Lisa Clinchy advances to second on a passed ball as shortstop Deng Xiaojuan lunges unsuccessfully to make the tag. Lisa and several

other Saints are members of a U.S. softball all-star team playing in Tokyo against teams from China and Japan. (AP Laserphoto)

Boosters laud

Sun City Saints pitcher Debbie Doom was named Most Valuable Player at the Saints Booster Club's annual recognition banquet Saturday in the Lakes Club.

Ann Beisser was recognized as Sparkplug of the women's softball team, which finished third in the national tournament; Barbara Garcia received the award as Rookie of the Year; and Vicki Smith was named Most Improved Player.

Serving as master of ceremonies for the event, Doug Morris, Sun City Citi-

zen editor, called Sun City "part of an exciting experiment" since 1965 when the Saints first represented the retirement community as a team; and a "unique happening" with the advent of the Boosters Club in 1974. He saluted the team; the Boosters; the Pom Pon Squad, led by Corrine and Ray Leslie; and Gerald Stapley, Saints coach, who introduced the dozen Saints present.

Joe Davisson, president of the Booster Club, called his group a "hard-working team," first formed to raise funds to help the Saints go to Africa to

Saints at banquet

represent the United States. He introduced its officers and those who had arranged for the banquet: Paul Morrill, Rose Schwartz, Betty Webb, Helen Stobar, Sam Higginbotham; Gene Smith; Alice Messick, Charles Graham, Ruth Skeels, John Poja, Ruth Morgan, Gene Downing and Don Shupe.

The team's catcher, Marilyn Rau, described the experiences of four Saints players who went to the Orient this summer with the National All-Stars softball team. Emerging with a 7-0-3 record, team members earned gold medals for their first-place finish.

Burt Freireich, publisher of the Daily News-Sun, who was active in establishing the Saints as a Sun City team, discussed the history of the team and its development as one of the top women's softball organizations in the country.

This year, the Saints won the Webb Tournament, the Phoenix Metro Tournament, the Cactus Regional Tournament and the National Sports Festival softball competition in Syracuse, N.Y., for which they each received an Olympic gold medal.



Col. Paul Morrill, Boosters Club representative, congratulates winners of awards at the Sun City Saints recognition banquet: from left, Debbie Doom, Most Valuable Player; Ann Beisser, Sparkplug; Vicki Smith, Most Improved Player; and Barbara Garcia, Rookie of the Year. (News-Sun Photo)

On the Town

Saints banquet

By Doug Morris
Editor

It wasn't just a dinner at the Lakes Club, it was a coming together of many obvious and deep-seated affections. It was the annual "Sun City Saints Appreciations Banquet," last Saturday night.

The room was full of people, and the people were full of an unabashed pride in each other.

It was a bouquet of a dozen American Beauties — those Saints who could find

time away from other commitments to be there. Somehow, there ebullient youth didn't offer contradiction to the more advanced years of those who came to applaud. The common denominator was "thank you," which defies all calendar limitations.

It was Gerald Stapley, Saints' coach, trying to restrain a glow in his team's accomplishments, within the bounds of acceptable personal modesty, and failing. No bushel is big enough to hide such a light.

It was Joe Davisson, many-years president of the Saints Boosters Club, giving the bow to others who have devoted sacrificial hours to all those up-front and in-back meetings and chores necessary to the proper accomplishment of any big job.

It was Kay Kendall and Louise Bates adding vocal and piano melody to the obvious harmony of the gathering.

It was Burt

Freireich, editor-publisher of the News-Sun, and an encyclopedia of Saint's history, bringing to life the early years of faltering struggle, and the more recent years of remarkable success.

It was Ann Beiser, Shawn Richey, Karen Collina, Vicky Smith, Marilyn Rau, Barb Garcia, Cindy and Sue Bristow, Gail Peters, Debbie Doom, Suzie Gaw, and Lisa Clinch, and batgirls, Lori

an occasion of thanks

and Kathy Pfab, and Dana Resnick.

It was a Rose decorating the podium. Delayed by a standing ovation, Rose Schwartz, presented hand-made medallions to Suzie Gaw, as "home run champ of

'81," and to Marilyn Rau as "all time champion." The audience presented Rose with a tribute that can't be hung on the wall, but will always be visible in memory. It was a chance for the Saints to

demonstrate what they think of each other. Their votes said: Ann Beiser, "team spark-plug;" Barb Garcia, "rookie of the year;" Vicky Smith, "most improved player;" Debbie Doom, "most valuable player."

It was Corinne and Ray Leslie, panjandrum of the Pom-Poms, and their terpsichorean titivaters, (hardly recognizable fully clothed) acknowledging appreciation for their rhythmic contradic-

tion of years and gravity.

It was all these things — and so much more. It was the Sun Cities saying that we aren't content to be spectators . . . that we're going to par-

Continued on Page 13

SUN CITY CITIZEN—September 23, 1981—13



Paul Morrill, vice president of the Sun City Saints Booster Club, presents trophies to outstanding members of the Saints softball team at the annual awards banquet Saturday night at the Lakes Club. The winners were selected by their teammates. From the left, winner of the coveted

Most Valuable Player Award was Debbie Doom, pitcher; Ann Beiser, utility, was named the Team Spark Plug; Vicky Smith, third base, was awarded the Most Improved Player trophy; and Barb Garcia, outfielder, was named the Rookie of the Year. (Sun City Citizen photo.)

Saints, Boosters share accolades

By LORAIN TOWNE
Staff Writer

Saints and Boosters shared their annual appreciation dinner recently in the Lakes Club.

Marilyn Rau, Lisa Clinchy, Debbie Doom and Barbara Garcia were surrounded by inquisitive fans.

They had just returned from a two-week tour in Japan as members of the U.S. team. They played in the first China, U.S., Japan Women's Softball Championship.

Debbie added, "We were busy playing ball most of the time. The Japanese were really nice to us. They like tall girls. They had a good team. We played in Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto. They gave us a lot of gifts."

BARBARA TOLD on Marilyn: "Marilyn got to go to a Japanese bath

makes the team. The Boosters really work hard, and without them the Saints wouldn't be much of a team, that's for sure."

Coach Gerald Stapley and his wife, Hazel, were seated next to Jean Morrill at dinner. Gerald said, "We're native Arizonans. Hazel was born in Mesa and I was born in Snowcliff."

Someone asked Hazel about her role as wife of a coach, and she replied, "It's lonely being the wife of the coach. Dinner must always be early so he can get to the games, and then he fills the car up with girls until there's no room for me," she jokingly added.

DANA REZNIK, an 11-year-old batgirl, did some table-hopping. She visited with her parents, Al and Judy Reznik.

accompanied by Louise Bates, led the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner."

Toastmaster Doug Morris, Sun City Citizen editor, introduced Coach Stapley who introduced the Saints. They received an outburst of applause and a standing ovation.

President Davisson introduced the Booster officers: Paul Morrill, first vice president; Rose Schwartz, second vice president; Betty Webb, secretary; Helen Marie Stobar, financial director, and Eugene Smith, membership chairman.

Kay Kendall opened her portion of the program by singing "When the Saints Come Marching In," with help from the audience. She sang favorites from "Sound of Music" and led a sing-along.

She appropriately concluded with a rousing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," the loudest of the (Continued on B5)





Barbara Garcia, left, and Marilyn Rau tell Joe Davisson about the girls' trip to Japan, where they played in an international softball tournament.



Corinne Leslie chats with batgirl Dana Reznik and Footie Harlan. Corinne is leader of the Pom Pom Girls, and Footie is a member of the famed troupe.

Saints party...

(Continued from B4)
sing-along songs.

IT WAS Marilyn Rau's turn to report on the trip to Japan: "We played the Chinese team four times, the Japanese six times. We played two games on Japanese TV. In Osaka, we played in the baseball stadium.

"We didn't have time to do any sightseeing. But we had a good time. I didn't care too much for the *sushi*. We called it 'tuna belly.' We spent most of our time traveling, playing ball, eating and washing our clothes.

"I went to a public bath house just once. It was an experience!

"The Nichii Department Store sponsored the games, and we won the 'Nichii Cup' and a gold medal. We also won the first China, U.S., Japan Women's Softball Championship winner's cup."

BURT FREIREICH, publisher of the Daily News-Sun, told the story

of the very beginnings of the Saints, from the days the team was housed in Grand Center to when it played on a field that is now occupied by the Sun-tower Restuarant. The history of the Saints is impressive with obstacles overcome and accomplishments achieved.

The awards ceremony was performed by Coach Stapley and Paul Morrill. The Spark Plug Award trophy was presented to Ann Beisser. Rookie of the Year was Barbara Garcia, the Most Improved Player award went to

Vicky Smith and the Most Valuable player trophy was presented to Debbie Doom.

Rose Schwartz presented her special awards to Marilyn Rau, who hit 13 home runs this season, and Suzie Gaw, who hit 17 homers. Rose traditionally makes and gives framed stitchery pictures of the Saints' logo.

Toastmaster Morris brought the evening to a close with, "This evening of appreciation between the Saints and the Boosters has been an expression of friendship."

*News-Sun
Photos by
Lorraine Towne*

Art Wieck, a member of the Saints Boosters, visits with team member Cindy Bristow during the appreciation dinner.



NEWS-SUN

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1981

Stadium's closure

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

In a surprise announcement Tuesday, Del E. Webb Development Co. said it was closing Sun City Stadium to all users except the Milwaukee Brewers baseball organization, a move that casts doubt over the future of the Sun City Saints.

The stadium, owned by Webb, has been home to the women's softball team since it was opened in 1971 and in recent years has served as the main field for Brewer spring workouts and Cactus League games.

It also has been the site of all games played by the Sun City-Sun City West Senior Softball League.

Current economic conditions and cost of maintaining the playing field were reasons given by Webb for cutting back stadium use.

MIKE BRITT, Webb vice president in

charge of property management, added that the move had been considered earlier this year. It was delayed, he said, because the Saints Booster Club already was well under way with plans for the 1981 season.

Under an agreement, Webb had been providing financial support to the booster club, the team's fund-raising arm, through an annual subsidy of \$10,000 or percentage of gate receipts, "whichever was higher," Britt said.

"That wasn't the only consideration," Britt explained. "There's the cost involved in the changeover from a baseball field to softball field.

"It takes \$35,000 to \$40,000 to convert the field, plus the expense of maintaining the field.

"WHAT WE'LL do is mothball it and let the grass die out when the Brewers leave in April. Then we'll overseed it

leaves Saints up in air

(with rye grass) in October."

Booster club president Joe Davisson said discussions between his group and Webb had been going on for more than a month. He called the decision a "sign of the times" and said Webb had been "completely fair" in its discussions with the booster club.

"There's nobody sicker than I because we're proud of what the team has accomplished," he said.

"It's an economic thing."

DAVISSON SAID efforts are being made to find the team a new home.

He said manager Gerald Stapley is looking into the possibility of the Saints' playing their home games at Peoria's Greenway Sports Complex east of Sun City.

Davisson added that Stapley and members of the team also have planned an Oct. 24 meeting to "review any

alternatives."

THE BOOSTER club met Monday, perhaps for the last time. Davisson said the club would be inactive for now. "Should the circumstances arise, we would reactivate," he said.

In announcing the decision, Webb executive vice president and acting general manager Joseph Aubin called the Saints winners on and off the field.

"We know that for some residents they were part of the Sun City way of life," he said.

"This action was taken only after thorough study and long discussion with the Saints Booster Club. Believe me, it was a difficult decision to make."

AUBIN SAID stadium use would be re-evaluated in the future.

The decision was the latest in a series by Webb to cut costs and liquidate assets in the face of dwindling profits.

In the past year Devco has sold many of its properties, including the company's administration office in Sun City, Bell Plaza Professional Building, the Lakes Club, Kings Inn and the Fountainbell. In 1980, Webb sold the seven Sun City shopping centers to Prudential Insurance Co.

The Del E. Webb Corp., parent company of Devco, recently sold Mountain Shadows, the TowneHouse, and the Newport Inn in California.

THE SAINTS have been recognized as one of the nation's finest women's fast-pitch softball teams.

They won the national championship in 1979 and finished third the last two years.

The Brewers' contract with Webb runs through spring training of 1983. Britt said Webb and the Brewers have not held discussions on a new agreement.



Sun City Saints shortstop Suzie Gaw tags out an opponent on a base-stealing attempt in Sun City Stadium during the July Del E. Webb Memorial Softball Tournament. Suzie and her teammates now are

looking for a new home after Tuesday's announcement that the Del E. Webb Development Co. planned to reduce drastically stadium use. (News-Sun Photo)

Saints: Where now?

There's no question that the Del E. Webb Development Co. has been more than generous through the years in the support it has given the Sun City Saints softball team.

And if Devco says it no longer can afford the outlays which continued support of the Saints would require, then all we Saints fans can say is: It was great while it lasted and thanks for past favors.

However, there is one "but" to add.

But has the Webb company done what it can to create, at no cost to Webb, an atmosphere which could allow the Saints Booster Club an opportunity to keep the Saints as an operable community project which has great meaning to hundreds and even thousands of local residents.

In the Saints' earliest days in Sun City, the team operated from a very rudimentary facility where the Suntowner Restaurant now stands.

There was a wire fence encircling the facility, a rather minimum setup for lighting, and some rented bleachers—about three which seated 500 apiece. It wasn't plush but it was adequate.

And the Sun City Merchants Association (there was only one shopping center in town and the association represented that center, now known as the Grand Center) subsidized the team's operation to the tune of \$3,000 for the first three years.

Webb, it appears from outside the company, has sizable

amounts of vacant property in the community. Perhaps it could offer free use of some of it for one or two or three years to give the Boosters Club an opportunity to see if some alternative can be arranged to keep the Saints here.

Maybe a community fund drive. Maybe a subsidy from the seven shopping centers. Maybe a combination of these possibilities plus others.

Maybe the Lions would continue to operate the concession stands but shift the revenues from the wonderful Lions programs for the blind to the Saints' treasury (after all, the blind will lose this funding if the Saints cease to function). Maybe Arizona Public Service can be approached for some sort of contribution to the lighting project—in the loan of cable or labor for installation or electric current.

Whatever the possibilities, availability of land, even on a limited term, would allow a more thorough exploration.

If such already has been proposed by Webb, then the record should so read. If not, it would seem that such an additional generosity would be beneficial to all involved.

We have no doubts that Devco made its stadium decision reluctantly and would prefer to see the Saints survive as a Sun City institution. It seems to us that the Saints can't be considered dead as long as hope for an alternate solution still breathes.

Saints fan sees way to keep team in Sun City EDITOR:

The people of Sun City and Del Webb Corp. owe a debt to the Sun City Saints softball team.

For several years the team has been giving international publicity to our town. Not only has the publicity been excellent, but the pleasure of watching them play has been wonderful.

It is understandable that Del Webb must cut expenses in their business slump, so I would like to propose a solution to our problem.

It has been reported that it costs \$35,000 to change the field from baseball to softball and it definitely costs money to light up the field for the games.

The Brewers have a contract that runs through 1983. Since Webb has to keep the ball park to honor this contract, why couldn't the Booster Club and the people of Sun City pay the expense of changing and operating the park for softball?

The price of admission to the games could be raised. Where else can one get so much pleasure as watching the Saints play a doubleheader for so little money?

The Booster Club could put on a campaign to get pledges for donations that could be called in, if enough were obtained to do the job.

Why not call a special open meeting of the Booster Club to discuss this matter?

Roy Gerhardt
Sun City

FROM left field

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

Many residents of the tri-retirement communities are upset that the Sun City Saints will not be playing in Sun City Stadium next season.

News that Del E. Webb Development Co. was cutting back usage of the stadium—forcing the Saints to find a new home—took many people by surprise.

It's easy to understand the hurt some people must be feeling over losing one of the nation's top women's fastpitch softball teams. Many felt a close association to the Saints, knew its players personally and gave the team financial help through support of the Cinerama and other fund-raisers.

BUT THE announcement shouldn't have come as a surprise. The handwriting has been on the wall for some time.

With economic conditions in a sad state and interest rates forcing a slump in home sales, Webb, like many other companies, has been forced to tighten its belt.

In the past year Webb has sold several of its properties, including the company's Sun City administration office, Bell Plaza Professional Building, Kings Inn, Lakes Club and Fountainbell. The parent company, Del E. Webb Corp., has also sold many of its resorts.

REDUCED USAGE OF the stadium was simply another in a series of moves to deal with economic reality.

There are people, no doubt, who will lay the blame at Webb's doorstep.

Joe Davisson, president of the Saints Booster Club, is not one of them.

AFTER THE announcement, Davisson went out of his way to make it clear that Webb had been "completely fair" in its negotiations with the boosters, the team's fund-raising organization.

"It's a economic thing," said Davisson, a bank executive.

What forced the Saints out of Sun City Stadium was poor attendance. On a good night the Saints would draw in the neighborhood of 1,000 spectators, but attendance usually ran between 600-700.

THOSE FIGURES ARE meager when you consider that the Saints are consistently one of the nation's best teams. They also were the only game in town.

In a society that rolls on profits, it's hard to blame Webb when ticket revenue doesn't meet expenses.

The booster club has also done about all it can. For years a few hard-working people spent much of their time raising money for the team and took care of administrative work.

IT CANNOT BE expected to wage a losing battle by paying the cost of running the stadium. Nor would it be feasible to hike ticket prices. Doing that would only keep fans away from the ballpark, not draw them to it.

At a meeting last week, team members and coach Gerald Stapley decided they wanted to stay together. Stapley is currently talking with the City of Peoria in hopes of working out a deal to play at the Peoria Sports Complex east of Sun City.

If the team plays there next year you can't help but wonder if the five-mile drive might keep some people away.

*News-Sun
November 3, 1981*

sun beams



by Burt Freireich

With mixed emotions I pass on to you the initial paragraph of a note from Sun Citian Ruth Morgan:

"Thank you for your editorial, 'Saints: Where now?' As you were instrumental in bringing the Saints to Sun City, perhaps your efforts will awaken the community to what excellent goodwill ambassadors the Sun City Saints are for this city."

Her letter goes on to indicate what many of us feel—that the departure of the Saints women's softball team from Sun City would leave a substantial void.

Naturally I was pleased that the editorial met with acceptance by Mrs. Morgan. My regret is that, since writing it, I have come to the conclusion that there may be no way for me to help bring to realization the hopes which I helped to generate that there may be a way to rescue the Saints as a Sun City institution.

SHORTLY AFTER the editorial appeared I participated in a discussion of the problem, at the behest of Saints Booster Club leader Joe Davisson, with other interested individuals. I am unhappy to report to Mrs. Morgan and other Saints fans that nothing optimistic was forthcoming from that meeting.

The Del E. Webb Development Co. would be as cooperative as possible, even willing to rent the stadium for \$1, but under orders from its corporate headquarters cannot participate in any way which would result in a deficit expenditure.

THE CONSENSUS AT THE meeting was that it would take upwards of \$75,000 per year—or approximately \$200,000 over a three-year period—to keep the Saints in operation here. It just doesn't seem justifiable to go to the community to ask for a contribution of such proportions.

We talked about areas where substantial savings could be effected, having the Saints go back to the kind of austere operation that marked their beginning here. But we just couldn't see how to overcome the very sizable costs.

Now here is where I plan to place at least part of the blame for the loss of the Saints on outsiders' shoulders.

The Saints drew greater attendances at their home games a decade ago and even 1½ decades ago than they do now. They had strong rivalries and were involved in a championship race as members of a now-deceased league of high-caliber teams. The community's size has grown substantially, but the number of ticket-buying fans and general support has ebbed. And this has happened in spite of the fact that the Saints have become titans in their field on a national basis.

THERE'S HARDLY A TEAM anywhere in any sport that can boast two third-place finishes and a national championship in the past three years, but the Saints can. They are a tremendous success in all respects except at the box office.

One of the major differences is that the Saints "in the good old days" started their season with a team pretty much intact. Now they go through much of the season—before taking off on national and international competitions beyond the reach of local fans—with a patchwork squad.

What has happened? Well, many of them play for college teams which have instituted severe restrictions. They used to play both for ASU and the Saints when there was no conflict, but now they are under orders not to participate with the Saints until ASU (or other college) team activities have ended for the season.

THERE HAS BEEN a sweeping change in college athletics in recent years. There is a greater opportunity for female athletes to get athletic scholarships. With these scholarships, which college athletic departments apparently consider a kind of payment along professional lines, the college has a club to enforce its rules and regulations.

When the Saints first came to Sun City, there was no such conflict; there were no scholarships for girl softball players and, if I remember correctly, there wasn't even an ASU girls softball team.

ASU, and to a lesser degree the University of Arizona, could ask no better "farm system" than the benefits which they receive by virtue of the Saints' existence and the Saints' extraordinarily high level of performance. The restrictions placed upon the Saints by the colleges (and ASU and UofA aren't alone in this) have had desultory results which now are very obvious.

The colleges are killing the goose that laid the golden egg, and nobody is prospering as a result.

*Saints boosters say
they'll follow players*

EDITOR:

We are Sun City Saints boosters and feel very badly that the people of Sun City could not support the greatest softball team in the world.

They wouldn't spend \$1.75 to see two beautiful games, but just have a free night and we'd have a packed house.

Coach Stapley and the Boosters plan on taking them to another city. Wherever they play, we will be there enjoying it.

Rose Currier
Sun City



Closing shop

Paul Morrill, first vice president of the Sun City Saints Booster Club, packs box Friday before closing club office. The office, located on the second floor of the News-Sun building, no longer is needed with the Saints unable to play in Sun City Stadium. Del E. Webb Development Co. announced last month it is closing the stadium to all but the Milwaukee Brewers. (News-Sun Photo)

Monday, November 16, 1981 NEWS-SUN

Why can't merchants get behind SC Saints

EDITOR:

Today I am attacking the Sun City merchants. We in Sun City patronize our merchants as much as possible and on that basis, I don't understand why they can't get behind the Sun City Saints.

It would cost each shop very little to supply the funds for the use of the stadium for the few months they play.

We have the Lions who make money on the concession stand; we have many merchants making their living here, so let's get on the ball and help the Boosters to help the greatest girls' softball team in the country.

Rose Currier
Sun City

NEWS-SUN Thursday, November 19, 1981

Boosters will continue to boost SC, SCW, YT

EDITOR:

Part of my sad duties involved in closing out the Sun City Saints Booster Club is the necessity of closing the office we maintained for so long in the Daily News-Sun Building.

Your generosity and community spirit in making this space available to us without cost was a great help and enabled us to

conduct the affairs of the Sun City Saints in a businesslike and efficient manner.

You are all too familiar with the reasons for the termination of the team's relationship with the community, and that the decisions were made by persons outside of any influence either of us could apply. That is all over now, and I can only say that whenever the Saints or the Booster Club needed a helping hand, both you and your newspaper responded wholeheartedly.

We will all of us remain stout boosters for the communities of Sun City, Sun City West and Youngtown, and as time goes on we will all find other outlets for our civic pride. But sometimes, in the middle of the night, we may be excused if we dream of those times when Marilyn and Suzy hit back-to-back homers over the fence—and we all felt young again, even if only for a minute. Thanks again.

Joe Davisson
Boosters president

NEWS-SUN Friday, November 20, 1981

one of their games and enjoyed them. We buy a score card every game plus other things that are on sale. It helps the expenses for the girls. They deserve it.

We don't know any of them personally, which to us doesn't matter; the game they play is enjoyable to watch. We buy things at the concession stand. We could be cheap and bring our own but we know the money all goes for a good cause.

As for the attendance, maybe a little more advertising would do. I'm sure that would be a good place to spend Happy Hour.

I would like to give a special word of thanks for the future programs that are going to be held in the Sun Bowl. It means a lot to us people out here in Sun City.

Adeline Kaminski
Sun City

Saints fan still hopes for return of ball team

EDITOR:

I am a Sun City Saints Booster fan. We have gone to every