

Sun City
Saints
1983

Almost set for new year

It's good news that the Saints, the Sun Cities' own nationally-ranked women's softball team, will be with us for another season.

The signing of a contract by George Reeve, Devco president, and Joe Davisson, Saints Booster Club president, for the use of Sun City Stadium for one more year made it official.

A couple of stipulations in the agreement are worth repeating:

—The one that says the Booster Club—the non-profit organization of local residents who have taken responsibility for the Saints' business operations—will assume liability for the stadium and furnish \$20,000 in front money to guarantee the season;

—And the one that says if the stadium is sold, any new owners will be held to Devco's agreement with the Boosters. That also would guarantee the season, if necessary.

Helen Marie Stobar, Boosters finance director, said Wednesday that re-investments and new investments in the front money fund had reached \$13,000, leaving \$7,000 to be raised before the 1983 season starts.

Persons who wish to contribute \$500 or more may invest it in the Saints, receive interest and claim the accrued amount at the end of a year. If it's given as a flat donation, it may

be taken as a tax deduction.

A major portion of the front money this year is coming from last year's investors who have decided to let their money "ride" as an indication of their continuing support for the Saints.

For ongoing expenses—like new uniforms, equipment, rental, travel and other important items—the organization relies principally on dues, donations and, of course, gate receipts.

New and renewal memberships in the Boosters Club are being sought now, as well as donations in any amount. They may be sent to Saints Booster Club, P.O. Box 2159, Sun City 85372. Information on investing in the Saints, on dues or donations may be obtained from Mrs. Stobar at 584-4303 or 584-2414.

The Sun Cities are unique for their support of the Saints. None of the other teams at the national softball contest this year, for example, had this kind of support; they must raise their own money—except for one team sponsored by a single individual.

The Saints have brought much honor to the Sun Cities with their outstanding play here and abroad. And the Sun Cities, with their support, have enabled that exceptional performance.



Saints Booster president Joe Davisson, right, signs contract for use of Sun City Stadium. Witnesses were Devco president George Reeve, seated, and standing from left, News-Sun

publisher Burt Freireich, Lions Club liason Sam Higginbotham, Booster finance director Helen Marie Slobar and Devco attorney Gerald Williams. (News-Sun Photo by Jim Painter)

Saints, Webb sign pact

The Saints will use Sun City Stadium for one more year under a contract signed today.

The agreement, signed by Del E. Webb Development Co. President George Reeve and Saints Booster Club President Joe Davisson, gives the amateur women's softball team the lease for \$1.

Similar to last season's contract, the pact says the Saints will assume liability for the stadium and provide \$20,000 in front money by start of next season, Davisson said.

The contract stipulates that if the stadium is sold, new owners must honor Devco's agreement with the Saints.

The Saints have \$7,000 of operating funds in the Devco pool to meet the \$20,000 level, Davisson said. He hopes to replace that amount with new investments.

Contributions of \$500 or more to the pool may be withdrawn with interest after a one-year period, said Helen Marie Slobar, Booster finance director.

NEWS-SUN WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1983

Saints Booster

Burt Freireich, publisher of the Daily News-Sun, will discuss the softball achievements of the Sun City Saints at a 6:30 p.m. Feb. 16 meeting of the Saints Booster Club.

The meeting, which had been planned for Monday, will be in the Suntowner.

Freireich, a graduate of the University of Illinois, has served as president of the Arizona Newspapers Association, International Conference of Weekly

Newspaper Editors and Phoenix Press Box Association.

Booster club President Joe Davisson has announced that 1983 dues and new member applications will be accepted at the meeting.

The club is holding its annual membership drive. Davisson said the club hopes to top the 1,000 mark in membership for the first time this year.

NEWS-SUN

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1983

CONGRATULATIONS to Suzie Gaw, the Sun City Saints' ace shortstop. She had trouble landing a job as a physical education instructor after graduation from Arizona State, so she ventured into a new field. Suzie now is a firefighter in the Phoenix Fire Department—and she's pretty pleased with her progress in training programs for this relatively new field for females.

Anybody who has seen Suzie throw from the hole between short and third to first base will agree with me, I'm sure: Suzie must be as strong as most of her male counterparts.

Don't expect to see Carmen Booth working with the Saints for the full season. A member of the Arizona State coaching staff, Carmen is planning to go to the University of Utah in late summer to work on her doctorate.

With the Saints she is a reserve second baseman-outfielder and also serves as trainer, which means she expends gauze and tape in vast amounts on teammates' injuries.

... EVERY WEEK SUN CITY INDEPENDENT—February 9-February 15, 1983—25

Sports by Bob Robinson

Saints' support sought

The honor, prestige and publicity brought upon Sun City by the presence of the Sun City Saints girls' fastpitch softball team outweigh the expenses it incurs.

But, alas, the expenses must be met, much of which are paid by the Saints Booster Club, through membership drives and fundraisers.

The Booster Club meets 6:30 p.m. the second Monday each month at Suntowner Restaurant.

However, the February meeting is set Feb. 16, a Wednesday, due to a previous commitment by the restaurant.

With the Saints' season just around the corner, in April, to be exact, the Boosters are conducting their annual membership drive for new members and renewal membership dues.

Club president Joe Davisson hopes membership exceeds 1,000 this season. Annual dues are \$5, but new members are required to pay an additional \$5 as an initiation fee. Continued on page 26

Saints eye season with few



Sun City Saints Coach Gerald Stapley gives Saints hopeful Laurie "Woody" Woodcock some batting tips at the Saints tryout in

Mesa, Feb. 12. Woodcock, aspiring for third base, is a sophomore at Arizona State University. (News-Sun Photo by Jim Painter)

holes in roster

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

Coach Gerald Stapley has been associated with the Sun City Saints in some capacity for 10 seasons and looks forward to his 11th with as much anticipation as his first.

"I still enjoy it," said Stapley, who directed the women's fast-pitch softball team to a second-place finish in last year's national tournament. "If I didn't I wouldn't be around."

Winning can make a coach's job easier, and the Saints have done a lot of that throughout their illustrious history. Last year they had a regular-season mark of 36-14, won a gold medal at the National Sports Festival and came within one victory of capturing a second national championship.

THEY BEGAN the season with a starting lineup that contained several new faces and a pitching staff that lacked depth. The new faces won't be as many and the pitching staff much deeper when they begin the coming campaign.

Stapley conducted the first of two tryouts Feb. 12 in Mesa. He will hold another Feb. 26. When the

dust settles, he hopes to have candidates for a starting position and several backup spots.

The regular missing from this season's lineup will be Dee Dinota, a student at the University of Arizona.

"SHE'S STILL at school, but she's dropped out of the (softball) program," Stapley said. "She's indicated to me that she won't be back."

Dee hit .275 last season and provided solid work at short. Her value became evident when Stapley moved Suzie Gaw, an All-America selection at that position, to left field to make room for Dee.

Stapley said he isn't sure if he'll move Suzie back to short.

"IF I BRING Suzie into the infield that means I'll need two outfielders," he said. "We'll have to wait and see what happens (at the tryouts)."

Also gone will be backups Vicky Smith (third base), Ann Beisser (outfield) and Shawn Ritchey (pitcher-designated hitter). Stapley's daughter, Maria, was married after last season and also will not play.

Michelle Thomas, Debbie Doom and Connie

Clark, the Saints' three top pitchers in '82, all return for another season.

With that trio to choose from, Stapley has perhaps the most talented pitching staff in the nation.

MICHELLE, a left-hander, was 21-3 a year ago with a 0.30 earned run average. She gave up just 93 hits in 166 innings.

Debbie, a sophomore at UCLA, was 3-4, but had a 0.35 ERA.

Miss Clark was 18-5 with a 0.64 ERA. Earlier this month she led her Phoenix Greenway High School softball team to its second consecutive state championship.

AS IN THE past, Stapley won't have his entire squad on hand until college playoffs are completed in May. And later there will be tryouts for the Pan American Games.

"That's why I'm trying to find talent," Stapley explained, "so I won't have to go out and get people."

"I'm pleased with what I saw at the one workout. There were some pretty good possibilities there."

The Feb. 26 tryout will be held at Westwood High School in Mesa, Extension and Sixth Streets. It is scheduled to get under way at 10 a.m.

Saints open season Saturday

The Sun City Saints women's softball team opens its 1983 season Saturday at 7:30 p.m. with a double-header against the Phoenix Peppers at Sun City Stadium.

Pre-game ceremonies, beginning at 7:15 p.m., will include Bill DeWay of KPNX-TV throwing out the first ball.

The Saints were 56-17 last year and runners-up to the Rorbedos Brakettes in the national tournament in Binghamton, N.Y. The Saints won the National Sports Festival title in Colorado Springs last season for the third time in four years.

By finishing in the top four at the national tournament, the Saints are automatically invited to the Sports Festival.

"Basically, we'll have most of the same team back," Saints coach Gerald Stapley said. "Our bench strength and the new

people we get will make us stronger."

Among those coming back are pitchers Michelle Thomas, the MVP in the national tourney last year, and Debbie Doom. Doom, a Tempe McClintock High School graduate, currently is playing at UCLA.

Also returning are catcher Marilyn Rau, the only original Saint, third baseman Helen Andrade, who won the MVP for defense in the national tournament, and shortstop-outfielder Susie Gaw.

The Peppers were the 1981 Class B Rocky Mountain regional champion and were the champions of the Phoenix City spring ball league earlier this year. The Peppers also defeated the University of Southern California this season.

— Saints, Extra 12

Sports

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Extra

Wednesday, April 27, 1983 NW

11

© The Arizona Republic

Sunday, May 1, 1983

Softball

SANTS VS. PEPPERS
Phoenix 90 90 9 - 3 1 4
Sun City 90 90 90 - 11 1 0
Expected Draft: Thomas and Rau, W
— Thomas, L — Brackets: Binghamton, L, L

SUN CITY INDEPENDENT — May 11-May 17, 1983 — 27

Sports

by Bob Robinson

Arizona Desert Stars and an all-star team from Phoenix May 14-15 at Sun City Stadium.

Doubleheaders will be played each evening, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$1.50 and \$1 for adults.

Results of May 7-8 games were not available to the Independent because of early deadlines, but the Saints entered the weekend with a 4-0 record.

Suzie Gaw is leading the team in home runs (two) and runs batted in (four).

In pitching, Michelle Thomas has struck out 25 batters in 14 innings while Connie Clark has fanned 16 in 13 innings. They've allowed only one run in four games.

Sun City Pom Pon Squad will perform at intermission May 14 and each Saturday throughout the season.

Saints host all-stars

Sun City Saints Women's Softball team will host the

Booster club to sponsor breakfast

The Sun City Saints Booster Club will sponsor a pancake breakfast from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 17 in Sun City Stadium.

A breakfast of pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee will be prepared and served by members of the women's fast-pitch softball team.

A \$2 donation per person will be used to help pay for the team's trips to this year's National Sports Festival in Colorado Springs, Colo., and the national tournament in Salt Lake City.

Tickets may be purchased in advance from Scharlott Lapham and Corinne Leslie, booster club members, or at United Bank in Sun City West.

Tickets also may be purchased at the stadium the day of the breakfast.

Although tables will be provided, the booster club asks that people take chairs and trays.



Pancake aficionado

Nicholas Fleming, 2, of San Diego, scoops up a mouthful of pancakes at the Saints' and Sun Cities Boosters' Pancake Breakfast. The youngster was visiting Saints outfielder, Peggy Miranda of Glendale. Another photo, A15. (Photo by Morris Berman)



Batter up

A host of hungry Sun City Saints fans and coach Gerald Stapley, center, watch as catcher Marilyn Rau displays her pancake-flipping skills Sunday in Sun City Stadium. The Saints Booster

Club held a pancake breakfast to raise money for the women's fast-pitch softball team, which will open its season April 30 in the stadium. (News-Sun Photo by Morris Berman)

APRIL 7, 1983 NEWS-SUN

Saints Boosters

Gerald Williams, legal counsel for Del E. Webb Development Co., will speak at a 6:30 p.m. Monday meeting of the Sun City Saints Booster Club.

The meeting will be in the Sunowner.

Reports also will be presented on the Saints' upcoming softball season and fund-raising activities planned by the club.

Keep stadium

EDITOR:

The return of the Brewers for another season is good news. But, for this baseball-watching newcomer, the implication that Devco has been receptive to converting the stadium for other commercial use is disturbing.

Cactus League baseball was

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1983

one of the special attractions for my wife and me when we purchased our property in Sun City West five years ago.

We assumed that the lovely stadium we were shown on the tour would always be maintained as a spring training facility for one of the major league teams.

The Brewer organization should be advised that the stadium never will be converted to other use so long as the team wants to return.

If, regardless, the Brewers decide to move to Chandler or elsewhere in 1984, a strong effort should be made to bring another major league team to Sun City—perhaps one that now trains in Florida.

The association of the Sun Cities with major league baseball surely is a selling point with many prospective homebuyers.

More than that, a good-faith effort to maintain the stadium as a sports facility is a matter of corporate credibility.

Bill Fowler
Sun City West

Saints season tickets go on sale

Season tickets for Sun City Saints softball games may be purchased at United Bank in Sun City West or from members of the team's booster club.

The Saints, runnersup in last year's national women's fast-pitch softball tournament, open their season against the Phoenix Peppers with a 7:30 p.m. Saturday double-header in Sun City Stadium.

Season tickets are \$25 and good for 20

admissions.

Regular admission price is \$1.50 for adults and \$1 for people 15 and under.

The Saints Booster Club is holding its annual membership drive.

Cost of renewing membership is \$5. Initial membership fee is \$15 per couple or \$10 per person. Checks may be made payable to the Sun City Saints Booster Club, P.O.

Box 2159, Sun City 85372.

Valley television sportscaster Bill Denny will throw out the first ball Saturday.

The Tolleson Union High School Color Guard also will be on hand for pre-game ceremonies. Sun Citian Audrey Nock will sing the national anthem.

The Saints and Phoenix Ramblers will play a 7:30 p.m. Sunday double-header in the stadium.

SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

Saints play for no pay

By BOB ROBINSON
Sun City Saints coach Gerald Stapley says Sun Citians who believe his players play for pay are misinformed.

Stapley feels this misconception could be a reason why Sun Citians historically haven't rallied 'round the Saints in larger numbers.

Besides the fact the young women softballers receive no compensation for their efforts, they pay - in more ways than one - for the honor of playing, Stapley says.

"It costs these kids to play," he said. "Those who are going to school can't get good summer jobs because when they play for us they need to take 10 days to play in the National Sports Festival (in June this year) and another 10 to play in the National Tournament (in August), although this year, for the first time, the tournament will be played in just four days.

"All they get is the recognition and they earn what they get," he con-

tinued. "They're not getting paid - in fact, they play to pay. Last year they had to pay out of their own pockets; and so did I.

"People feel it's a professional league and they treat us like they do the pros."

Even in fund-raising efforts - three of which are planned this year - the Saints players are right in the thick of the activity.

During the April 17 pancake breakfast sponsored by the Saints Booster Club, the players will be doing the cooking.

Cost is \$2 and proceeds will help defray team expenses to the national tournament in Salt Lake City.

Later on, the Boosters will present a variety show, and players will provide some of the entertainment.

Following that, they will have a jog-a-thon - and guess who's going to have to GET the pledges and DO the running?

The players.

In a nutshell, it can be said the Saints are dedicated young women.

All they ask in return is support from Sun Citians - meaning, purchase of season tickets, advertising for the team program, and

Sp

attendance at the weekend games throughout the summer.

Season tickets cost \$25 and include 21 weekend doubleheaders. That translates into 42 games at 59 cents apiece.

Find a better entertainment bargain than that and Mr. Editor will swim the Agua Fria River.

Individual game tickets are \$1.50 for adults and \$1 for children.

In an effort to introduce more people to the Saints' brand of fast-pitch softball, Stapley is conducting two practice sessions April 20 and April 27 at Sun City Stadium, and there will be charge to spectators.

Further details will be available next week.



SUN CITY SAINTS 1983 SEASON SCHEDULE



APR. 30	Phoenix Peppers
May 1	Phoenix Ramblers
7	La Compa (Tucson) Sporting Goods
8	Phoenix Bobbies
14	California Stars
15	California Stars
21	Phoenix Westerners
22	Phoenix Chargers
28	Phoenix Blues
29	Phoenix Blues
JUNE 11	Phoenix Westerners
12	Phoenix Bobbies
18	Tucson Playmakers
19	Tucson Flames
JULY 2	Salt Lake Bees
3	Salt Lake Bees
9	California Silverstreaks
10	California Silverstreaks
15-17	Dell E. Webb Memorial Tourney* Alpha Sports, Toronto Agincourt, Glamatic Blazers, Saints
23-24	Phoenix Metro Tourney
23-29	Sports Festival — Colorado Springs
30	Phoenix Dusters
31	Phoenix Dancers
AUG. 3-6	National Tourney — Salt Lake City

* Alpha Sports, (198) Canadian Champion; Glamatic Blazers, Germany; California Blazers, Toronto; Canada Agincourt and Saints will play round robin with two games each evening.

With exception of Sports Festival, Phoenix Metro and National Tourney, all games are at home and start at 7:00 p.m. Admission: \$1.50.

All home games are doubleheaders except tournaments. Season tickets at \$25.00 for 20 doubleheaders are good at all home games except tournaments.

Join the Saints Booster Club!

SUN CITY
INDEPENDENT

Saints' future in Webb's hands

The future of baseball and softball in Sun City Stadium depends on the whims of Del E. Webb Development Company (Devco).

If and when Devco sells the partial of land at 111th Avenue and Santa Fe Drive, the baseball field could be plowed under and become a shopping center, nursing home or a park 'n swap.

Baseball's Milwaukee Brewers and softball's Sun City Saints may be forced to vacate.

However, there is no guarantee the buyer would use the stadium for anything other than hosting

ball teams. Still, if Devco isn't making any money on the teams' presence, it seems unlikely another entrepreneur would risk keeping the loss leaders there.

The Brewers' future in Sun City was on somewhat shaky ground the past season until the club and Devco announced an agreement to extend their working agreement one more year.

The Saints, a team of young women softball players, were on even shakier ground because their contract extension, made last October, includes the upcoming season.

In other words, had the Brewers and Devco not signed on for 1984, the Saints would more than likely be playing in a new home right now.

Instead, thanks to the efforts of 11-year coach Gerald Stapley of Mesa, the Saints begin their 1983 campaign here April 30.

"Right now, we're in for this year, and our contracts are negotiated from year to year," Stapley said. "The Booster Club had all but given up for this year, but I got Devco to go along

with me. The amount of money was more than we could come up with, though, and we had to work out some arrangements.

"We're looking to see if Peoria is interested, and have had several meetings with them. If we go to Peoria, our name would have to change. I'd rather stay where we are. We want to stay in Sun City. We're hoping to find a piece of land someplace here and build our own ball park, similar to before."

Stapley was talking about the Saints' former field, some 18-19 years ago, located where the Sun-towner Restaurant currently stands. "Del Webb actually built the stadium for us, after it sold the land to the Sun-towner. But the stadium wasn't finished in time so we played three-fourths of one season at Peoria High School."

Stapley said he's even approached representatives from Sun City West in search of a new field.

"I've talked with them, but they aren't included in our name and they feel we're not representing

their area," he said. "Now there's been some discussion in the communities to try and change the name to Sun Cities' Saints, but we'd like to have it as one community."

Stapley admits being not particularly fond of being associated with the Brewers, since when Sun City Stadium is mentioned, the names Brewers and Saints are linked simultaneously.

"I don't like to be tied in with the Brewers, but that's the way it is," Stapley said. "Even if they go, we'll deal with Webb ourselves."

As for talk of the future, Stapley said, "We just don't want anything to distract from what's going on this year."

So, for this season, the Saints will play as usual, each weekend throughout the summer.

The season opener is 7:30 p.m. April 30 against the Phoenix Peppers. May 1 they face the Phoenix Ramblers. All games are doubleheaders.

Admission is \$1.50, \$1 for children. Season tickets, \$30, are good for all 20 Continued on page 25

Sports

by Bob Robinson

Continued from Page 24
twinnills. Tournament games are not included, however.

Spectators in golf carts are most welcome, Stapley says. It's been a long-

standing policy, such as it was with the Brewers. However, Brewer attendance was up this year and the club banned golf carts to make room for more fans.

The Saints will practice in Sun City Stadium 6:30-8:30 p.m. April 20 and April 27. Admission is free.

Continued from page 25

Only Doom, Andrade and Fellenz will be missing until school ends.

However, no sooner does Stapley have an entire team on hand when some team members will take the light June schedule as an opportunity to try out for the Pan American Games. Anticipating this, the Saints have only four game dates scheduled in June.

A highlight of the season could be July 15-17 when the Saints host the No. 3 team in the nation (Gnomatic Blazers), the 1981 Canadian champs (Alpha Sports) and the Toronto Agincourt in the Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament.

Including the Saints, who finished second in the national tournament last year

and first in the National Sports Festival, there will definitely be some fireworks among some of the best women's teams in North America that weekend.

Season tickets, for 20 home dates, are a bargain but at \$25 not \$25 as reported earlier.

The tournament games are not included in the season ticket.



Saints to open

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

The Sun City Saints will open their 1983 fast-pitch softball schedule with an April 30 double-header against the Phoenix Peppers.

The opening-day double-header is the first of 20 scheduled by the Saints. All will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Sun City Stadium.

May will be the busiest month for the Saints, runnerups last year in the women's national fast-pitch tournament in Binghamton, N.Y. The Saints begin the month's schedule with a May 1 double-header against the Phoenix Ramblers. In May they also will entertain LaCompe Sporting Goods of Tucson, the California Stars and four other Phoenix squads—the

Bobettes, Westerners, Chargers and Blues.

THE CHARGERS and Blues also will play the Saints in June. Tucson's Playermakers and Flames will be in town June 18 and 19, respectively.

The Saints then will take off for Colorado Springs, Colo., site of the National Sports Festival June 23-29.

Last season left-hander Michelle Thomas, well known in the Valley for her pitching ability, gained a national reputation by leading the Saints to a gold medal in the Sports Festival.

SHE WENT on to post a 21-3 record and 0.30 earned run average. The blonde from Iowa, who allowed just 93 hits in 166 innings,

A12

season April 30

will be back again this season. Debbie Doom, ace of the UCLA softball team's pitching staff, and Connie Clark, who led Phoenix's Greenway High School to the state softball title this year, also will return.

Missing from the lineup this year will be Dee Dinota, a University of Arizona student.

Saints coach Gerald Stapley said Dee, who hit .275 and provided solid work at short last season, dropped out of the UofA softball program and "has indicated to me that she won't be back."

BACKUP outfielder Ann Beisser, reserve infielder Vicky Smith and pitcher-designated hitter Shawn Ritchey also will not return.

Stapley's daughter, Marla, was married following last season and now lives in Salt Lake City. She was a starting outfielder much of the last two seasons.

Following the Sports Festival the Saints return home to play a four-game series July 2-3 against the Salt Lake (City) Bees. The California Silverstreaks will play a pair of double-headers against the Saints July 9 and 10.

THE FOLLOWING weekend the Saints will host and defend their title in the Del E. Webb Memorial Softball Tournament.

Other teams which will take part in the July 15-17 competition are Alpha Sports and Toronto Agincourt, both Canadian teams, and the Glowmatic (Calif.) Blaz-

ers. Glowmatic last season was known as the Glendale Blazers.

The Saints close out the regular season with twin-bills against Phoenix's Dusters and Dancers on July 30 and 31, respectively.

The national tournament, a routine stop for the Saints, will be held Aug. 3-6 in Salt Lake City.

The Saints nearly captured their second national title in the double-elimination tournament last year. They lost a game midway through the tournament and eventually fought their way into the finals. They defeated the Raybestos (Conn.) Brakettes in the first finals game, but lost the second contest and a chance at another national championship.

Pancake aficionado

Nicholas Fleming, 2, of San Diego, scoops up a mouthful of pancakes at the Saints' and Sun Cities Boosters' Pancake Breakfast. The youngster was visiting Saints outfielder, Peggy Miranda of Glendale. Another photo, A15. (Photo by Morris Berman)



AY, APRIL 18, 1983



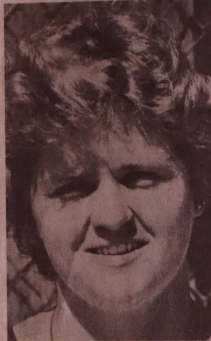
Batter up

A host of hungry Sun City Saints fans and coach Gerald Stapley, center, watch as catcher Marilyn Rau displays her pancake-flipping skills Sunday in Sun City Stadium. The Saints Booster

Club held a pancake breakfast to raise money for the women's fast-pitch softball team, which will open its season April 30 in the stadium. (News-Sun Photo by Morris Berman)

Saints begin '83 with

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor



SUZIE GAW

Many women's softball teams would be happy to have Connie Clark as their No. 1 pitcher.

After all, the youngster led her Phoenix Greenway High School softball team to its second consecutive state championship this past season.

But when you play for a team like the Sun City Saints, whose pitching staff is perhaps the nation's best, you have to settle for less than top billing.

"IT'S GREAT TO have the problem of who will pitch and who won't," said manager Gerald Stapley. "When Debbie gets back I'll have to decide what kind of order they'll work in."

Debbie, of course, is Debbie Doom, the UCLA sophomore whom many consider the best pitcher in college softball.

She compiled only a 3-4 mark with the Saints last season, in part because injuries and an overseas

stint with Team USA limited her playing time, but she had a stellar 0.35 earned run average.

DEBBIE WILL join the Saints when UCLA wraps up its season next month. Until then, Michelle Thomas will be around to keep Miss Clark company.

And Michelle could well turn the Phoenix Pepper bats cold when the teams kick off the Saints' season with a 7:30 p.m. double-header today in Sun City Stadium.

Opening ceremonies are scheduled for 7.

MICHELLE, WHO pitched the Saints to their lone national championship in 1979 only to move east after the season, rejoined the team in midstream last year. She fell victim to a sore arm soon after donning a Saints' uniform, but nevertheless finished 21-3. The left-hander gave up just 93 hits in 166 innings while compiling a brilliant 0.30 ERA.

She also was a big reason the Saints won their second gold med-

strong pitching staff

al in National Sports Festival competition and finished runnerup to the Stratford (Conn.) Brakettes in the national tournament.

Stapley has declared her fit for today's opener. She and Connie will split the pitching chores until Debbie joins the team, Stapley said.

"**MICHELLE WANTED** to make an impression last year," said Stapley. "She went too hard, too fast and it messed her up."

"This spring she's throwing good. The pitching staff's set. That gives us a better team (than last season) at the start."

The supporting cast has changed, but not as much as in past seasons.

MARY FAURE WILL be at first base tonight and Suzie Gaw will handle the chores at shortstop, a spot she occupied before moving to left field last season. Her move back to the infield was made possible when Dee Dinota decided to quit the team.

Regulars Karen Fellenz (second base) and Helen Andrade are playing softball at the University of Arizona and San Diego State, respectively.

Stapley wouldn't name his starting lineup, but until Karen and Helen return their spots probably will be filled by utility infielders Tammy McKinney and Karmen Booth, both newcomers.

SPEEDY BARB Garcia will return in center field. The other two outfield spots probably will be handled by Patty Bova and Peggy Miranda. They, too, are first-year players with the Saints.

Veteran Marilyn Rau, generally considered one of the nation's best women's softball players, returns for another season behind the plate.

The Peppers, Class B Rocky Mountain Regional champions in 1981, won this year's Phoenix City Spring League. They also defeated a highly regarded team from

the University of Southern California.

THE PHOENIX Ramblers invade Sun City Stadium for a 7:30 p.m. double-header Sunday.

A young team, the Ramblers are led by shortstop Margaret Steciak, who played at Greenway High School with Miss Clark, and pitcher Tami Campbell.

Valley television sportscaster Bill Denny will throw out the first ball tonight. Tolleson Union High School Color Guard also will be on hand. Sun Citian Audrey Nock will sing the National Anthem and the pom pon girls will perform between games.

Season tickets may be purchased for \$25 in Sun City Stadium during tonight's double-header. They also may be purchased at all United Bank branches in Sun City and Sun City West or by calling John Poja (974-1245), Rose Schwartz (977-3544), Chet Lucas (977-8282) or Helen Marie Stobar (584-2414).

Pitching carries Saints to 4 straight victories

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

The Sun City Saints have started slow and finished fast the last few years.

That apparently will not be the case this season.

The Saints, behind the stellar pitching of veteran left-hander Michelle Thomas and youngster Connie Clark, defeated the Phoenix Ramblers in Sun City Stadium Sunday, 2-1 and 10-0, for their second sweep of a double-header in as many days.

THE SAINTS opened the '83 campaign Saturday by beating the Phoenix Peppers, 12-0 and 3-0.

Michelle and Rambler left-hander Dionne Swan hooked up in a pitchers' duel in Sunday's first game.

The Saints jumped to a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. Leadoff batter Barb Garcia reached base on an infield single and moved to second on bunt. Marilyn Rau then hit a fly ball to right field and Barb, who tagged up on the play, scored when Angel Saad's throw to third got away from Kelly Melrose.

THE SAINTS added an unearned run in the fourth inning to take a 2-0 lead, but the

Ramblers, who had been held hitless by Michelle for five innings, pushed a run across in the sixth and trailed 2-1.

Rambler Carrie Bennett broke up the no-hitter with a leadoff single in the sixth, a blooper that fell in front of Saints' left-fielder Peggy Miranda. Miss Bennett advanced to second when shortstop Tammy McKinney booted Miss Swan's grounder and moved to third on a fielder's choice.

Carrie Rice, who had struck out and popped out in her two previous trips to the plate, lashed a single to right-center field, scoring Miss Bennett and cutting the Saints' lead to 2-1.

The Ramblers, who had managed to load the bases with no one out, couldn't push across another run. Michelle struck out Kathy Dryer on a 3-2 pitch and got Kim Brown to hit a grounder to third baseman Carla Stearns, who threw home for the force out. Michelle then fanned Miss Melrose for the third out.

IN THE seventh, the Ramblers got a runner to second with one out, but she was left stranded. Michelle struck out Miss Bennett and got Lisa Cooper to hit a game-ending fly ball to center field.

Michelle, 2-0, struck out 12 batters in

hurling a two-hitter. She also pitched a two-hitter Saturday in the Saints' 12-0 season-opening win over the Peppers.

Shortstop Suzie Gaw gave Michelle all the help she needed with a pair of homers, a double and four runs batted in.

MISS SWAN, losing pitcher, gave up just five hits.

The Saints' bats came alive early in the second game.

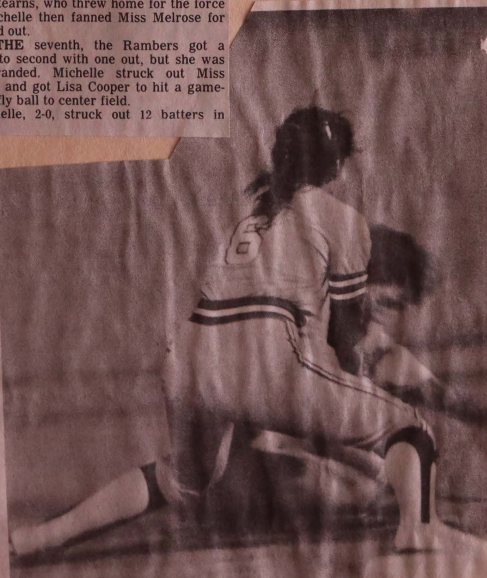
The Saints sent nine batters to the plate, rocking Rambler losing pitcher Tami Campbell for four runs on five hits. Miss McKinney had the big blow, a two-run single to center, which gave the Saints a 3-0 lead.

THEY ADDED three runs in the third and two in the second to move ahead 9-0. Mary Faure's single in the sixth scored Patty Bova with the 10th and final run. The game ended there with the 10-run rule in effect.

Miss Clark, 2-0, gave up just two hits.

She only struck out two batters, however, which was in sharp contrast to her effort Saturday.

Connie struck out 12 Pepper batters while giving up just two hits as the Saints breezed to a 3-0 victory.



Nina Ray (6) of the Phoenix Peppers tags out Sun City Saint Marilyn Rau Saturday in 1st inning of Saints' season opener in Sun City Stadium. Rau was attempting a steal.
(Photo by Morris Berman)

Saints' Clark slams

By **STEVE HAWLEY**
Sports Editor

Connie Clark, who won't graduate from high school until next month, already is well on her way to earning a bachelor's degree in the fine art of pitching.

Just ask her instructor.

"She's improved a whale of a lot over last year," said Sun City Saints coach Gerald Stapley. "She's got the ball breaking better and is changing speeds. She's a more mature pitcher."

CLARK, 18½ last season, saved Sunday's first game for starter Michelle Thomas and won the second contest as the Saints (8-0)

swept a double-header from the Phoenix Cobras before 635 fans in Sun City Stadium.

Both pitchers are 4-0.

The Cobras (16-6), held hitless by Thomas through four innings of Sunday's first contest, tied the game 1-1 in the top of the fifth on a run-scoring double to right field by catcher Kelly Scanlon.

THE SAINTS took a 3-1 lead in their half of the inning on Carla Stearns' second hit of the game, a bloop single.

Mary Faure coaxed a one-out walk from Cobras' pitcher Peggy Ramirez and, after Suzie Gaw

popped out, moved to third base on Marilyn Rau's ground-rule double. Stearns' single then scored both base runners.

The Cobras loaded the bases with one out in the sixth on consecutive singles by LuAnn Rogers, Debbie Barnes and Paula Wilkins, whose line shot struck Thomas on the left ankle.

THOMAS WAS taken out of the game, but said the injury was only a bruise. She expects to play Saturday.

"I just ran out of gas," said Thomas, a graduate student at Arizona State. "I had Valley Fe-

door on Cobras

ver about two months ago and then there's finals at ASU.

"Maybe it (Wilkins' liner) was a message from God," she said jokingly. "I haven't been bombed like that since I was in the 10th grade."

CLARK, WHO led Phoenix's Greenway High School to the state softball championship in 1982 and again this year, came on and got Bonnie O'Dell and Scanlon to strike out.

The Saints added four runs in the bottom of the sixth, two of them on a sharp single to left by Faure, and Clark retired the Cobras in order in the seventh.

The Saints' 7-1 victory was their third in less than 24 hours. They defeated LaCompote Sporting Goods of Tucson Saturday, 12-0 and 3-0, behind the pitching of Thomas and Clark, respectively.

THE SAINTS spotted the Cobras a 1-0 lead in the third inning of the second game, thanks to errors by Tammy McKinney, Karmen Booth and Stearns, but rallied for a 2-1 victory.

A two-out single by Rau, her second hit of the game, following Faure's double tied the game.

Then in the fifth, Faure singled, moved to second on Rau's third

hit of the game and scored when Cobra left fielder Vicky Barnes dropped a routine, two-out fly ball hit by Stearns.

Clark gave up just one hit, a third-inning double by Scanlon, while striking out nine.

THE SAINTS will play double-headers Saturday and Sunday against the Arizona Desert Stars.

The Stars is an all-star squad made up of players from several teams in the Phoenix Metro Women's Fast-Pitch Softball League.

The California Stars originally had been scheduled to take on the Saints.

Sports NEWS-SUN

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1983

Saints relief roster left

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

Michelle Thomas isn't sure how long a severely sprained left ankle will keep her out of action, but the Sun City Saints pitcher knows it won't be easy watching from the stands.

"It's hard for me to sit," said the 25-year-old left-hander. "Yet I don't want to say I'll be back by a certain time. I'm sure I'll be able to throw soon, but when we're talking game time it won't be until at least the Sports Festival (June 23-29)."

Thomas, 6-0, suffered the ankle sprain in the seventh inning of last Sunday's 7-0 victory over a Phoenix Metro League all-star team.

AFTER DELIVERING a pitch and seeing that it

was going to be fielded by second baseman Karen Fellenz, Thomas said she jumped in excitement.

"When I came down the foot rolled," she said. "I heard it rip."

X-rays taken at Boswell Memorial Hospital following the mishap showed no broken bones.

TWO DAYS LATER Thomas, who said she had been taking medication to ease the pain in her ankle, was admitted to Boswell with a stomach disorder. A hospital spokesman said she was treated for gastritis, inflammation of the stomach, and released Thursday.

Saints coach Gerald Stapley late Friday was still searching for a replacement to join high school senior Connie Clark (6-0) in the pitching rotation.

short by Thomas' injury

Clark, who led Phoenix's Greenway High School to a state softball title earlier this spring, has yet to give up an earned run in 43½ innings of work.

THE SAINTS, 12-0, may finally be tested today when they host the Phoenix Westerners in a 7:30 p.m. double-header at Sun City Stadium.

"They're leading the Copperstate League," Stapley said. "They should give us a pretty good game."

The Westerners, coached by Bob West, rely on the bats of outfielder Melanie May and Mary Nymzech, Lisa Brady, an all-city pitcher from Saguro High School in Scottsdale, heads a trio of hurlers which includes youngsters Gerry Jones and "Mikey" Leavitt.

THE PHOENIX Chargers and Saints tangle in a 7:30 p.m. Sunday double-header at the stadium.

The Chargers are led by veterans Kelly Pendergrass in center field and Peppy Ramseyer at short. Janet Winter, winner of 19 games for the Chargers last season, and Misty Davis handle the pitching chores.

Earlier this month the Chargers won four of five games on a California road trip.

LEADING THE SAINTS' offensive attack are veterans Marilyn Rau and Suzie Gaw.

Rau has reached base two of every three times at bat this season while Gaw leads the team with four homers and eight runs batted in.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE



AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

BALLS & STRIKES

1983 Women's Pan American Softball Team Tryout Invitees

OUTFIELDERS

Barbara Garcia — Phoenix, AZ ✓
Venus L. Jennings — Parsippany, NJ ✓
Suzie Gaw — Tempe, AZ ✓
Sue Lewis — West Covina, CA
Gina Vecchione — San Clemente, CA
Lindi Kae James — Orlando, FL
Nedra E. Jerry — Los Angeles, CA
Patricia J. Outright — Peoria, IL
Wendy Smith — Pekin, IL
Gretchen Larson — Edina, MN
Pat Dufficy — Wyoming, RI
Donna Michael — Yardville, NJ
Tracy Triplette — Coolidge, AZ
Anne Scalet — Tulsa, OK
Chris Pineboy — Joliet, IL

UTILITY

Wendy S. Hedberg — Edwardsville, IL
Cindy Lyon — Salt Lake City, UT
Shirley "Missy" Mapes — Stratford, CT
Priscilla Graupman — Buffalo, NY

1st BASE

Mary Teresa Faure — Sun City, AZ ✓
Diane E. Schumacher — Philadelphia, PA
Deanne Moore — Lansing, MI
Pam Warner — Benton Harbor, MI

2nd BASE

Allyson B. Rioux — Stamford, CT ✓
Karen Fellez — Phoenix, AZ ✓
Linda Berndt — Kalamazoo, MI
Sandy Umfleet — St. Louis, MO

3rd BASE

Shella M. Cornell — Hacienda Heights, CA
Jill A. Larson — Lawrence, KS
Millie George — Neosho, MO
Renee Clark — Hatboro, PA

SHORTSTOP

Kim Miller — Lawrence, KS
Donna J. Whitley — Diamond Bar, CA
Dot Richardson — Los Angeles, CA
Brenda Gonnerman — Kearney, NE
Beth Jones — McCune, KS

CATCHER

Marilyn Rau — Phoenix, AZ ✓
Suzy Brazney — Diamond Bar, CA
Carol Vande Bunte — Hudsonville, MI
Teresa A. Gumm — Maryville, MO
Starleen Orullian — Salt Lake City, UT
Mary L. Ross — Portland, OR
Jackie Gaw — Amherst, MA
Karen Hartment — Joliet, IL

PITCHER

Kathy Arendsen — Naugatuck, CT
Michelle Thomas — Scottsdale, AZ ✓
Linda M. Pagett — Grand Rapids, MI
Debra Anne Doom — Tempe, AZ ✓
Barbara Reinolda — Naugatuck, CT
Darlene Lowery — Fruitland Park, FL
Lucy Casarez — Tempe, AZ
Rhonda Clarke — Emporia, KS
Ann Marie Lammers — Manchester, IA
Monica Messmer — West Covina, CA
Wende Ward — Tulare, CA
Sue Oran — Northridge, CA
Deanna Hacker — East Peoria, IL
Cheri Kempf — Agency, MO
Cathy Josey — Grand Junction, CO
Kathy Van Wyk — Fullerton, CA

NEWS-SUN

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1983

U.S. asks 7 Saints to try for Pan Am spots

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

The defending national champion Stratford (Conn.) Brakettes and runnerup Sun City Saints both will send seven players to tryouts in July for the 1983 U.S. women's Pan American Games Softball Team.

"This team, without question, will be one of the best ever assembled," said Bill Plummer, spokesman for the Amateur Softball Association. Heading the list of Brakettes invited to June 3-10 tryouts in Colorado Springs, Colo., are pitchers Kathy Arendsen and Barbara Reinalda. Other Brakette invitees are catcher Jackie Gaw, outfielders Pat Duffrey and Gina Vecchione, second baseman Allyson Rioux and utility player Shirley "Missy" Mapes.

ARENSEN and Reinalda split the pitching chores evenly last season for the Brakettes, who won their 17th national title by defeating the Saints.

The right-handed Arendsen, author of 44 career no-hitters, was 30-3 with a 0.12 earned-run-average in '82. Reinalda, also a right-hander, was 32-1 with an identical 0.12 ERA.

The Saints, who put their perfect 8-0 record on the line today at 7:30 p.m. when they host the Arizona Desert Stars in a double-header at Sun City Stadium, will be represented by pitchers Michelle Thomas and Debbie Doom, outfielders Barb Garcia and Suzie Gaw, first baseman Mary Faure, second baseman Karen Fellenz and catcher Marilyn Rau.

THOMAS, 4-0 this season, was 21-3 with a 0.30 ERA in '82. Among her victories was a no-hitter and two one-hitters. Twelve of her wins were shutouts.

In addition, Thomas earned the national tournament's Most Valuable Player Award and All-America status following a standout performance in Binghamton, N.Y. The left-hander, who led her team to the National Sports Festival gold medal, pitched 35 innings of scoreless softball in Binghamton before giving up a run in the championship game.

Despite several nagging injuries and a mysterious sickness that kept her in an Indianapolis hospital during the Sports Festival, Doom turned in a fine 0.35 ERA while posting a 3-4 record.

AT UCLA this spring, the right-hander was 16-4 in the regular season and led her team to a No. 1 ranking. Doom and her UCLA teammates are competing in the national college playoffs. She is expected to join the Saints in about a week.

Of the 36 players invited to the tryouts, 18 will earn spots on the Pan American Games team.

"The other 18 alternates will stay back and compete in the Tri Nations Softball Tournament in Colorado Springs," said Plummer.

TEAMS FROM Japan and one other country not yet determined will round out the Tri Nations field, said Plummer.

Plummer said the U.S. women's Pan American Games team should dominate the competition, even

more so than it did in 1979 when it won the gold medal.

Other nation's represented will include Canada, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Belize and several from South America.

"THE U.S. team in '79 lost one game," Plummer said. "This one should go undefeated. It's an exceptional team."

The Desert Stars, a replacement for the originally scheduled California Stars, are members of the Phoenix Metro Women's Fast-Pitch Softball

League.

Competing in Class B last year, the Desert Stars won Metro League and state titles.

AN ALL-STAR squad from the Metro League Sunday invades the stadium for another 7:30 p.m. double-header.

The all-star squad will be represented by players from several Metro League teams, including the Desert Stars and Phoenix Cobras. The Saints beat the Cobras last Sunday, 7-1 and 2-1, behind the pitching of Thomas and Connie Clark.

Thomas hurt as

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

The Sun City Saints won two more softball games Sunday, but they lost a lot more than that.

Michelle Thomas, one of the nation's top pitchers in women's softball, suffered possible ligament damage in her left leg.

She was taken by ambulance to Boswell Memorial Hospital for X-rays after injuring the leg in the seventh inning of Sunday's first game against a Phoenix Metro League all-star squad. A hospital spokesman said late Sunday that Thomas may have torn ligaments

between the knee and ankle of her left leg.

THOMAS, WHO returned to Sun City Stadium on crutches after the second game, was scheduled to have the leg examined today by Thomas Foerster, a Peoria orthopedic surgeon.

"We won't know (the extent of the injury) until she sees the doctor," said coach Gerald Stapley, whose team remained undefeated at 12-0 with 7-0 and 7-2 victories.

Thomas fell to the ground in pain after delivering a pitch to Lori Roberts, who grounded out to

second baseman Karen Fellenz. Thomas back-peddled when Roberts hit the ball and apparently stepped in a hole she had dug with her foot near the pitcher's mound.

"SHE PITCHED, moved back and stepped in the hole," said Stapley. "She hurt the leg back here," he said, pointing to the area between the knee and ankle.

Michelle had been cruising along until that point. The left-hander (6-0) lost her bid for a no-hitter when Paula Wilkins, batting for Pam Miller, singled leading off the seventh inning.

Wilkins, who moved to second

Saints sweep twin-bill

on the play in which Thomas was injured, was left stranded as Connie Clark retired the next two Phoenix batters.

THE SAINTS scored their winning run in the first inning. Fellenz, No. 2 batter in the order, bunted for a single, moved to second on a fielder's choice and stole third base. Catcher Marilyn Rau singled sharply to left field with two outs, scoring Fellenz.

The Saints, aided by several Phoenix errors, added a run in the second and two in the fourth, one of them on Suzie Gaw's fourth homer of the season, to take a 4-0

lead. They also scored once in the fifth and twice in the sixth.

The all-stars jumped out to a 2-0 lead against Clark in the first inning of Game No. 2, but three Phoenix errors allowed the Saints to tie the game in their half of the inning.

THREE ERRORS by Phoenix in the second inning gave the Saints to the game-winner. They added four runs in the fifth on two more Phoenix errors, and a triple by Fellenz, double by Mary Faure and singles by Gaw and Barb Garcia.

Clark, who now apparently will

have to carry the pitching burden, gave up just four hits in picking up her second win of the weekend.

Thomas and Clark hurled the Saints to 4-2 and 4-0 victories, respectively, on Saturday against the same all-star squad.

DEBBIE DOOM, ace of the UCLA pitching staff, won't be done with school until the middle of June, said Stapley, who plans to bolster his staff with a pitcher from the Phoenix area.

The Saints host the Phoenix Westerners in a 7:30 p.m. Saturday double-header.

The Arizona Republic
Extra
Wednesday, May 18, 1983 NW

Sun City Saints pitch world of 'Sinnerama'

Women's softball team raising cash for national-tourney play

SUN CITY — The Sun City Saints women's fast-pitch softball team will host a "Sinnerama" vaudeville fund-raising show featuring local performers at 7 p.m. May 25 at Sun City Stadium, 111th and Grand avenues.

Admission is a \$1 donation, and all proceeds will help pay for the Saints' travel to national-tournament games later this summer.

Saints' team members will go into the stands to sell kisses for \$1 during a "kiss-a-thon."

Saints' spokeswoman Lucy Hays said the team raised more than \$1,000 during last year's kiss-a-thon.

"Even the coach, Gerald Stapley, got into the act last year and collected around \$90. We fondly refer to him as 'Sweet-lips Stapley,'" Hays said.

Among the performers at the Sinnerama will be

the Turley Family Fiddlers, a group of violin players comprising team member Lyn Turley, her four sisters and her mother, Hays said.

Other performers include the Sun City Pom Poms, a cheerleading squad of retirees; the Rhythm Ramblers, a dance band; and Rose Schwartz and her aerobic dancers, Hays said.

The 16-member team has won its first eight games since the 1983 season began on April 30, she said.

The Saints won the national championship in 1979, finished third in 1980 and 1981 and finished second last year in national women's fast-pitch competition.

Hays said the team has become "almost unbeatable" behind the pitching of Connie Clark, Michelle Thomas and Debbie Doom.

Marilyn Rau, the catcher, team captain and the oldest team member, is the only remaining member of the original Saints team. She is playing her 18th season, but refuses to divulge her age, Hays said.

Last year, Rau led the Saints with a .376 batting average, most walks — 40 — and fewest strikeouts — 3.

The youngest Saint is Clark, 17, a Greenway High School senior who won 18 games last year, including 12 shutouts, Hays said.

Clark had an earned-run average of 0.64 in 164 innings, including 35 consecutive scoreless innings broken only by an unearned run.

Clark also pitches for her high school team, which won the state AAA softball title during the past two years, Hays said.

Members of the Sun City Lions Clubs, Senior Softball League and the Saints Booster Club will donate their time at concession stands and do ballpark maintenance and ticket sales, she said.

Saints games are double-headers starting at 7:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

For more information on game dates, call 977-2124.

Saints present pucker power

The most profitable portion of the 7 p.m. May 25 third annual Sinnerama vaudeville show could be the Kiss-a-thon.

Sponsored by Sun City Saints and the Saints Booster Club, the Sinnerama show will feature entertainment by area performers, along with special performances by Saints ballplayers and Boosters. Sinnerama will be at Sun City Stadium, site of the Saints' weekend games throughout the summer.

Cost of the show is \$1 — easily the cheapest entertainment bargain in the Sun Cities that night — but the Kiss-a-thon could really raise the funds to send the Saints to the National Tournament in August in Salt Lake City.

But to get to kiss the Saints players for Booster

president Joe Davison, coach Gerald "Sweet Lips" Stapley or singer Lucy Hays or a host of others) you've got to pay your buck at the admission gate.

And, says catcher Marilyn Rau, don't ask for change at the kissing booth. She says if you hand her a \$10 bill and want only five kisses, you may end up with 10 kisses instead.

Everyone's favorite concessionaire, Uncle John, has even consented to pucker up for the occasion, it was revealed at the latest Booster Club meeting.

On stage, however, will be Mrs. Hays, the Rhythm Ramblers and members of Sun City Pom Pom Squad, among other acts.

Pitching is name of game

Looking at Sun City

Saints' pitching statistics, it would be easy to say pitching is the name of the game.

Connie Clark, the Saints' third pitcher in the rotation a year ago, is enjoying a phenomenal start this season as one of two pitchers currently on the Saints' staff.

With credentials like 28 innings pitched, 42 strikeouts and no runs scored against her, Clark could easily be the top pitcher for any club in the country.

Right now she and Michelle Thomas are handling all the pitching chores while Debbie Doom is completing her studies at UCLA. Doom has been the Saints' No. 1 hurler in recent campaigns. Thomas has been No. 2 and Clark has been No. 3.

Since the Saints play two games a night each

SUN CITY INDEPENDENT — May 18-May 24, 1983.

weekend, and once Doom becomes eligible to play, coach Gerald Stapley will be in a wonderful predicament: who's going to start? However, with a third ace, he'll be able to give his starters some rest and relaxation.

Thomas has been equally impressive in her 26 innings pitched thus far, allowing just two earned runs in four games. She has fanned 46 batters, nearly two per inning.

Sports **NEWS-SUN** WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1983



Sinnerama performers

Footie Harlan, front, Corinne Leslie, left, in back, and Geri Parker will perform with other members of the Sun City Pom Pom Squad at the May 25 Sinnerama, a variety show to benefit the Sun City Saints women's fast-pitch softball team. Several other acts will

perform in the show which is set for Sun City Stadium. Sinnerama tickets are \$1 and may be purchased from Saints Booster Club members or at United Bank offices in Sun City and Sun City West. (News-Sun photo by Jim Painter)

SPECIAL TO 1985 SUN CITY HISTORY BROCHURE
SUN CITY SAINTS BOOSTER CLUB

Founded in 1974 to raise money to cover a deficit arising from a South African trip by the Sun City Saints, the Sun City Saints Booster Club has evolved into an organization handling the administration of this girls' fast-pitch softball club which plays at the local stadium during the spring months and financing its trips to various tourneys.

Club membership is open to residents of Sun City, Sun City West and surrounding communities and today approximates 650 members with a goal of 1,000. Annual dues are \$5 per person plus a \$5 "initiation" fee per family or individual for the first year only.

~~xxxxxx~~

Meetings are held at the Sunowner restaurant at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month from January through July. Membership information is obtainable by writing to the club at P. O. Box 2159, Sun City 85372.

Clark keeps

By SUE HERZOG

The temperature may have cooled off as the night went on, but pitcher Connie Clark was as hot as ever as she and the Sun City Saints swiped two games from the Phoenix Chargers, 9-0 and 3-0, Sunday in Sun City Stadium.

Clark, who picked up her ninth and tenth wins, has been burning up the rubber all season, and is still sporting a 0.00 earned run average after 71 1/3 innings.

There was a scare in the seventh inning of the second game. Charger third baseman T.J. Reimer reached first on an error and shortstop Peg Ramseyer doubled with a line drive over second.

HOWEVER, THE next batter popped out to first and Clark fanned

the next two to seal the shutout and maintain her perfect ERA.

She is averaging 9.2 strikeouts per game, but Clark isn't satisfied. "I've been working on pitching a lot, but I still need to work more on my change," she said.

The Saints, 16-0, had just one fielding error in each game, and recorded nine and six hits respectively.

THIRD BASEMAN Mary Faure led the Saints with two hits in the opening game, including her first home run in her two years as a Saint. Center fielder Barbara Garcia and third baseman Helen Andrade also had two hits each.

Marilyn Rau added a double, and Tammy McKinney and Carla Stearns contributed one hit each.

In the nightcap, Stearns, Andrade,

Chargers in check

Faure, Peggy Miranda and Ann Bels-ser each had a hit.

LED BY back-to-back first inning homers by Rau and Suzie Gaw, the Saints also captured two games Saturday by downing the Phoenix Westerners 9-0 and 7-2.

The Saints tallied 10 hits in the opener, while Clark tossed a two-hitter and recorded 13 strikeouts. Nine hits in the second game led the Saints past the Phoenix team, and Clark threw a three-hitter and had six strikeouts.

Clark will have full pitching duties this weekend as the Saints host the Phoenix Blues in back-to-back double headers. She said her arm hasn't been bothering her much, but she is looking forward to the return of Debbie Doom and a little rest. "I don't get too tired,

but I need to get in better shape," Clark said.

COACH GERALD Stapley is having difficulty finding a fill-in relief pitcher. A new league rule restricts him from using a pitcher who is already playing for a city team. "I just want someone who can throw the ball in there," he said.

The Saints have devastated all of their opponents this season, but Stapley said they have to play who they can get. "We can't get any out-of-state teams to play because their players are still in college," he said.

Stapley is also concerned with the Saints' hitting. "I hope when we get against better pitching our hitting will come around," he said. "I would like to get the bottom half of the batting order hitting."

**SUN CITY SAINTS
BOOSTER CLUB & SAINTS**

SINNERAMA

AT THE STADIUM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 1983, 7:00 P.M.

DONATION \$1.00

TICKETS COURTESY OF MENKE FUNERAL HOME

A10 NEWS-SUN FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1983

SPORTS

IN BRIEF

**Sinnerama expands coffers
of Saints Booster Club**

The Sun City Saints Booster Club raised more than \$2,100 at Wednesday's Sinnerama variety show, said Helen Marie Stobar, booster club finance director. Money raised will be used to defray costs of the softball team's trips to the National Sports Festival and national softball tournament.

Mrs. Stobar said \$1,166, more than half the money raised, came from the show's kiss-a-thon. The boosters will sponsor a Jog-a-Thon from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. June 15 in Sun City Stadium. Saints players will take pledges of 10 cents for each lap they complete around the stadium. Fans who wish to run for pledges also may participate. People interested in making pledges may call Lloyd Liken at 933-5916 or Dee Boeckmann at 972-1843.

NEWS-SUN THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1983

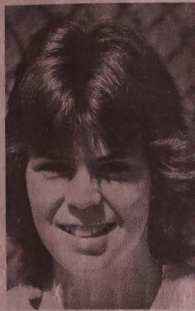


A buck a buss...



It was kissy-kissy time at Sun City Stadium with kisses flying so fast and furiously at Wednesday night's Sinnerama to benefit the Sun City Saints that photographer Morris Berman couldn't keep up with them to find out who the lucky guys were who paid a buck for each buss. But he did catch star pitcher Michelle Thomas in action. Her injured ankle obviously didn't slow her down in the kissing rotation. It was one strike after another. Mistress of ceremonies Lucy Hayes broke into the lineup, too, straining for a kiss from Ray Wagemann, left. Final tally isn't in yet, but Joe Davison, Boosters' Club president, and L.O. Howell, publicist, estimate it at about \$1500—from the kisses, admissions and food concessions. It was the fourth year for Sinnerama; the program included Can-Can and Rose Schwartz dancers and Sun City Rhythm Ramblers band.

Sports **NEWS-SUN** SATURDAY, MAY 28, 1983



CONNIE CLARK

Clark makes most

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

Connie Clark thought she would only pitch a few games for the Sun City Saints last season.

But instead of playing for a less-talented Valley softball team, unexpected circumstances kept Clark in a Saints' uniform for most of the season. And to say the 17-year-old right-hander has made the most of that opportunity would be an understatement.

Clark, 18-4 as a Saint in 1982, has pitched near-perfect softball this season for the one of the nation's top teams.

IN 12 appearances, all but two

as a starter, she is 10-0 and has not given up an earned run in 71½ inning of work.

"I felt pretty comfortable coming into the season," said Clark, "but I didn't know I'd be that good to this point."

Saints Coach Gerald Stapley, who has seen his squad win its first 16 games, called Clark last season and asked her if she'd fill in while Debbie Doom was playing for UCLA. Clark turned in her red and gold uniform when Doom returned, but her absence didn't last long. Pitcher-designated hitter Shawn Ritchey quit the team midway through the '82 season,

of opportunity to pitch

again opening the door for Clark.

CLARK, WHO led Greenway High School in Phoenix to the state softball title the last two years, throws a curve, rise, change-up, drop and fastball.

She uses her assortment of pitches more frequently now, one reason Stapley gives for her improvement.

"Pitching against good batters has helped a lot," said Clark, who will graduate from Greenway next week. "I've got more confidence now."

AT GREENWAY, Clark appeared in 50 games as a junior and senior, where the last two

years she had marks of 23-6 and 23-1, respectively.

Yet despite her talent, Clark said the four-year universities did not beat a path to her door.

In fact, no major university offered her a full ride, so Clark settled for Central Arizona College near Casa Grande. She plans to study there for "one or two years" and then hopefully get a full scholarship from a four-year institution.

CLARK WILL be looking to keep her perfect mark in tact when she pitches against the Phoenix Blues. The Blues and

Saints will play 7:30 p.m. double-headers today and Sunday in Sun City Stadium.

Phoenix is led by pitchers Lucy Casarez, winner of her first six games this season, and Cindy Sullivan.

THE SAINTS will not play June 4 or 5 due to tryouts in Colorado Springs, Colo., for the Pan American Games.

Saints invited to the tryouts are outfielders Barb Garcia and Suzie Gaw, first baseman Mary Faure, second baseman Karen Fellenz, catcher Marilyn Rau and pitchers Michelle Thomas and Doom.

Unbeaten Saints to play Blues

The Sun City Saints remained undefeated in women's fast-pitch softball play going into last weekend's games and will host the Phoenix Blues in double-headers Saturday and Sunday at Sun City Stadium.

The Saints (12-0) beat an all-star team from the Phoenix Metro Women's Softball League on May 14-15. Pitchers Michelle Thomas and Connie Clark each won two games and are 6-0 for the year. Thomas, however, injured an ankle and is out indefinitely.

The Blues are led by pitchers Lucy Casarez, who won her first six games, and Arizona State's Cathy Sullivan.

Former ASU catcher Kathy Tackett-Hicks, first baseman Page McDowell (Scottsdale Saguro High School), second baseman Tracy Almbjell (Scottsdale), third baseman Cheryl Persinger (Phoenix Sunnyslope) and shortstop Linda Neeley (Phoenix Alhambra) complete the infield.

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

The Arizona Republic

May 25, 1983 NW

—June 1-June 7, 1983—SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

by Bob Robinson

Following the Saints? Make plans

Fans interested in watching the Sun City Saints play in the National Championship Tournament Aug. 3-6 in Salt Lake City, Utah, should make plans soon.

Early arrangements are encouraged so all plans can be confirmed by the Booster Club.

Call 584-4303, 584-2414, 974-5881 or 972-1191.

Saints to jog basepaths

Sun City Sasints Booster Club will sponsor a Jog-A-Thon 6:30-7:30 p.m. June 15 at Sun City Stadium, 1111th and Grand Avenues.

The event is also known as the "limp and crawl."

Members of the Saints' women's softball team will participate on the basis of a 10-cent pledge for each individual lap of the ballpark jogged - or walked - or run.

Booster Club members are also invited to participate on the same pledge basis, says chairperson

Marilyn Rau, who, as a runner, is a fine catcher.

Donors wishing to offer pledges may call 933-5916 or 972-1843.

Proceeds will help defray the team's expenses to the National Sports Festival and the National Softball Tournament later this year.

—June 8-June 14, 1983—SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

 SUN CITY

**SUN CITY SAINTS
BOOSTER CLUB.** "Sports
and the Amateur Athlete,"
by George Tanner, who an-

nounces the Saints home
games, 6:30 p.m. June 13,
Suntowner Restaurant.
Film of opening day
ceremonies and games
against the Phoenix Pep-
pers shown, plus reports of

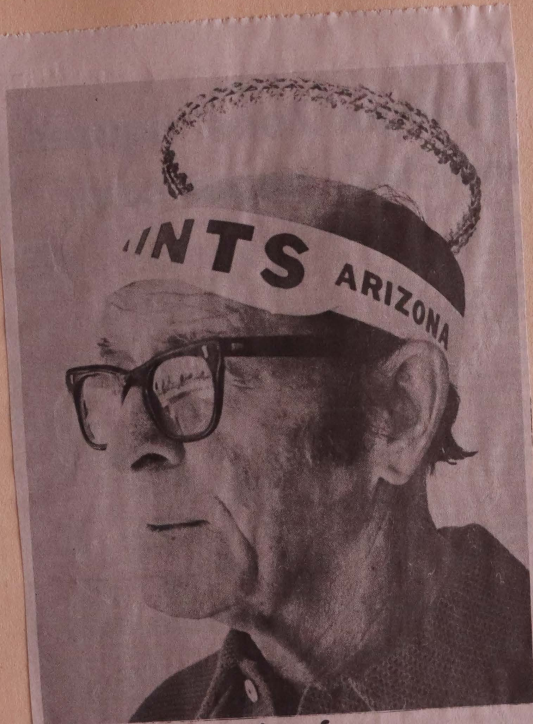
Sinnerama, up-coming Jog-
A-Thon and the Booster
Club's trip to the national
tourney will be given.

SUN CITY.
Continued on page 3

old with original Saint



Ken Akers/Red Bull
Marilyn Rau, here sliding into second ahead of a tag from Nina Ray of the Phoenix Peppers earlier this season, is the only original member still playing with the Sun City Saints.



Saints fan

Sun City Saints fan Lloyd Liken models the latest in Sun City headwear. Liken, who says he hardly ever misses a Saints game, made the halo himself and wears it about town. Liken maintained Sun City Stadium from 1966-72.

(News-Sun photo by Jim Painter)

Saints host Tucsonians

Two Tucson teams will take on Sun City Saints' women's softball team June 18-19.

The Tucson Playmakers, who won their first 23 games of the season in the Tucson City League, will face the Saints 7:30 p.m. June 18 in a doubleheader.

Games are played at Sun City Stadium, 111th and Grand avenues. Cost is \$1.50 for adults and \$1 for youngsters.

The Flames will be in town June 19 for another 7:30 p.m. twinbill.

Because of the Saints' participation in the Sports Festival in Colorado Springs June 23-29, they will play the Phoenix Chargers 7:30 p.m. June 22 rather than have a regular practice session.

There will be no admission charge for the doubleheader, which replaces games scheduled June 25-26.

Boosters reserve room space

Hotel reservations and stadium seats are being reserved in Salt Lake City by Sun City Saints Booster club for Saints' fans who plan on attending the national softball tournament Aug. 3-6.

Blocks of reserved seats have been set aside for Saints' fans for \$30 and \$24 for the entire tourney.

Hotel accommodations are at the Tri-Arc, but reservation deadline is June 30.

Call Helen Marie Stobar at 584-4303 (days) or 584-2414 (nights) for tickets and reservations.

Fans who'd prefer to leave the driving to us, a bus will leave Sun City 8 a.m. Aug. 1 and arrive at Salt Lake City 4:30 p.m. Aug. 2. It will begin the return trip Aug. 7 and arrive in Sun City Aug. 8.

Trip cost is \$143, which includes an overnight stay in Kanab, Utah, both ways. Game tickets and Salt Lake hotel accommodations are not included, however.

Call Thunderbird Travel at 972-1191 or 974-3881 for reservations. A \$25 deposit is required and final payment due July 15.

Youngsters view Saints

A second annual Friend Youth Night at the Sun City Saints will be 7:30 p.m. June 18 at Sun City Stadium, 111th and Grand avenues.

It is sponsored by Optimist Club of Sun City.

Youngtown-Peoria. The Optimists have invited 100 children from each of three neighboring cities. El Mirage, Surprise and Peoria, to be their guests.

In addition to free admission, each child will receive a hot dog, soft drink and popcorn.

The Saints Booster Club has assisted the Optimists in arranging the Youth Night.

NEWS-SUN FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1983

Booster club offers plan

Hotel reservations and seats for the Aug. 3-6 women's national fast-pitch softball tournament in Salt Lake City may be obtained by calling Helen Marie Stobar at 584-4303 during working hours or after that time at 584-2414.

Mrs. Stobar is finance director of the Sun City Saints Booster Club, fundraising arm of the team which will compete in the tournament. The Saints

finished second nationally last season.

Blocks of reserved seats for all tournament games, priced at \$30 and \$24, have been set aside for Saints' fans. Reservation deadline for hotel accommodations at the Tri-Arc may be made with Mrs. Stobar by June 30.

Bus transportation also will be available through the booster club.

A bus will leave the

parking lot at 111th Avenue and Thunderbird Road at 8 a.m. Aug. 1, arriving in Salt Lake City the following day. The bus will begin the return trip Aug. 7, arriving in Sun City at about 4:30 p.m. the next day.

Cost of the trip, which will include two overnight stays in Kanab, Utah, baggage handling and transportation to and from the national tourney playing site, is \$143.

Olympic dream grows

By Mark Armijo
Republic Staff

The scenario hasn't changed. Marilyn Rau is still waiting. She's been waiting for four years already, and she'll continue to wait as long as she can, at least until 1988.

Supposedly, the International Olympic Committee may approve fast-pitch softball as an Olympic sport in time for the 1988 Olympics. And that's what Rau is waiting for. She wants to make that her last hurrah.

"I was hoping it would have been approved for the '84 Olympics," Rau said. "The Olympics are the only dream I have left. I'll wait."

Rau played on the Sun City Saints national championship team in 1979. She was selected the most valuable player in the tournament and was on the U.S. world championship team. She played in the Pan-Am games.

All that helped fulfill Rau's goals. Along the way, she earned additional honors that she wasn't counting on. She has been chosen as Arizona's Amateur Athlete of the Year and has been selected to the All-America team several times.

But if softball isn't approved for the 1988 Olympics, the wait may end for Rau, anyway. There won't be much consolation in being the only original Saint still with the team. She'll be 37.

"I still enjoy playing. . . . It's still fun," Rau said. "I use to rely on strength and speed, but now I depend on guile and finesse. If anything, I know what to look for."

When the legendary PBSW

“
The Olympics
are the only
dream I have
left. I'll wait.
”

— Marilyn Rau

Ramblers folded in 1965, it formed into the Sun City Saints the next year. Rau was a 15-year-old catcher then.

Two knee operations later, she is still a catcher, only 17 years older. By 1988, she may be the designated hitter.

"I take rests every now and then," Rau said. "The DH will be good for me, but I still want to catch. I tried first base, but I got bored there."

"Even though most of the girls nowadays seem to be quite younger than when I first came up, I don't think it will be too unusual for someone my age to still be playing then."

"When I came up, there seemed to be a lot of women still playing at that age."

Rau has seen that reversal and one other noticeable change in her career with the Saints.

"It used to be that the better players would turn to fast-pitch," Rau said. "Now, it's the other way

around. A lot of girls are playing slow-pitch. I think that's cut down on a lot of the competition for fast-pitch teams."

The Saints are one team that doesn't seem to be hurting in getting good players, though. They are 20-0 going into this weekend's double-headers with the Phoenix Westerners and the Phoenix Bobettes at Sun City Stadium.

Pitcher Connie Clark continues to lead Sun City on the mound with a 14-0 record and a 0.15 ERA. She had a streak of 87 innings without giving up an earned run snapped when Cheryl Persinger of the Phoenix Blues connected for a two-run double in a May 29 game.

Pitcher Michelle Thomas is still sidelined with an ankle injury. She may be back by the end of June. She has a 6-0 mark and a 1.24 ERA.

The Saints meet the Westerners on Saturday and the Bobettes on Sunday. The Saints already own two wins over the Westerners earlier in the season.

The Bobettes are led by pitchers Kim Bickford and Tonya Adrian. Bickford pitches for Arizona State University, and Adrian had a shutout over the Orlando (Fla.) Rebels last season. The Rebels were the 1981 national champions.

The Saints had an open date last weekend, when seven of their players were trying out for the U.S. team to compete in the Pan American Games. Rau, Gaw, Mary Faure, Barbie Garcia, Karen Fellers, Helen Andrade and Debbie Doom tried out for the team.

Saints back in action

Fresh from a week's layoff due to Pan American Games tryouts, and sporting a perfect, 20-0 record, the Sun City Saints women's softball team returns to action June 11-12 at Sun City Stadium.

The Saints will meet the Phoenix Westerners in a 7:30 p.m. doubleheader June 11 and take on the Phoenix Bobettes in a 7:30 p.m. twinbill June 12.

Admission is \$1.50 for adults and \$1 for children. Sun City Stadium is located at 111th and Grand Avenues.

Connie Clark is saddled with most of the pitching chores since an ankle injury as sidelined Michelle Thomas since mid-May. Thomas is expected back in action by late June.

Meanwhile, Sherry Ralston has joined the team and started two games for the Saints, with victories going to Clark. Ralston is returning to softball following a five-year layoff due to a back injury.

Clark is sporting a 0.15 earned run average, having allowed just two earned runs in 92 innings.

Suzie Gaw leads the hitters with a .927 slugging percentage, leads in homers (7) and runs batted in (14). Marilyn Rau leads in hits (24). Mary Faure is second in RBI (12) and tied with Barb Garcia for second in hits (22).

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC
Extra
NW Wednesday, June 15, 1983

Tucson teams to visit Saints

The Sun City Saints will meet the Tucson Playmakers and the Tucson Flames in weekend double-headers Saturday and Sunday nights at Sun City Stadium.

The Playmakers, Saturday's opponent, won their first 23 games this year and the first-half title in the Tucson City League. The Playmakers won the Cactus regional tourney last year in Sun City. Pitchers Denise Gorman, Elma Jude and Denise Wilson lead the team.

The Flames are led by pitcher Judy Crouse, catcher Julia Douthit and shortstop Gayle Cannon. Crouse formerly pitched for Arizona State University. Douthit will play at Mesa Community College next year.

The Saints are entered in the National Sports Festival in Colorado Springs, Colo., June 23-29, and will play the Phoenix Chargers in a double-header June 22. The Chargers dropped two games to Sun City earlier in the season.

Practice follows jog-a-thon

Sun City's Saints women's softball team will get no rest June 15. For their work, it's hoped enough money will be raised to help send them to the National Sports Festival and National Softball Tournament later this year.

The Saints will par-

ticipate in a Jog-a-thon 6:30-7:30 p.m. June 15 at Sun City Stadium. Afterwards they'll conduct a practice session.

Saints players will participate in the jog-a-thon on the basis of a 10-cent pledge for each individual lap of the ballpark, either by walking, jogging or running.

Anyone wishing to sponsor a player or enter the jog-a-thon may call 933-5916 or 972-1843.

The Jog-a-thon is sponsored by the Saints Booster Club.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1983 NEWS-SUN

Saints' pitching stymies Chargers

Michelle Thomas and Debbie Doom gave up no hits and Connie Clark yielded only a harmless single as the Sun City Saints beat the Phoenix Chargers 3-0 Wednesday in Sun City Stadium.

Thomas and Doom each pitched two innings of hitless softball before Clark came on in the fifth.

Clark yielded a leadoff single in the top of the seventh inning to Kelly Pendrass.

The Saints, 25-4, took a 2-0 lead in the first inning. Karen Fellenz got a one-out double and scored on Suzie Gaw's single. Gaw advanced all the way to third base when an errant throw home got past the catcher. Marilyn Rau's single then scored Gaw.

They added a run in the second inning.

The Saints begin defense of their National Sports Festival title in Colorado Springs, Colo., with a 1:30 p.m. Saturday game against the Wyoming (Mich.) Royals.

Bobettes snap Saints'

By SUE HERZOG

Staff Writer

The Saints were praying for a fire Sunday night at Sun City Stadium.

Anything to get Suzie Gaw away from her job at the fire department and into the batters' box would have been nice.

They tried everything they could to get a fire going, but all they could manage was a flicker (six hits) as they saw their 22-game winning streak snapped by the Phoenix Bobettes (17-3).

THE BOBETTES' bats, however, were blazing as they fired 11 hits past the Saints in the opening game, a 2-1, 10-inning affair.

It was a 1-1 ball game up to the 10th inning when both teams agreed they would play one more inning.

"They have three games this week," Coach Gerald Stapley said. "Connie was tired and we were just playing for game experience."

The Bobettes seemed to thrive

on the added pressure, and scored the winning run on two hits.

THE SAINTS gave a last kick but it wasn't to be. Pat Bova connected for a single with one out and Peg Miranda got to first on an error.

Mary Faure then ripped a line drive back to the pitcher who caught it in self defense.

Carla Stearns grounded into a fielders' choice to end the game and the win streak.

winning streak

It was the first loss for Connie Clark, who came into the game 14-0. Kim Bickford was the winning pitcher.

THE ABSENCE of Karen Feltenz and Barb Garcia, who were in Colorado Springs, was also a determining factor in the loss. The Saints had only one substitute.

Clark slowed up in the second game, but so did the Bobettes' bats. They weren't slow enough, however, and they posted a 1-0 victory over the Saints.

On two hits—one off the bat, one off the body—and two Saints' errors, the Bobettes scored the only run they needed in the sixth.

DESINGATED hitter, Stearns, jammed her hand her first time at bat and was sidelined for the remainder of the game.

Saturday night the tables were turned.

Led by Marilyn Rau's second home run of the season, the Saints beat the Phoenix Westerners 6-3 in the opener.

Gaw was the home-run queen in the nightcap as she blasted her eighth of the season.

MAKING THE most of 11 hits and six Westerners' errors, the Saints won 14-0.

The Saints will play the 1982 Division 13 champion Tucson Playmakers Saturday in Sun City Stadium, and the Tucson Flames Sunday.

Debbie Doom should be in uniform for Saturday's double-header.

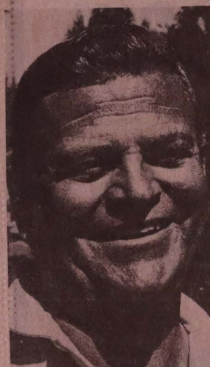
A8 NEWS-SUN FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1983



Webb tournament tickets on sale

John Rohlf, second from right, a participant in the Interfaith Day Care Centers, accepts ticket for the Del E. Webb Memorial softball tournament. Sale of tickets to the July 15-17 tournament in Sun City Stadium will benefit the Day Care Centers. Joe

Davisson, left, president of the Sun City Saints Booster Club, gives the ticket to Rohlf. Others: Helen Marie Stobar, Booster Club finance director, and Charles Clikeman, Interfaith Services. Tickets are available in shopping centers. (News-Sun photo)



GERALD STAPLEY

Saints' Clark to

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

Pardon Gerald Stapley if he patrols his third-base coaching box wearing a smile tonight.

It's just that he has a good reason to be happy. Actually, the amiable field general of the Sun City Saints has two reasons to be happy.

Reason No. 1: Debbie Doom is expected to toe the Sun City Stadium rubber for the first time this season.

REASON NO. 2: Michelle Thomas may pitch a few innings.

Another person that should be happy is Connie Clark. With Doom playing softball for UCLA and Thomas nursing a badly sprained left ankle back to health, it has been Clark who's had to carry the

Saints, a team usually neck-deep in pitching.

Last weekend fatigue finally got the best of the 17-year-old, Clark, 16-0 entering Sunday's double-header, lost 2-1 and 1-0 decisions to the Phoenix Bobettes. Those losses also were the first for the Saints, who had opened the season with 22 straight victories.

"If DEBBIE and Michelle weren't here I was going to have to get another pitcher," said Stapley, whose team hosts the Tucson Playmakers for a pair of games in Sun City Stadium beginning at 7:30 p.m. today. Sunday the Tucson Flames will be in town for a 7:30 p.m. twinbill.

Doom led UCLA to a third-place finish earlier this month in the women's college nationals. Last

receive pitching help

season the hard-throwing right-hander was just 3-4 for the Saints, in part because injuries and a stint with Team USA limited her playing time. She did, however, compile a brilliant 0.35 earned run average.

Thomas won all six of her starts for the Saints before suffering the ankle injury. The left-hander has an ERA of 1.24 to show for 39 1/3 innings of work. She also has struck out 61 and allowed just 18 hits.

WITH DOOM and Clark available, Stapley said he will bring Thomas along slowly.

"As of now we'll give her a whirl for part of a game. We'll have to see how she is after that."

Veteran Marilyn Rau probably will have to handle all the catch-

ing for awhile. Rau had been splitting time behind the plate and as designated hitter, but backup catcher Carla Stearns broke a finger on her right hand last Sunday.

The Playmakers opened their season with 23 straight wins and claimed the first-half championship of the Tucson City League. Winner of last year's Cactus Regional, the Playmakers are led by pitchers Denise Gorman and Elma Rude.

THE FLAMES are paced by pitcher Judy Crouse, catcher Julia Douthit and shortstop Gayle Cannon.

Next week the Saints begin play in the National Sports Festival at

Colorado Springs, Colo.

The Saints, winners of the gold medal at last year's Sports Festival in Indianapolis, play their first game June 25 against the Wyoming (Mich.) Royals.

OTHER TEAMS in the Sports Festival are the Stratford (Conn.) Brakettes, defending national champion, and the Glendale (Calif.) Blazers.

The championship game will be played June 28.

The Optimist Club of Sun City-Youngtown-Peoria will hold its Friend Youth Night at today's games.

The club has invited 100 youngsters from El Mirage, Surprise and Peoria to be its guest at the games.

Four games will be played daily, at 5 p.m., and approximately 6:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

The Saints will play their opponents at 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. daily.

Special opening day ceremonies will be approximately 8 p.m. Friday.

Saints host tough teams

Enough of these lopsided Sun City Saints victories - let's see some tough competition!

Okay, Bud, you'll see it this weekend at Sun City Stadium, 111th and Grand avenues.

The Saints' women's softball team will host the recent National Sports Festival champion and two strong Canadian teams in the annual Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament July 15-17.

The Saints will have an axe to grind against the California Blazers, a team which beat the Saints twice during last month's sports festival in Colorado Springs, Colo. The Blazers entered the tournament with a 17-2 record and won five and lost two enroute to the tournament championship. They defeated the defending national champions, Raybestos Brakettes, 3-2, in the final game. Earlier in the month, the Blazers won a tournament in Las Vegas, Nev. and a consolation title in Albuquerque, N.M.

Also coming to town will be Vancouver's Alpha Sports, the 1982 Canadian champions, and the Toronto Agincourt, winner of that title in 1981.

Statistically, going into the tournament, Marilyn Rau, Suzie Gaw, Mary Faure, Barb Garcia and Carla Stearns lead the team in hitting.

Gaw leads in slugging percentage at .889 and Rau leads in on base percentage at .462.

Gaw leads in runs batted in with 29. Faure has 24. Rau leads in doubles with 10. Karen Fellenz leads in triples with three and Gaw leads in home runs with 12.

In pitching, Michelle Thomas has a no-hitter to her credit. Connie Clark has three one-hitters and seven two-hitters. Thomas has four two-hitters and Debbie Doom has two.

Clark has struck out 180 batters in 153 innings while Thomas has fanned 101 in 85.2 innings.

There will be a change in format during this year's Webb Tournament. Instead of having double elimination, this year's competition will be double round-robin, in which each team plays the other three teams twice.

Saints, Interfaith

By SUE HERZOG
Staff Writer

The Sun City Saints and Interfaith Services are teaming up to promote the Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament July 15-17 at Sun City Stadium.

Delegates from Interfaith have begun selling tournament tickets for \$5 within their club or church, with half of the proceeds going to the Saints and the rest to Interfaith.

Tickets will also be sold from booths in shopping centers in the Sun City area, where delegates will be available to answer questions and tell the story about the Interfaith Services.

Interfaith Services provides a place to enjoy recreation and a nutritious meal and a time to socialize for people who normally cannot or do not leave the house.

These Day Centers not only provide the elderly with something to do, but they also allow the person's spouse or family some time for himself.

Interfaith Services branched out of a crisis prevention service in Sun City set up by the Catholic churches.

This crisis prevention service dealt with problems ranging from suicide and drunkenness to finding a means of transportation.

The people saw a need for care of the elderly and in 1981 an organization of organizations was set up with churches and clubs joining the non-profit Interfaith Services.

There are now 45 organizations involved in the Sun City area.

Interfaith also provides a 24-hour crisis counseling service. It is a professional service on a one-to-one basis

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1983 NEWS-SUN

involved in benefit

with trained social workers.

This hotline service is available at 979-1927. All calls between 4 p.m. and 9 a.m. Monday through Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday are assisted immediately and appropriate help is offered.

The purpose of Interfaith Services are "... to provide for the identified needs of the residents of the service area with services including, but not limited to, promoting the physical, psychological, spiritual and social well-being of these residents."

Fred Karnas is executive director of Interfaith. His first-year salary was provided by a donation from the Flinn Foundation in Phoenix.

Charles Clikeman, chairman of the fund support committee, has high hopes and big plans for the future of

Interfaith. "As we grow and get more centers, we're thinking about an adoptive program where the volunteers visit the elderly or just call and talk to them," he said.

They are also thinking about setting up a chore service, a reverse mortgage program and a housing program where single people who are living alone, sell their house and move in with another single person.

The benefit with the Saints will be the first time either has worked with another organization.

Saints' season tickets cannot be used during tournaments.

The tournament tickets are good for one day if spectators remain in the park. Tickets at \$2.50 each will be available at the stadium each day of the tournament.

NEWS-SUN MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1983

Saints douse Flames

By SUE HERZOG
Staff Writer

The Sun City Saints had no trouble putting out the Flames Sunday night in Sun City Stadium.

In the opening game, the Saints (24-4) drenched the Phoenix Flames 11-1 with an 11-hit attack.

The Saints scored their first earned run in 40 innings in the third.

PEGGY Miranda singled and scored on a hit by Karen Fellenz to give the Saints a 1-0 lead.

Suzie Gaw, a firefighter who makes a career out of battling flames, had two hits, including her ninth home run of the season, a shot which cleared the 200-mark by about 60 feet.

Right fielder Gay Turley wasn't to be left out. She blasted her first home run of the season with a shot over the center-field fence to score two runners.

FELLENZ and Miranda had two hits apiece.

Debbie Doom made her first appearance this season in the fourth. She

struck out four batters and gave up two hits in three innings to pick up her first win.

Michelle Thomas tossed the first three innings, allowing no hits.

THE second game was a replay of the first as the Saints won 11-0 via 14 hits and six Flame errors.

Connie Clark, 17-3, pitched a four-hit shutout.

GARCIA HAD the hot bat as she went 4-for-4. Gaw hit her 10th home run with a two-run first-inning blast over the center-field fence. She also had a double.

First baseman Mary Faure added a 2-for-2 showing at the plate.

Saturday, the Saints dropped both games to the Tucson Playmakers by 3-0 scores.

AFTER BEING sidelined for five weeks with an injured ankle, Thomas made her first appearance in the opener, a 12-inning game.

In seven innings she gave up just one harmless hit before Clark came on

in relief.

Clark gave up five hits and the Saints committed four errors as they lost their third straight game.

In the nightcap, both teams had eight hits and three errors, but the Playmakers got the hits when they needed them to blank the Saints again, 3-0.

"IT WAS just one of those nights," Coach Gerald Stapley said. "The girls were all pretty tired."

The Saints will play the Phoenix Chargers at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in Sun City Stadium. Admission is free.

They then travel to Colorado Springs, Colo., for the National Sports Festi-

val.

The Saints, winners of the gold medal last year, play their first game Saturday against the Wyoming (Mich.) Royals.

The Arizona Republic

Thursday, June 23, 1983

Softball

Women's fast-pitch

SAINTS' CHALLENGE
Phoenix Chargers 100 100 2-0 1-1
Sun City Saints 70 100 1-2 2-0
Davis, Porton (L) and Mary Thomas
(R) 10, Clark (L) and Gaw, Blauer (L)
W on Doom, 1-0, 5-0 on Davis

Saints to meet Royals in opener

The Sun City Saints begin defense of their National Sports Festival softball title in Colorado Springs, Colo., with a 1:30 p.m. Saturday game against the Wyoming (Mich.) Royals.

The Saints captured their third gold medal in Sports Festival competition last year by defeating the defending national champion Stratford (Conn.) Brakettes, 2-0, in the championship game. Stratford and the Glendale (Calif.) Blazers round out this year's four-team field.

Each team will play six games in four days. The two top teams then will advance to the June 29 championship game.

Following their opening game Saturday, the Saints come right back and play a 3:30 p.m. contest against the Blazers.

Sunday they meet the Brakettes and Monday they again play the Blazers. The Saints will conclude the regular part of competition Tuesday with games against the Royals and Brakettes.

NEWS-SUN TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1983

Apollo graduate plays for the best

By STEVEN SEXTON

Helen Andrade, a former Apollo High School softball standout, is in Colorado Springs this week for the National Sports Festival.

Andrade is in her second year of competition as a Sun City Saint player and will be helping the Arizona team defend its title.

Last year, Andrade won the coveted Ivy Lind award for her defensive play in the national tournament and her teammates voted her the most improved player.

While at Apollo, she received league honors and won a Golden Glove award her senior year and earned All-American honors as a freshman and sophomore.

Andrade played shortstop during her four years at Apollo and saw the team place third in state in 1980.

From Apollo she went to San Diego State where she has been playing third base and just finished her junior year.

In her first year as a Saint, she was moved from the outfield to third base and has kept the position.

"The team (Sun City Saints) is hungry for the title. We want to win the Sports Festival again," Andrade said before leaving for the competition.

Her own personal goals include possible Olympic competition.

"I would like to play in the Olympics and I hope I get that opportunity. It is the highest goal you can have," Andrade said.

Her Olympic dream may have to wait until 1988. The International Olympic Committee is expected to approve fast-pitch softball as an Olympic sport by then.

Andrade said she has received inspiration and encouragement to play softball from her mother, Rosie.

Her mother starred for the Saints in the 1960's and was inducted in the Arizona Softball Hall of Fame in 1978.

Andrade smiles when she realizes she is following in her mother's footsteps.

Rosie played shortstop and then moved to third base during her softball career.

"My mother is a very influential person and real positive. I go to her for advice. She pushes me to be better and tells me to never give up," Andrade said.

Andrade has been busy playing softball this summer, but she has also been working with Glendale children as a recreation assistant for the Glendale Youth Center.

Concerning her play with the Saints, Andrade said, "My hitting is decent and my defense is good. I feel fortunate to be playing for the Saints. It is the highest team you can play for."



Jim Wilde photo

June 22-June 28, 1983—SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

Jog-a-thon rescheduled

Sun City Saints' jog-a-thon is being rescheduled to 6:30 p.m. July 13.

Absence of many players on the original date, June 15, is the reason for postponement, says Joe Davison, president of the Booster Club.

Saints' players and other interested parties will walk, run or jog laps around the outfield for a 10-cent lap pledge.

Funds will be used to defray costs of the team's trips to the National Sports Festival in Colorado Springs, Colo. and the National tournament in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Anyone wishing to pledge donations may call 933-5916 or 972-1843.

SUN CITY INDEPENDENT—June 22-June 28, 1983—25



UCLA PITCHER DEBBIE DOOM has joined the Sun City Saints women's fast pitch softball team. The hard throwing ace is a welcome addition to the Saints' pitching staff. Photo courtesy of Saints Booster Club

Unbeaten Saints to play Blues

The Sun City Saints remained undefeated in women's fast-pitch softball play going into last weekend's games and will host the Phoenix Blues in double-headers Saturday and Sunday at Sun City Stadium.

The Saints (12-0) beat an all-star team from the Phoenix Metro Women's Softball League on May 14-15. Pitchers Michelle Thomas and Connie Clark each won two games and are 6-0 for the year. Thomas, however, injured an ankle and is out indefinitely.

The Blues are led by pitchers Lucy Casarez, who won her first six games, and Arizona State's Cathy Sullivan.

Former ASU catcher Kathy Tackett-Hicks, first baseman Page McDowell (Scottsdale Saguardo High School), second baseman Tracy Almjhell (Scottsdale), third baseman Cheryl Persinger (Phoenix Sunnyslope) and shortstop Linda Neeley (Phoenix Alhambra) complete the infield.

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

Phoenix girl hurls Festival no-hitter

Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Left-hander Michelle Thomas of Phoenix threw a no-hitter in the opening game of the National Sports Festival women's softball competition Saturday as the South downed the North, 2-0.

Thomas, who was 6-1 in last year's festival and was named the outstanding player, walked five and struck out three. The South is represented by the Sun City Saints of Arizona and the North team is the Wyoming Royals from Michigan.

In diving competition, Wendy Wyland rallied from a poor start and posted the highest score ever by an American woman in 10-meter platform diving, successfully defending her 1982 championship.

Wyland, an 18-year-old from Mission Viejo, Calif., qualified for the U.S. team in the Pan American Games by scoring heavily on four of her last five dives, rolling up a 459.66 total, three points better than her previous U.S. mark.

Her Mission Viejo teammate, Megan Neyer, was second at 410.46, and also earned a Pan Am berth. Diving is one of five sports using the festival to choose Pan Am squads.

The boxing semifinals were marked by upsets as three defending champions were beaten. National Golden Gloves champ Jesse Benevides and world lightweight champ Pernell Whitaker won.

In the biggest upset, Al Evans of Chicago stopped defending superheavyweight champ Craig Payne of Livonia, Mich., at 44 seconds of the first round. A right hand dropped Payne for the three-count, and the referee then stopped the bout.

At 106 pounds, Paul Gonzalez of Los Angeles upset defending champ Bryan Jones on points, and in the 139-pound class, Vincent Webb of St. Louis decisioned defending titlist Jerry Page of Columbus, Ohio.

Benevides, defending champ at 119 pounds from Corpus Christi, Texas, scored a split decision over Lupe Gutierrez of Turlock, Calif. Whitaker, another defender at 132, won a unanimous decision over Robert Byrd, of Dallas.

In figure skating, David Fedor of Tonawanda, N.Y., took the lead in the men's competition, while Kelly Webster of Colorado Springs led the women's competition.

SAINTS RESUME ACTION — The Sun City Saints return to Sun City Stadium Saturday and Sunday for double-headers beginning at 7:30 p.m. each night.

The Saints were in Colorado Springs, Colo. last week to compete in the National Sports Festival.

In between games on Saturday the Saints will have a ceremony honoring Rose Schwartz and Marilyn Rau.

Schwartz has been a member of the Saints Booster Club since its inception in 1974 and its vice-president for two years. She was a recipient of the 1979 Angel Award for contributions to the club and team and was selected Sun City Woman of the Year by the *Sun City News-Sun* in 1977.

Rau is the only original Saint still with the team and was chosen Arizona's Amateur Athlete of the Year in 1980. She has been an All-American nine times and was selected most valuable player in the 1979 national tournament.

The Saints (25-4) snapped a four-game losing streak in weekend games of June 18-19 when they beat the Phoenix Flames by lopsided scores of 11-1 and 11-0. Pitcher Michelle Thomas made her first appearance in five weeks in those games after recuperating from an ankle injury. The games also marked the season debut of pitcher Debbie Doom.

The Arizona Republic

Wednesday, June 29, 1983 NW

Ex-Olympic star Spitz blasts Festival

Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The competition to pick the ice hockey team that defends America's gold medal in the 1984 Winter Olympics began Wednesday at the National Sports Festival, where officials and athletes were fuming over a blast from Olympic swimming champion Mark Spitz.

Local organizers, meanwhile, stepped up their efforts to have the Festival return to Colorado Springs in 1987.

Spitz, who won a record seven gold medals at the 1972 Olympics in Munich, was quoted in a Knight-Ridder report as saying that the Sports Festival was "a joke" and "an exercise in futility."

"None of the top-notch athletes are here. All the good ones bypass this," said Spitz, who is a real estate developer in southern California and an ABC commentator. He was here for network coverage of last weekend's swimming and diving competition at the Air Force Academy pool. "It's just a lot of money wasted that could be doing some good somewhere else."

"They're not producing any Olympians here. It's just a big get-together, that's all."

The Festival, aimed primarily at helping America's young amateurs develop their skills, started in 1978, long after Spitz retired from swimming. Asked if he would have participated if the Festivals had been around when he was competing, Spitz said, "Not unless I got paid for it."

Meanwhile, UCLA sensation Tracy Compton pitched a four-hitter as the West claimed the

women's softball championship with a 3-2 victory over the East.

The West, represented by the California Blazers of Sepulveda, gained the final by splitting two 2-1 games with the Wyoming (Mich.) Royals, representing the North.

The East, represented by the Raybestos Brakettes of Stratford, Conn., posted victories over the defending champion Sun City Saints, representing the South, by 2-1 and 1-0 scores in gaining the final.

The Knight-Ridder story on Spitz ran in Wednesday morning's *Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph* and brought heated response from officials and athletes.

"Uneducated, uninformed, unfounded, completely stupid," said F. Don Miller, executive director of the U.S. Olympic Committee, which runs the Festival. "Basically, in my heart, I feel very sorry for Mark Spitz."

"The athletes have made sacrifices to be here."

The city of Colorado Springs...the Air Force Academy...the United States Olympic Committee. None of them deserve to be insulted. I think Mark Spitz owes an apology to all of them."

Spitz left Colorado Springs earlier in the week, and his whereabouts Wednesday were unknown.

Bob Iger, director of program planning for ABC's *Wide World of Sports*, said Spitz was "totally out of line" and apologized for the remarks.



Mark Spitz

© The Arizona Republic Thursday, June 30, 1983

Errors prove costly

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

The Sun City Saints, who had their way earlier this season playing less talented women's softball teams, aren't finding things quite so easy at the National Sports Festival in Colorado Springs, Colo.

In fact, the defending champions are in jeopardy of not qualifying for the championship game, something that has happened to them just once in four previous festival visits.

The Saints (26-6) saw their festival record slip to 1-2 Monday as they dropped a 2-1 decision to the Blazers of Sepulveda, Calif. It was their second straight loss to the Blazers, who used to play out of Glendale, Calif. The Blazers blanked the Saints 5-0 Saturday.

SAINTS LEFT-HANDER Michelle Thomas, author of a no-hitter Saturday in a 2-0 victory over the Wyoming (Mich.) Royals, was the hard-luck loser. Thomas (7-2) gave up just three hits but was the victim of six errors.

The Blazers capitalized on Saint fielding mistakes to score single runs in the third and fourth and grab a 2-0 lead.

Shortstop Suzie Gaw, who made three errors, sent a pitch from winner Karen Andrews beyond the left-center field fence in the bottom of the fourth inning to make it 2-1.

THOMAS HELD the Blazers scoreless after the third and the Saints mounted a threat in the bottom of the seventh.

Helen Andrade singled and moved to second. Barb Garcia followed with a base hit, but Andrade was thrown out trying to score.

The loss was only Thomas' second in nine festival decisions. Last year in Indianapolis she was voted outstanding player after leading the Saints to their second straight gold medal.

SEPULVEDA (3-0) is the only undefeated team and needs just one more victory to qualify for Wednesday's championship game.

as Saints fall

The Stratford, Conn., Brakettes, defending national champion, and Royals are tied with the Saints at 1-2.

Stratford lost a pair of games Monday, bowing 5-4 to the Royals and 2-1 to the Blazers.

THE SAINTS were scheduled to play a pair of games this afternoon. They were slated to take on the Royals before meeting the Brakettes.

They are scheduled to play a make-up game against the Brakettes at 9 a.m. Wednesday. That game was rained out Sunday.

The two teams with the best records advance to Wednesday's 7 p.m. championship game.

THE SAINTS WILL return home to host the Phoenix Peppers for 7:30 p.m. double-headers Saturday and Sunday in

Sun City Stadium.

Saints Booster Club member Rose Schwartz and veteran catcher Marilyn Rau will be honored between games Saturday.

Mrs. Schwartz has been a booster since the club's inception in 1974. In 1979 she received the Angel Award for her contribution to the club and team. She also was named Sun City Woman of the Year in 1979 by the News-Sun.

RAU, A SAINT for 18 years, is a nine-time All-America selection and played on the 1979 Pan American Games team which won a gold medal.

A school teacher, Rau also was selected most valuable player at the 1979 national tournament and was named Arizona Amateur Athlete of the Year in 1980.

SUN CITY INDEPENDENT — June 29-July 5, 1983 —

Saints honor two

Sun City Saints have designated July 2 as a special night to honor two women well known to Saint followers. One is a devoted fan and the other a team player.

Rose Schwartz, a member of Saints Booster Club and Saints' All-American player Marilyn Rau will be honored between games of a 7:30 p.m. doubleheader at Sun City Stadium.

Schwartz has been a member of the booster club since 1974 and is a former vice-president. She was named Sun City Woman of the Year in 1977 and received the Angel Award in 1979 honoring her contributions to the Saints.

Rau is the last remaining member of the original Saints' team which started 18 years ago. Among her accomplishments are being named Arizona's Amateur Athlete of the Year in 1980, national tourney most valuable player in 1979, nine times All-American, 11

times Pacific Coast Women's League All Star, and member of U.S. World Team and Pan-American Team. She is currently leading the team in hitting and second in slugging.

* Saints

The Sun City Saints continue their chase this week for a third straight gold medal in women's softball at the National Sports Festival. Sports.

Debbie retrieves 'Doom's-day pitch

By Dennis Brown
The Phoenix Gazette

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Put yourself in a batter's shoes, facing, Sun City Saints pitcher Debbie Doom.

Standing just 38 feet away is one of the premier pitchers in the United States. To make matters worse, Doom strikes an imposing figure at 6-foot-2, 170 pounds.

And, she appears much closer as she winds up and takes a huge step toward the plate. Just as she releases the ball she lets out with a grunt and then...

Boom, the ball explodes past the plate.

It usually winds up in Sun City catcher Marilyn Rau's glove. Strike three, sit down.

Doom was in fine form Tuesday, throwing a two-hitter as the Saints, representing the South, beat the Wyoming, Mich., Royals of the North, 3-0, in National Sports Festival V. Carla Stearns led the way offensively with three hits.

"I felt good today," Doom said. "I think maybe in the first game, I was just nervous."

Doom walked in two runs Saturday in a losing effort against her UCLA college teammate, Tracy Compton of the Glomati Blazers and the West.

That first game looked like a continuation of what has become a series of trying times for Debbie Doom. Though she remains among the finest pitchers in the country, the past year hasn't been particularly kind.

Last June, Doom led UCLA to the NCAA softball championship. The freshman from Tempe was forced to carry the load after Compton suffered an injury. Since then, however, there have been several setbacks.

In August, Doom was stricken with a case of food poisoning and missed all of the 1982 Sports Festival in Indianapolis. Teammate Michelle Thomas had to pitch every game in a remarkable performance that carried the Saints to a gold medal.

In this past collegiate season, Doom compiled a 16-4 record with 15 shutouts for UCLA. But she and the Bruins were unable to defend their title.



Rick Glase, The Phoenix Gazette

Debbie Doom

Again, Compton was knocked out of the competition, this time with a virus. In addition, several of the UCLA starters became ill. Doom came down with a mild case of the bug, too, but was able to pitch. She couldn't take the Bruins all the way this time, though, as Texas A&M took the crown.

Just prior to the softball College World Series, Doom and Compton were the subjects of a *Sports Illustrated* feature story. That would seem ideal, except that neither came across in the most flattering manner. Compton came off as an airhead with a pretty face, while Doom was portrayed as a near recluse who thinks only of softball.

"It was nice that they did a story on us," Doom said. "I can't really complain. But, it over-exaggerated the way I am. I read it and just said, 'That's not me.'"

After the NCAA championships, Doom tried out for the U.S. Pan American Games team, a goal she had set for some time.

"It's something that probably every softball player dreams of," she said. "That's about as high as you can go in women's softball."

Doom and Thomas, amazingly, were among the first players cut. And, only Suzie Gaw of the Saints made the team.

A sore arm hurt Doom's chances, while Thomas was recovering from a badly sprained ankle. Just the same, they produced better stats during the trials than did Kathy Arendsen, whose

coach just happens to be in charge of the Pan Am team as well.

"I was so worn out after the World Series that the Pan Am tryouts were just a pain to me," Doom said. "They just hurt a lot mentally and physically. And, emotionally, I was just drained."

"It didn't disappoint me as much as it would have if I'd been in top form and not made it. Maybe, if I'm still playing in four years, I'll get another chance."

Though only 20, Doom has been pitching competitively for six years. That's a lot of wear and tear on a right arm. Her father, in fact, tried to talk her into taking off this summer.

"I didn't want to, though," Doom said. "The Saints are so close and it's so much fun to play with them. It's the same way at UCLA."

After their afternoon win Tuesday, the Saints came back in the evening for their first meeting with Arendsen and the Raybestos Brakettes of the East. The Saints were leading, 1-0, when rain forced a postponement until this morning when the game will be resumed in the third inning.

After finishing that game, the two teams will meet again at noon. Two victories would assure the Saints of a berth in tonight's final. Sun City has played in all four Sports Festival gold-medal games, winning three.

Sports NEWS-SUN THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1983

Blazers claim gold medal;

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

The Sun City Saints' bid for a third straight gold medal in women's softball came to a screeching halt Wednesday at the National Sports Festival.

Sun City, plagued by fielding mistakes throughout the four-day competition, finally played an error-free game, but still lost 1-0 to the defending national champion Stratford (Conn.) Brakettes.

The win in Colorado Springs, Colo., advanced Stratford to the championship game for a second straight year, but again they finished runnerup by losing 3-2 to the Blazers of Sepulveda, Calif.

Sepulveda and Stratford both finished preliminary-round competition at 4-2.

SUN CITY and the Wyoming (Mich.) Royals both were 2-4. The Saints were awarded the bronze medal because they had beaten the Royals in two festival meetings.

Saints left-hander Michelle Thomas and Barbara Reinalda hooked up in a pitchers' duel for six innings as each held the other team scoreless.

Stratford broke the ice in the seventh inning.

MISSY MAPES got one of the Brakettes' six hits off Thomas (7-4) when she led off the inning with

a single. Doreen Denmon sacrificed Mapes to second base. Allison Rioux hit a fly ball for the second out, but Chris Dinoto blooped a single just out of reach of third baseman Helen Andrade to score Mapes with the winning run.

The Saints, however, didn't bow out of the festival without a fight.

Barb Garcia got a leadoff single in the Saints' half of the seventh and was forced when Carla Stearns grounded to second. Suzie Gaw then slashed a single to right as Stearns moved to third. Gaw, however, tried to stretch the base hit into a double and was thrown out at second by Stratford's right

Saints stumble

fielder. Mary Faure hit a popup to end the game.

THOMAS STRUCK out five Stratford batters. Reinalda, who gave up four hits, struck out just one Saint.

The loss came on the heels of a 2-1 defeat to Stratford earlier Wednesday.

The Saints held a 1-0 lead in the game when rain halted play Tuesday night.

Stratford wasted no time grabbing a lead when play resumed Wednesday morning, pushing across a pair of runs in the third to move ahead 2-1.

PITCHER Tracy Compton, a UCLA teammate of Saints pitcher

Debbie Doom, 1-1 in the festival and 3-1 overall, hurled a four-hitter for Sepulveda in the championship game.

The Saints will return home today and prepare for 7:30 p.m. double-headers Saturday and Sunday against the Phoenix Peppers in Sun City Stadium.

The Saints Booster Club will honor Rose Schwartz, one of its members, and veteran catcher Marilyn Rau between games Saturday.

Mrs. Schwartz has been a booster since the club's inception in 1974. She received the booster club's Angel Award in 1979 for her work on behalf of the team and

club. She also was named Sun City Woman of the Year in 1979.

RAU, A SAINT the last 18 years, is a nine-time All-America selection and played on the 1979 Pan American Games team which captured a gold medal.

A school teacher, she also was selected most valuable player in the 1979 national tournament and was named Arizona Amateur Athlete of the Year in 1980.

A booster club spokesman said the Saints will arrive at Phoenix's Sky Harbor Airport via a United Airlines flight. The flight, which will originate in Denver, is scheduled to arrive at 7:30 p.m., the spokesman said.

Saints to battle Peppers tonight

The Sun City Saints, who finished third in the four-team women's softball competition at the National Sports Festival earlier this week, will host the Phoenix Peppers for 7:30 p.m. double-headers today and Sunday in Sun City Stadium.

Veteran Saints catcher

Marilyn Rau and Booster Club member Rose Schwartz will be honored at ceremonies between today's games.

Rau began playing for the Saints as a schoolgirl 18 years ago. She has been a nine-time All-America selection and played for the U.S. wom-

en's softball team that won a gold medal in the 1979 Pan American Games.

Rau's other honors include being named most valuable player in the 1979 national tournament and Arizona Amateur Athlete of the Year in 1980.

Mrs. Schwartz has been a Saints booster since 1974, the year the club was formed. The booster club presented Mrs. Schwartz with its Angel Award in 1979 for her contribution to the organization and team.

In 1979 she also was named Sun City Woman of

the Year by the News-Sun.

The Saints, 27-8, were trying to win their third straight gold medal in the Sports Festival. They lost four of six games in round-robin play and had to settle for a bronze medal.

The Blazers of Sepulveda, Calif., won the gold by defeating the defending national champion Stratford (Conn.) Brakettes, 3-2.

The Saints swept a double-header from the Peppers in Sun City Stadium earlier this season, 12-0 and 2-0.

NEWS-SUN SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1983

NEWS-SUN

TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1983

Saints roll to sweep of Peppers

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

The Phoenix Peppers have been anything but hot when they've played the Sun City Saints this season.

One reason is the pitching of Michelle Thomas. The other is the pitching of Connie Clark.

Thomas limited the Peppers to four singles in Sunday's first game and Clark gave up just two base hits in the nightcap as the Saints rolled to a sweep of the four-game series with a pair of 6-1 victories.

THE SAINTS, behind the pitching of Debbie

Doom and Clark, pounded the Peppers 11-0 and 7-0 Saturday in Sun City Stadium.

Thomas is 2-0 and Clark 3-0 this season against the Peppers, who have scored just two runs in six games against the Saints.

Mary Faure's home run in the first inning of Sunday's opener gave the Saints a 2-0 lead and provided Thomas all the help she needed.

Karen Fellenz got a one-out double off losing pitcher Anna Binggeli and Faure followed with her second homer of the season, a line shot that just

cleared the left-field fence.

THE SAINTS, 31-8, added single runs in the third and fourth innings and Faure wallowed another two-run homer in the sixth.

The Peppers' only run came in the fourth inning when Binggeli singled and later scored on a ground out.

Thomas, 8-4, went the distance. She struck out nine and walked two.

THE PEPPERS took a 1-0 lead in the first inning of the nightcap thanks to a pair of Saints' errors.

The Saints tied the game in their half of the

inning and pushed across four runs in the second to take a 5-1 lead.

Three of the second-inning Saints' runs came on a two-run single by Fellenz and Woody Woodcock's booming homer.

Woodcock also doubled in the fifth inning to score Carla Stearns with the final run.

CLARK, 19-3, struck out nine Peppers and did not yield a walk in going the distance.

The California Silverstreaks will invade Sun City for a pair of 7:30 p.m. double-headers Saturday and Sunday.

The Silverstreaks won the Westminster Memorial and Inland Cities Invitational tournaments last season.

Saints host California

Sun City Saints, women's fastpitch softball team, will host the California Silverstreaks in a pair of doubleheaders July 9-10.

The California squad won the Westminister Memorial and Inland Cities Invitational tournaments last year.

Game time both days is 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$1.50 for adults and 50 cents for children under 16 years of age.

The Saints, apparent world-beaters until the month of June interfered with their schedule, have

recently returned from an unsuccessful bid for a third straight National Sports Festival championship in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The Saints saw their 22-game winning streak end earlier in June, lost four in a row, then met some feisty competition in the tournament and won two games and lost four.

The Saints will face three more toughies in the Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament July 15-17 at Sun City Stadium, 111th and Grand Avenues.

Daily tournament tickets cost \$5 if purchased in advance from representatives of Interfaith Services, co-sponsors of the tournament with Saints Booster Club. Tickets, at \$2.50 each, will be available at the gate on tournament days, however.

... EVERY WEEK SUN CITY INDEPENDENT — July 6/July 12, 1983 —

Independent editor Bob Robinson, longtime sports writer-editor, will be the featured speaker - sometime between the Pledge of Allegiance and the Sun City Pom Pom squad.

Robinson guarantees a "fun time will be had by all."

It will be the final Booster Club meeting of the year. The program also includes reports on the recent Sports Festival, the Jog-A-Thon, the Del Webb Memorial Tournament and the National Tournament.

There are in the neighborhood of 600 Booster Club members - BE THERE.

Until now, Mr. Editor had addressed various groups in Sun City on the topic of Public Service Newspapers. But, his heart belongs to sports, and his topic July 11 will be, "Women's Softball and the Press." He'll discuss his past involvement in women's softball and girls' bobby sox play during his career.

Mr. Editor addresses Boosters

If you are a Sun City Saints Booster Club member and have never attended a club meeting, you must attend the 6:30 p.m. July 11 gathering at Sun-towner Restaurant.

Jog-a-thon rescheduled

Sun City Saints players will be running, jogging or walking the perimeter of Sun City Stadium 6:30-7:30 p.m. July 13 during their fund-raising Jog-A-Thon.

Players are seeking

pledges for 10 cents for each lap covered during the hour. Proceeds will help defray expenses at the national tournament Aug. 3-6 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

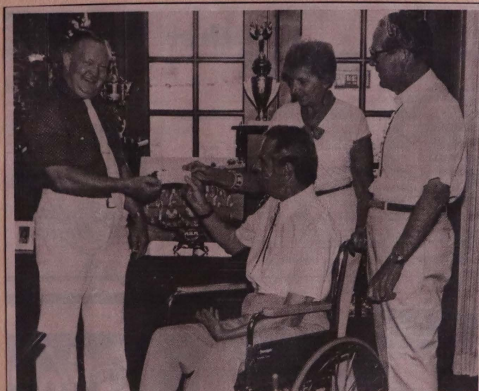
Persons wishing to donate or participate may call 933-5916 or 972-1843.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 1983 NEWS-SUN

Robinson to speak at booster club meeting

Bob Robinson, editor of the Sun City Independent, will speak on "Women's Softball and the Press," at a 6:30 p.m. Monday meeting of the Sun City Saints Booster Club.

The meeting in the Sun-towner also will include a performance by the Sun City Pom Pom Girls and a report on the July 13 Jog-a-Thon.



SUN CITY SAINTS BOOSTER Club president Joe Davison sells a ticket to John Reif, in wheelchair, for upcoming tournament cosponsored by Boosters and Interfaith Services. Also shown are Helen Marie Stobar of the Boosters and Charles Cikeman of Interfaith. Photo by Bob Robinson

THE SUN CITY AREA INTERFAITH SERVICES AND (SUN)
CITY SAINTS will benefit from the sale of tickets
for the Del Webb Memorial Tournament on July 15,
16, 17 at 7:00 P.M. The tickets, \$5.00, are good
for any one night, and may be purchased from
Interfaith delegates, Bill Hill, Barbara Howells,
and Garland Lewis. (Special door prize drawings
for these tickets.)

Saints bat for Interfaith

Editor:

We of Interfaith Services Inc. are very proud and grateful for the opportunity to be participating in another first for the Sun Cities area.

The Sun City Saints Booster Club has earned the right to even more community support for the contributions they have made to maintain and help the Sun City Saints provide not only interesting and exciting games to watch, but maintain and produce a championship caliber team that gets national recognition and is another proud product of the Sun Cities area.

They deserve the right to see the stadium filled to capacity especially for

the Del E. Webb Tourney games July 15-17.

In addition to admission to one of the games, the ticket for the event includes a donation to Interfaith Services Inc. While we have had fine press coverage of some of our events, we need more public recognition of what we offer and do and how the community can help us grow and provide more and better services.

Every nickel and dime donated stays in the Sun Cities to provide services that God willing, all of us will sooner or later need and use. You see, we are committed to the objective of providing a network of support systems that helps keep residents living in their own homes as long as they are able to do so. In our first two years of existence, we have proven the need for the services and that we can, with the help of the multitude and willing and capable volunteers, perform the job.

Currently, one of the top priority needs is transportation vehicles. A van equipped with a wheelchair lift to transport the incapacitated to and from our Day Centers and a station wagon to haul food and equipment and transport ambulatory participants.

We are, therefore, planning to use the proceeds from the Del E. Webb Tourney for these purposes. This is the first time the Sun City Booster Club has ever joined hands with another organization to promote one of their events and this is the first time Interfaith Services Inc. has ever joined hands with a community event.

Because this is a family affair (Sun Cities that is), every resident can and should participate.

How you ask? Buy tickets, spread the good word about what is going on in Sun City, including the services available for those in need, volunteer to help yourself help others, promote the Saints and or help the frail and incapacitated.

For more information call Interfaith Services Inc. office 977-8279.

Charles M. Clikeman
Fund Support Chairman

The Phoenix Gazette ○ Thurs., July 7, 1983 E-9

Gaw selected — Suzie Gaw of the Sun City Saints and formerly Arizona State University has been selected to the U.S. women's softball team for the Pan American Games.

Gaw, playing shortstop for Sun City this season, was named to the Pan Am team as an outfielder.

The Games are scheduled Aug. 14-19 in Caracas, Venezuela.

Sports NEWS-SUN SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1983

Saints to host Silver

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

The Sun City Saints, fresh off a sweep of their four-game series last weekend against the Phoenix Peppers, play host to the California Silverstreaks for a pair of 7:30 p.m. double-headers today and Sunday in Sun City Stadium.

Saints pitchers, led by right-hander Connie Clark, 19-3, kept a lock on Pepper bats as last year's

runnerup in the women's national fast-pitch softball tournament climbed to 31-8.

Clark turned in a pair of complete-game efforts against the Peppers, including her seventh two-hitter of the season. She also has hurled three one-hitters.

THE OTHER victories went to Michelle Thomas (8-4) and Debbie Doom (4-1).

Following the Silverstreaks' vis-

it, the Saints will host the annual Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament. Other teams entered in tournament—scheduled Friday through July 17—are Vancouver Alpha Sports, 1982 Canadian champion, Toronto Agincourt, '81 Canadian champ, and the Blazers of Sepulveda, Calif., winner of women's softball competition at last month's National Sports Festival.

streaks tonight

The Saints and Blazers are not strangers. They have faced each other numerous times, both during the regular season and in tournament play.

LED BY pitcher Tracy Compton, a teammate of Doom's at UCLA, the Blazers downed the Saints twice on their way to a gold medal in the National Sports Festival at Colorado Springs, Colo.

They defeated the defending national champion Stratford (Conn.) Brakettes, 3-2, in the title game.

Complimenting Compton are pitchers Pam Boswell and Karen Andrews.

THE BLAZERS' hitting attack is led by catcher Suzie Brazney and infielder Sheila Correll, who both have been named to the U.S. team which will compete in next

month's Pan American Games.

Games will be held at 5 p.m., 6:30, 8, and 9:30 each day of the Webb tournament. Teams will play each other three times.

Admission to each session is \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for people under 16.

Interfaith Services is offering tickets at \$3 with half the money earmarked for projects.

MONDAY, JULY 11, 1983

Saints rip 'Streaks

By Sue Herzog
Staff Writer

Suzie Gaw and Mary Faure blasted identical back-to-back homers for a three-run spree in the first inning of the second game Sunday night to lead the Saints over the California Silverstreaks, 9-0.

Gaw and Faure each belted the first pitch over the left-center field fence. It was Gaw's 13th homerun of the season as she scored Karen Fellenz who had reached first on a single.

It was four for Faure and she connected for two more hits to lead the Saints' ten team hits against a two-hit effort by the Silverstreaks.

Michelle Thomas picked up her tenth win as she struck out three batters and gave up two singles and one walk in four innings.

Debbie Doom tossed the final three innings. She kept the defense from all action except a lone grounder to second, as she

fanned seven batters and snagged a line drive at her knees.

Gaw picked up her 14th homerun in the sixth. Fellenz and Carla Stearns had two hits each.

The Saints were out-hit in the opener 13-5, and the Silverstreaks captured the win 5-4 in nine innings.

The Saints scored two in the first inning but an error on a bunt in the sixth allowed two Silverstreak runs and it was a new ball game.

The California ball club scored two more unearned runs in the seventh, but the Saints evened the score with runners scoring on a past ball and a sacrifice fly.

Silverstreak cleanup batter Jackie Fretto ended the game with a homerun over the right-center field fence.

Connie Clark pitched 8 1/3 innings and picked up her fourth loss against 19 wins. Thomas entered as relief.

Doom, 5-1, pitched a no-hitter Saturday in the nightcap against the same Silverstreaks, as the Saints won 1-0 in eight innings off only three hits.

She allowed no runner to reach second as she struck out 11 and gave up two walks.

In Doom's last three appearances she has pitched 13 2/3 innings of no-hit ball, struck out 22 batters and allowed only two walks.

Thomas upped her record to 9-4 in the first game as the Saints won 3-0.

Faure led the Saints in hits for the evening as she went four for seven.

Next action will be the Del E. Webb Tournament Friday through Sunday night in Sun City Stadium. Games are scheduled to begin at 5, 6:30, 8 and 9:30 p.m. The Saints will play the second and third game each night. Tickets are good for one night and cost \$2.50 at the gate.

The Arizona Republic

Monday, July 11, 1983

Women's fast-pitch

SILVERSTREAKS, SAINTS 4		
7 innings		
California	000	001 201 - 5 11 5
Sun City	000	000 000 - 0 0 0
Fellenz, Martin (7), Doom (18) and Fretto, Clark, Thomas (19) and Stearns (19) - Saints; Clark, Thomas (19) and Stearns (19) - Silverstreaks. 5-1, L - Thomas, 19-4, 100 - Fretto, C. P. M. 1000 m.		

Sunday, July 10, 1983

Softball

Women's Fast-Pitch

SILVERSTREAKS, SAINTS 4

7 innings		
Silverstreaks	000	001 201 - 5 11 5
Saints	000	000 000 - 0 0 0

Fellenz, Martin (7), Doom (18) and Fretto, Clark, Thomas (19) and Stearns (19) - Saints; Clark, Thomas (19) and Stearns (19) - Silverstreaks. 5-1, L - Thomas, 19-4, 100 - Fretto, C. P. M. 1000 m.

SILVERSTREAKS, SAINTS 4

7 innings

7 innings		
Silverstreaks	000	001 201 - 5 11 5
Saints	000	000 000 - 0 0 0

Fellenz, Martin (7), Doom (18) and Fretto, Clark, Thomas (19) and Stearns (19) - Saints; Clark, Thomas (19) and Stearns (19) - Silverstreaks. 5-1, L - Thomas, 19-4, 100 - Fretto, C. P. M. 1000 m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13-19, 1983

Saints, Devco agree

Officials of Del E. Webb Development Corp. and the Sun City Saints Booster Club will sign a stadium agreement noon July 13 at the Lakes Club.

Sun City's women's softball team, the Saints, is thus assured of a place to play in 1984. Details on the terms had not been disclosed by press time.

Representing Devco at the signing will be Fred Kuentz, president, and Paul Tatz, assistant to the president. Representing the Boosters will be Joe Davidson, president; Sam Hugginbotham, chairman of community affairs; and Helen Marie Stobar, finance director.

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 1983

Top teams compete in Del Webb tourney

By SUE HERZOG
Staff writer

Sun City Stadium will be the place to see quality softball this weekend as four of the top teams in the nation compete in the Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament Friday through Sunday.

The Saints, who finished runner-up in the 1982 national tournament and captured the bronze medal in the recent Sports Festival, will host the tournament which could be the strongest in its history.

Other participating teams are the Vancouver Alpha Sports, 1982 Canadian champion; Toronto Agincourt, winner of the same title in 1981; and the Southern California Blazers, gold medal winner in the Sports Festival.

The Blazers may pose a problem for the Saints. With a record of 17-2 before the Sports Festival, the California team

picked up two wins over the Saints at the Festival and went on to compile a 5-2 tournament record which included a 3-2 win over the Raybestos Brakettes for the championship.

Leading the Blazers is right-handed hurler Tracy Compton, a teammate of Debbie Doom at the University of California at Los Angeles. She pitched the title game at Colorado Springs and sported a 10-0 record before that tournament.

Two Blazers have been named to the Pan-American team. Third baseman-catcher Suzie Brazney and third baseman-first baseman Sheila Cornell were chosen. First baseman Sue Lewis was selected as an alternate.

The Saints (34-9) are led in offense by Suzie Gav with 14 home runs, Mary Faure, Carla Stearns, Barb Garcia and Marilyn Rau. Connie Clark has

compiled a 19-4 record. Michelle Thomas owns a 10-4 mark and Doom has five wins against one loss.

The tournament will be a double round-robin in which each team plays the other three squads twice. Four games will be held each night at 5, 6:30, 8 and 9:30 p.m. The Saints will play the second and third game each night.

Opening ceremonies will be Friday between the second and third game, with the Sun City Pom Pom girls making an appearance.

Tickets are \$2.50 each night, \$1 for children under 16. Saints season tickets are not valid for the tournament. Special tickets for \$5 are being sold by Interfaith Services with 50 percent of the proceeds going to Interfaith.

Schedule:

Friday:

5 p.m.—Blazers vs. Alpha Sports

6:30 p.m.—Saints vs. Agincourt

8 p.m.—Saints vs. Alpha Sports

9:30 p.m.—Blazers vs. Agincourt

Saturday:

5 p.m.—Alpha Sports vs. Agincourt

6:30 p.m.—Saints vs. Blazers

8 p.m.—Saints vs. Agincourt

9:30 p.m.—Blazers vs. Alpha Sports

Sunday:

5 p.m.—Blazers vs. Agincourt

6:30 p.m.—Saints vs. Alpha Sports

8 p.m.—Saints vs. Blazers

9:30—Alpha Sports vs. Agincourt

B2 NEWS-SUN FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1983

SPORTS



IN BRIEF

Saints play double-header in Del Webb softball tournament

The Del E. Webb Softball Tournament begins tonight at 5 p.m. in Sun City Stadium with the Southern California Blazers taking on the Vancouver Alpha Sports.

The Saints play at 6:30 and 8 p.m. against Toronto Agincourt and Alpha Sports. Opening ceremonies will be between the second and third game. At 9:30, the Blazers and Agincourt will meet.

Mr. Editor addresses Boosters

If you are a Sun City Saints Booster Club member and have never attended a club meeting, you must attend the 6:30 p.m. July 11 gathering at Sun-towner Restaurant.

Independent editor Bob Robinson, longtime sports writer-editor, will be the featured speaker sometime between the Pledge of Allegiance and the Sun City Pom Pom squad.

Until now, Mr. Editor had addressed various groups in Sun City on the topic of Public Service Newspapers. But, his heart belongs to sports, and his topic July 11 will be, "Women's Softball and the Press." He'll discuss his past involvement in women's softball and girls' bobby sox play during his career.

Robinson guarantees a "fun time will be had by all."

It will be the final Booster Club meeting of the year. The program also includes reports on the recent Sports Festival, the Jog-A-Thon, the Del Webb Memorial Tournament and the National Tournament.

There are in the neighborhood of 600 Booster Club members - BE THERE.

Sunday's results

Women's fastpitch softball									
SAINTS SILVERSTREAKS									
Innings									
California	500	500	5-9	2-4					
Sun City	111	111	4-7	10-3					
Martin, Crawford (2) and Harris									
Thornell, Dyer, Lusk, Harris, Lu C.									
Flowers, 12-4, 10-3, 10-3, 10-3, 10-3									
Lew 2, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10									
Faire, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10									

Saints host California

Sun City Saints, women's fastpitch softball team, will host the California Silverstreaks in a pair of doubleheaders July 9-10.

The California squad won the Westminister Memorial and Inland Cities Invitational tournaments last year.

Game time both days is 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$1.50 for adults and 50 cents for children under 16 years of age.

The Saints, apparent world-beaters until the month of June interfered with their schedule, have

recently returned from an unsuccessful bid for a third straight National Sports Festival championship in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The Saints saw their 22-game winning streak end earlier in June, lost four in a row, then met some feisty competition in the tournament and won two games and lost four.

The Saints will face three more toughies in the Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament July 15-17 at Sun City Stadium, 111th and Grand Avenues.

Daily tournament tickets cost \$5 if purchased in advance from representatives of Interfaith Services, co-sponsors of the tournament with Saints Booster Club. Tickets, at \$2.50 each, will be available at the gate on tournament days, however.

Jog-a-thon rescheduled

Sun City Saints players will be running, jogging or walking the perimeter of Sun City Stadium 6:30-7:30 p.m. July 13 during their fund-raising Jog-A-Thon. Players are seeking

pledges for 10 cents for each lap covered during the hour. Proceeds will help defray expenses at the national tournament Aug. 3-6 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Persons wishing to donate or participate may call 933-5916 or 972-1843.

Championship softball teams enter Sun City tournament

The Sun City Saints will be the host team for the Del E. Webb Memorial softball tournament Friday through Sunday at Sun City Stadium.

The four-team tournament features the California Blazers, gold medal winners in the National Sports Festival, and two Canadian championship teams, Vancouver Alpha Sports and Toronto Agincourt. Vancouver is the 1982 Canadian champ. Toronto won the 1981 title.

The tournament format has been changed this year from double elimination to double round-robin. Four games will be played each evening, beginning at 5, with other games scheduled to start at 6:30, 8 and 9:30.

The Saints, bronze medal winners in the National Sports Festival, will play in games at 6:30 and 8 each night.

The Blazers had a 22-4 record before last weekend's games and beat the Saints (34-9) twice in the Sports Festival. Pitcher Tracy Compton, who was a teammate of Saints pitcher Debbie Doon at UCLA, was undefeated going into the Sports Festival. Infielders Suzie Brazney and Sheila Cornell were picked for the Pan-American team, as was Sun City infielder Suzie Gaw.

Admission is \$2.50 each night, \$1 for persons

under 16. Season tickets are not acceptable for the tournament.

Interfaith Services of Sun City is sponsoring a ticket-sales campaign for the tournament. Tickets are priced at \$5 each night, which includes a \$2.50 donation.

Tickets may be bought from the Sun City Saints Booster Club, from members of Interfaith, at the Lakeside Banquet Center at the Lakes Club, at both United Banks in Sun City and at United Bank in Sun City West.

Interfaith Services was founded in 1981 as an outgrowth of the Crisis Counseling program of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix and the Ministerial Association of the Sun Cities.

The group is devoted to providing long-term care to help keep residents in the Sun City area living independently in their own homes.

The Arizona Republic
Extra
Wednesday, July 13, 1983 NW

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Sports

NEWS-SUN

NEWS-SUN SATURDAY, JULY 16, 1983



Sun City Saint Mary Faure, 4, misses overthrow from 2nd base, leaving Toronto Agincourt runner safe.
(News-Sun photo by M.J. Hoppes)

Saints edge Canadian teams

By L.Q. YOWELL

The Sun City Saints got double shutout pitching Friday night from Michelle Thomas and Debbie Doom to win their first two games of the Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament at Sun City Stadium.

Doom pitched the Saints past Vancouver Alpha Sports, the 1982 Canadian national champions, 1-0 in the night's third game, allowing six hits.

Thomas fired a three hitter in winning the Saints opener, 3-0, over Toronto Agincourt, the 1981 Canadian champions.

THE SAINTS managed only three hits against Alpha Sports' Rose Fuller but two infield hits and two walks in the fourth were all Doom needed.

Barb Garcia walked to open the inning and Karen Fellenz followed with an infield single. Two outs later, Marilyn Rau walked to load the bases and

Garcia then scored on Helen Andrade's infield hit.

Doom ran her string of hitless innings to 14½ innings before Debbie Duke singled with two outs in the first. During that stretch she fanned 14 and walked only two.

IN THE earlier game, the Saints scored an unearned run in the second on Rau's single, passed ball and an error, then iced the game with two in the third after two were out on singles by Garcia and Fellenz and Mary Fauer's two-bagger.

The Southern California Blazers also blanked Alpha Sports, 2-0 in extra innings for their 18th win of the year against two losses in the tournament opener.

Winning pitcher Tracy Compton allowed only one hit while Stacy Winsberg, and Leslie King singled and were plated on a double by Gail Hamilton.

Sports **NEWS-SUN**

NEWS-SUN SATURDAY, JULY 16, 1983



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MONDAY, JULY 18, 1983



Southpaw Michelle Thomas gave up ten hits to the Vancouver Alpha Sports as the Saints lost 7-0 in the second game of the Del E. Webb Tourney Sunday night. (News-Sun photo by Morris Borman)

Saints win tourney

By SUE HERZOG
Staff Writer

It was a scoreless night for the Saints Sunday, but they still finished the Del E. Webb Tourney with the best record, 4-2.

The Toronto Agincourt gave the Saints the championship when they shut out the Blazers 2-0 in the first game of the night. It was the Blazers third straight loss, and it eliminated any hopes of a tie with the Saints who had not lost a game.

Southern California pitcher Tracy Compton held the Saints to just one hit, and gave up only two walks as the Blazers blanked the Saints 4-0 in the third game Sunday night.

Compton gave up the only hit in the first to leadoff hitter Barb Garcia, and went on to strike out four.

The California bats were blazing as they connected for eight hits, including four doubles and a triple off Debbie Doom.

Connie Clark made her first appearance of the tournament in the sixth inning, and cooled the Blazers bats as she allowed no hits, walked one and fanned one batter.

Coach Gerald Stapley wouldn't say why he didn't pitch Clark earlier, but did mention he thought "she would be effective if she just pitched a couple of innings, but she wouldn't last the second time around the line-up" against these higher caliber teams.

Clark has a 19-4 record and carried the Saints when Michelle Thomas was injured and Doom was still in school.

In the Saints first game Sunday night, the Alpha Sports teed off for 10 hits off Thomas to hand the Saints their first loss of the tournament, 7-0.

The Saints had five hits, but committed four errors. Mary Faure led the team with two hits, and Karen Fellenz had a double.

Alpha Sports pitcher, Patty Polych, struck out leading hitter Suzie Gaw three times, and finished the night with eight strikeouts.

"We felt really tired tonight and couldn't get pumped up," Stapley said, "—especially since we could lose both games and still win the tournament."

Friday the Saints beat the Blazers 3-0. Suzie Gaw blasted her 15th home run

of the season. Thomas picked up the win.

The Saints trounced Agincourt 10-0 in the third game, with Doom recording seven strikeouts as she won her seventh game.

Saturday the Saints took a win from Agincourt 3-0 and Alpha Sports 1-0.

The final standings of the tournament are: Saints, 4-2; Blazers, 3-3; Alpha Sports 3-3; Agincourt, 2-4.

With a 38-10 record, the Saints have only two double headers until the National Tournament in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Next weekend they will be idle as the Cactus Regionals are played in Sun City Stadium.

July 30, the Saints will host the Phoenix Dusters, and July 31, the Dancers will be in town.

The tournament this weekend attracted 3,112 spectators.

Y, ARIZONA

MONDAY, JULY 18, 1983



Safe

Heather Cranston of Vancouver, British Columbia Alpha Sports is safe at home Sunday as she kicks ball from hand of Sun City Saints catcher Marilyn Rau.

Saints lost to Vancouver, 7-0, but went on to win the Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament 4 games to 2. (Story, B1)

(Photo by Morris Berman)

AZ teams to play in Sun City Stadium

Sun City Stadium will be the site of the Cactus Regionals this weekend.

Five or six teams will be competing in the double-elimination tournament for the right to go to nationals in Salt Lake City, Utah, Aug. 3-6.

By finishing in the top four in last year's nationals, the Saints automatically qualify for this year's competition without having to play in regionals.

Four Phoenix teams—the Blues, the Apaches, the Westerners and the Bobettes—and one or two Tucson teams will compete.

From Tucson will be the Ponderosa Playmakers, defending regional champions, and possibly the Broad Squad.

Four games are scheduled for Friday at 6, 7:30, 9 and 10:30 p.m. Saturday's games are at 6, 7:30 and 9 p.m. The championship game will be played at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, and a second game at 9 p.m. if necessary.

If the Tucson Broad Squad competes, games will be played Saturday at 8 and 9:30 a.m. Tickets are \$2.50 per night, \$1 for fans under 16 and no admission charge for Saturday morning games.

NEWS-SUN THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1983



THE SAINTS WILL BE RETURNING TO SUN CITY STADIUM NEXT YEAR! Members of the Saints Booster Club sign a one year agreement with Devco officials. (From left, back) Sam Higginbotham, Booster Club Director of Community Relations;

Helen Marie Stobar, Booster Club Finance Director and Paul Tatz, Devco senior vice president; (front) Joe Davisson, Booster Club President and Fred Kuentz, Devco President.

SUN CITY — Foofie Harlan wears dress pins with the message, "Praise the Lord."

A small plaque above her mailbox here says "Praise the Lord," and her golf cart, naturally, bears the sign, "Praise the Lord."

"Praise the Lord at all times," said the exuberant Foofie during a recent interview.

She said she feels sorry for atheists, and wonders who they thank "for the beauty of the world, for everything good."

Foofie — she said prefers to be called by her nickname because that is what her mother called her — is well-known here as member of Leslie's Sun Cities Pom Poms, a squad of 16 trained, high-stepping, high-kicking dancers.

The Pom Poms have made numerous local appearances and at Sun City Saints games and have received international media exposure.

In Foofie's role in the Poms routine, she turns flips, walks on her hands and does the splits, all with speed and precision.

That's a feat in itself — considering the lithe 100-pounder is 68.

Foofie, however, disclaims any starring role.

"We are a team, and we all work together," she said. "A pitcher would not be any good without a catcher."

The Poms are an outgrowth of Corinne Leslie's dance classes.

Leslie began coaching Poms performances to help bolster the Saints' home games — Foofie joined the dance class in April 1977.

The Poms made their debut nationally in June 1977 on the *Real People* television program.

Pom Pom granny

The Arizona Republic

NW Wednesday, July 27, 1983

praises the Lord

"We just grew like Topsy afterwards," Foofie said.

Since then, the Poms have appeared on *Good Morning America*, *PM Magazine*, *teletons*, *Hour Magazine* and have been written about in foreign magazines and newspapers in numerous newspapers throughout the United States.

The Poms have a variety of routines, including a 45-minute dance show that features Latin and Hawaiian dances and tap dancing.

Concerning the "Praise the Lord" pins, Foofie says she is a born-again Christian.

"The pins are not a part of my Poms costume," Foofie said, "but praising the Lord is part of my life."

She said her born-again experience occurred after she and her husband, Cleon, moved here in 1973.

Foofie said she had always been afraid of water more than knee deep.

However, she said when Cleon made a decision to be baptized by a retired Baptist minister in a pond at his desert location near here, she decided to be baptized, too.

"They pushed me down into the water to be baptized, and when I came up I wasn't afraid of the water," she said.

Foofie said she took swimming lessons and since has been in diving exhibitions in aquatic shows.

"I'm still not a good swimmer," she said. "But I'm not afraid of water. Praise the Lord."

Although Foofie said she is Catholic, she attends the El Mirage Bible Chapel with Cleon.

And she said she and her husband devote

— Grandma, Extra 4



Foofie Harlan, a member of Leslie's Sun Cities Pom Poms, says, "I will be doing a back flip before I'm 70." She's 68 now.





Fred Kuentz, left, president of Del E. Webb Development Co., and Paul Taltz, a company senior vice president, help Sun City Saints pitcher Michelle Thomas pack some gear in preparation for next

week's trip to the national tournament. Webb, owner of Sun City Stadium, and the Saints' Booster Club have signed another one-year contract that allows the team to use the facility in 1984. (News-Sun Photo)

22 - July 20-July 26, 1983 -

Saints take first place

The Saints took home first place in the Del E. Webb Invitational tournament last weekend and improved their season record to 38-11.

The Saints finished the four team, round-robin tournament with a 4-2 record. Both losses came on Sunday when the Saints fell to the California Blazers and Alpha Sports.

Saints pitchers Debbie Doom and Michelle Thomas both won two games, while losing one.

Teams to face tight tournament schedule

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

Teams competing in the women's national fast-pitch softball tournament next week won't have much time to savor victory or mourn defeat.

Once a week-long affair, the tournament in Salt Lake City is scheduled to be completed in four days.

"It's the first time we've gone to four days instead of a week," explained Bill Plummer, spokesman for the Amateur Softball Association. "We wanted to make it more of a players' tournament," he added. "If you won the first day before then you might sit around for two or three. We feel this will be better in the long run."

PLUMMER SAID about 25 teams will compete in the Aug. 3-6 double-elimination tournament at the Cottonwood Complex. This will be the second time Salt Lake City has hosted the women's event.

Joining the Sun City Saints in another bid for the national title

will be the defending champion Stratford (Conn.) Brakettes, California Blazers and Wyoming (Mich.) Royals. Those teams, by virtue of their finish in the top four at last season's national tournament, earned byes this year.

The Brakettes, Blazers, Royals and Saints certainly are not strangers. They each played the other three teams twice in last month's National Sports Festival. The Blazers, led by pitcher Tracy Compton, won the gold medal. Stratford finished second and was followed by the Saints and Royals.

THE SAINTS and Blazers met again earlier this month in the Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament in Sun City Stadium. They split two games, but the Saints emerged with another Webb title.

"I think it's (the title) up for grabs this year," Plummer said. "The Saints have a chance, the Blazers have a chance and so do the Brakettes. It seems to be wide open."

The cut in playing days should test a team's depth, said Plum-

mer, adding "If a team comes in hot it will be to their advantage."

STRATFORD HAS won 17 national titles, far more than any other team. The old Orange Lionettes from California won the national championship nine times.

The Saints won their only title in 1979 behind the pitching of Michelle Thomas, but have been unable to work that magic since.

After losing a game early in last season's tourney, the Saints remained alive by winning all of their games in the losers' bracket.

That earned them a date with Stratford, which needed only one win in two games against the Saints. The Saints won the first contest but lost the second and had to settle for the runnerup trophy.

THE SAINTS (38-11) close out the '83 home season with 7:30 p.m. double-headers Saturday and Sunday in the stadium.

Saturday the Phoenix Dusters come to town. On Sunday the Saints will host the Phoenix Dancers.



Stapley eyes

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

Competing in the women's national fast-pitch softball tournament has become commonplace for the Sun City Saints, Stratford (Conn.) Brakettes and Sepulveda (Calif.) Blazers.

Winning national tournaments is another matter. Only the Brakettes have done that with any consistency, claiming two of the last three titles and 17 overall.

Saints coach Gerald Stapley, field boss when the Saints won their only national crown in 1979, is aware of the Brakettes' talent and tradition. But he isn't about to take lightly the chances of any team on any given day.

"YOU HAVE to beat whoever walks out on the field," Stapley said before leaving for Salt Lake City, site of the national tournament this week. "If you look

past some teams they'll take you to the cleaners."

Close to 25 teams will be competing in the tournament, which gets under way Wednesday at the Cottonwood Complex. Most qualified by winning regional tournaments. The Saints, Blazers, Wyoming (Mich.) Royals and defending champion Brakettes automatically qualified by finishing in the top four last year.

The Saints (42-11) closed out the regular season Sunday in Sun City Stadium with a sweep of their double-header against the Phoenix Dancers.

RIGHT-HANDER Debbie Doom and southpaw Michelle Thomas, both past winners of the national tournament's most valuable player award, appear to have put behind them their inconsistent performances of earlier this season.

Doom (9-2) picked up her lat-

tourney with caution

est victory with relief help from Connie Clark in Sunday's first game. The victory in the second game went to Thomas (14-5), who relieved Clark after two innings and preserved a no-hitter.

"If we play our game nobody can beat us," said Stapley, who put his team through extra practice sessions last week in preparation for the national tournament. "But we'll have to play the way we're capable of playing."

THE SAINTS have been plagued at times this season by poor defense. But those defensive problems, Stapley said, have been evident only with regulars out of the lineup.

"You saw what happened out there tonight," Stapley said after watching his team play errorless ball Sunday. "We pretty much had our set lineup out there."

The probable lineup for the

Saints' first tournament game is Marilyn Rau, catcher; Mary Faure, first base; Karen Felenz, second; Suzie Gaw, shortstop; Helen Andrade, third; Peggy Miranda, left field; Barb Garcia, center, and Ann Beisser, right.

FAURE DID not play Sunday due to a sore right shoulder but should be ready Wednesday, Stapley said.

Stapley said he would decide on his starting pitcher for the first game after pairings are drawn Wednesday morning.

Although Connie Clark tops the staff with a 19-4 mark, Stapley has avoided using the youngster in pressure situations. At the National Sports Festival in June, for instance, all pitching was done by Doom and Thomas.

THE SPORTS Festival provided the Saints, Brakettes, Blazers and Royals an opportunity to

play each other prior to the national tournament.

The Blazers, behind the pitching of Tracy Compton, a teammate of Doom at UCLA, captured the gold medal. Stratford earned the silver and the Saints, who were 0-2 against both the Brakettes and Blazers, had to settle for the bronze.

The Blazers' strong showing at the Sports Festival and nagging injuries to standout pitcher Kathy Arndsen of the Brakettes appear to have made the national tournament a wide-open affair.

"I think it's up for grabs this year," said Bill Plummer, communications coordinator for the Amateur Softball Association. "The Saints have got a chance. So do the Blazers and Brakettes."

The championship game is scheduled for Saturday.



Saint comes sliding in

There was a big smile in Salt Lake City Wednesday as Carla Stearns of the Sun City Saints slid safely into third on a triple in game against Hamilton (Mo.)

Bears, whose third baseman Barbara Harper was less pleased. Stearns later scored on a wild pitch. Saints won, 2-0. (Details, A10) (AP laserphoto)

Saints quiet

By SUE HERZOG
Staff Writer

The Sun City Saints' pitching trio gave up only one disputed hit Sunday as they finished the regular season with a pair of wins over the Phoenix Dancers in Sun City Stadium.

The solo hit came in the seventh inning of the opening game when Dancer designated hitter Dar Wieters hit a sharp grounder between third and short.

Saints third baseman Helen Andrade got a hand on it, but when Suzie Gaw picked it up and hurled it to first, the runner was already there.

THE HIT came off Connie Clark who pitched the final two innings. Debbie Doom, who pitched the opening innings, came up with the win, which brought her record to 9-2.

The Saints, 42-11, didn't hit much better, but the five runs off five hits and five Dancer errors was enough.

Barb Garcia led the team with two hits. Karen Fellenz added a double and Gaw and Andrade chipped in one.

THE SAINTS must have been working with pine tar between games, because in the second game their bats came alive as they connected for 12 hits and a 5-0 win.

Four of those runs were scored in the first inning, as Garcia and Fellenz got on with singles, and a Gaw walk loaded the bases.

That brought up clean-up batter Marilyn Rau, who singled up the middle.

AS THE Dancers committed one fielding and two throwing errors, the Saints streaked

Dancer bats

around the bases until Rau was standing at home.

Clark pitched the first two innings, but Michelle Thomas picked up the win, which upped her record to 14-5.

Fellenz led the Saints' attack, going 3-for-3, designated hitter, Woody Woodcock went 2-for-2, Rau was 3-for-4, including two doubles, and Garcia had two hits.

"I THINK we're coming around at just the right time," coach Gerald Stapley said.

As the Saints go marching on to the National Tournament, which begins Wednesday in Salt Lake City, the question over their inconsistent defense remains.

Sunday the team didn't commit an error. However, in the Saints' opening-game win over

the Phoenix Dusters Saturday, they had five miscues.

STAPLEY SAID the errors came when people were playing out of position.

"If we play our game nobody can beat us," he said.

There is also the question about the pitching staff. Clark, 19-4, who carried the team when Thomas was injured and Doom was in school, has only pitched six innings in three weeks.

STAPLEY has said against the tougher teams Clark would only be effective against the first round of the batting order, and the second time around they would start hitting her.

He said he isn't going to decide on the pitching lineup until after the pairing of teams.

The Saints left for Salt Lake City this morning.

Sports NEWS-SUN THURSDAY AUGUST 4, 1983

Saints start fast at

By BURT FREIREICH

SALT LAKE CITY—Two gift runs gave the Sun City Saints an extra-inning 2-1 victory over the Beach City (Calif.) Desperados today and moved them into an engagement at 7 tonight against the New Jersey Belles in the women's softball nationals.

The Saints won it on two errors in the 10th after scoring a run in the first without benefit of a base hit.

The Desperados, coached by former Orange Lionettes Shirley Topley and Carol Spanks, tied it 1-1 in the bottom of the seventh as starting pitcher Michelle Thomas weakened.

IN ANOTHER game, the Sacramento (Calif.) Express upset defending national champion Raybestos Brakettes of Stratford, Conn.,

1-0 to throw the tournament into a tizzy.

Tammy Delp opened on the mound for Beach City with a walk, wild pitch and walk, after which she was relieved by ex-Saint Cindy Bristow. A fielder's choice advanced Barb Garcia to first base and she scored on Marilyn Rau's sacrifice fly to left.

The Saints got four scattered singles until they scored in the 10th. With one out Lori Woodcock's grounder bounced off the second baseman for an error, she moved up on a sacrifice and Miss Garica hit a grounder to the shortstop. That ball was bobbled and then tossed wildly past first to give the Saints the winning run.

MICHELLE WAS untouchable for four innings but gave up a run in

the seventh with a one-out walk and successive sharp singles by Maridde Richards and Lisa Bassi. Connie Clark came on in relief of Miss Thomas and retired three batters in order in the 10th.

Debbie Doom hurled near perfect ball and rookie Carla Stearns provided all the artillery as the Saints passed Tuesday's opening test with a 2-0 victory over the Hamilton (Mo.) Bears.

Debbie, who won this tournament's most valuable player award as a 17-year-old rookie in 1980, flashed that kind of brilliance again with a one-hit performance.

DEB KENNEDY barely missed Miss Doom's left leg with a solid single to center with two out in the first to become the Missouri-

nationals

ans' only baserunner. The Bears managed to get only two other balls out of the infield, and 10 of them became strikeout victims.

Lori Stoll pitched almost as well for the losers, but she walked Miss Rau to open the second and that proved fatal. Marilyn advanced on a sacrifice and scored as Miss Stearns crashed a low shot up the right-center alley for a triple. After a strikeout, Carla scored on a wild pitch.

Carla said she hit a fastball "with nothing on it but speed. It hung right up there."

KAREN FELLEZ' bunt single in the third produced the game's only other baserunner.

Defensive standout was third baseman Helen Andrade. She made a quick pickup and rifle throw in the third to turn an

apparent bunt single into an out and risked life and limb in the seventh to snare a short popup in a near collision with the fence.

Two no-hitters and Sheila Cornell highlighted the opening round. Tracy Compton no-hit Ashland, Ohio, with 13 strikeouts and one walk while Miss Cornell backed her up with five RBI on two homers for a 9-0 win.

TWO ERRORS prevented Kathy Neal's no-hitter from being a perfect game as the Belles blasted Minneapolis Outbound Travel, 10-0.

The host Utah Bees fell 1-0 to the Orlando (Fla.) Rebels as Marcy Newsome lined a two-out run-scoring single in the 10th. The Brakettes dropped the Tucson Playmakers 3-0.



MARILYN RAU

Sports

NEWS-SUN

FRIDAY AUGUST 5, 1983



Shortstop Suzie Gaw of the Sun City Saints, right, gets the force out and throws to first base to complete double play against New

Jersey Budweiser Belles. The undefeated Saints take on Downers Grove, Ill., tonight. (AP laserphoto)

Saints clang Jersey Belles

By BURT FREIREICH

SALT LAKE CITY—Coach Gerald Stapley hopes to find at least one of his three Sun City pitchers unstiff and unsure so he can start her tonight as the Saints take on Downers Grove, Ill., in the winners' bracket semifinals of the women's softball nationals.

He used all three of them in last night's marathon 17-inning 2-0 victory over the New Jersey Budweiser Belles.

As might be expected, it was a game of brilliant defensive plays by both sides, finally decided after 3 hours and 33 minutes by Mary Faure's two-out double to left-center, driving in Karen Fellenz and Suzie Gaw.

KAREN HAD LAID down a one-out bunt and was safe when the second baseman bobbled the throw for New Jersey's only error. Miss Gaw followed with an infield single, a smash too hard for the shortstop to handle. Both advanced on Marilyn Rau's grounder to third, setting up Miss Faure's titanic double.

But the Belles weren't through. After Michelle Thomas became the third Saints pitcher and retired them in order in the 10th, they threatened in seven straight innings, the bottom of the 17th included.

Donna Michal opened with a single but was forced on a bunt attempt. Then Miss Fellenz launched a double play which got Michelle out of the inning as did twin killings in the 12th and 14th.

STARTER DEBBIE Doom gave up a single to the first batter she faced, then no-hit the Belles until Miss Michal tagged her for a double to open the seventh. After getting one out via a popped up bunt, JoAnn Ferrieri laced a liner three feet foul down the left field line. Coach Stapley figured that was too close and yanked Debbie. Reliever Connie Clark fanned Miss Ferrieri and got out of the inning with a popup. Miss Clark gave up but one single in the next two innings—her last.

Michelle was aided by two fine leaping catches of line smashes by second baseman Fellenz in the 12th and 16th with runners in scoring position. In the seventh Karen made a diving stop of a grounder over second and turned it into an out. Right fielder Carla Stearns made a nifty sliding catch of a foul dangerously close to the fence in the 13th.

The Saints got four singles off Kathy Neal, who went the route, in the first four innings, but the first two were victimized by double plays launched by third baseman Ferrieri's nifty catches.

THE SAINTS never seriously threatened until the 10th when Miss Rau led

off with her third single and Miss Faure followed with a bunt single. But a fly to left and two grounders ended the peril.

Sun City might have won it in the 15th, when Miss Gaw crashed a shot to left-center, but an excellent throw by Robin Egerter nailed Suzie as she slid into second. Miss Rau followed with a double to left center but two groundouts followed.

The Downers Grove Dolls advanced last night with an eight-inning, 4-3 win over the Long Beach Renegades. The other winners' semi-final will pit the



Sacramento (Calif.) Express against the California Blazers. Each won last night 2-1, the Blazers over Houston and Sacramento taking eight innings to dispose of the Oklahoma Sundowners.

The defending champion Raybestos Brakettes of Stratford, Conn., meanwhile, were making their way through the losers' bracket, 7-3 over Hamilton, Mo., and 11-0 over Lower Bucks, Pa.

Sports **NEWS-SUN**

SATURDAY AUGUST 6, 1983

Saints' Thomas fires

BY BURT FREIREICH

SALT LAKE CITY— Michelle Thomas hurled a no-hitter Friday night for her third win in two days to put the Sun City Saints into today's winners' bracket finals of the 1983 Women's Softball Nationals.

Suzie Gaw's homer with two out in the sixth downed the Downers Grove (Ill.) Dolls, 1-0, the Saints' third straight one-run cliffhanger.

The homer was the last of Sun City's three hits off loser Bonnie Kraemer.

COACH Gerald Stapley is expected to start right-

hander Debbie Doom at 10:30 a.m. today against the tournament's only other unbeaten team, the survivor of Friday night's late faceoff between the California Blazers and Sacramento (Calif.) Express. They were in the 12th inning of a scoreless deadlock.

If the Saints win this morning, they'll face the losers' bracket survivor tonight.

A defeat this morning would require the Sun Citians to win an afternoon contest and then beat the lone unbeaten team twice tonight.

THE SAINTS, last year's runnerup, have clinched

no-hitter in 1-0 victory

at least a third-place finish.

Southpaw Thomas never allowed a ball out of the infield while striking out four.

She walked two, the first of which was almost critical.

MISS GAW made a nifty charging pickup of a grounder but threw wildly for an error to open the second. After a foreceout, Michelle gave up a walk to put a runner into scoring position.

Second baseman Karen Fellenz, however, speared a hot liner and converted it into a double play.

An error in the second gave the Saints their only baserunner through three innings, but Miss Gaw broke the ice with a one-out single in the fourth. Marilyn Rau followed with a long single to left but Suzie was nailed at third trying to take an extra base.

CARLA Stearns walked to open the fifth and moved up on a sacrifice but was stranded.

Defensive standout was first baseman Mary Faure, who made two nifty stabs and twice nailed runners at second with rifle throws on bunt plays.



MICHELLE THOMAS

Sundowners stop Rebels behind Rebener 1-hitter

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Margaret Rebener pitched a one-hitter as the Oklahoma Sundowners led off Friday's round of the American Softball Association National Women's Fastpitch Tournament with a 4-0 thrashing of the Orlando, Fla., Rebels.

In later action, The Sun City Saints beat the Downers Grove, Ill., Dolls, while the California Blaz-ers were scheduled for a

late showdown with Sports Time Express.

Rebener got help from the productive bats of Ann Seale, Ann Dyer and Diane Van Fossen, all of whom collected RBIs in the Sundowners' four-run fourth inning.

In another Friday game, The Texas Natural Lights downed the Beach City Desparados in a 3-2 thriller.

The Phoenix Gazette Sat., August 6, 1983 C/NW-5

Saints' Thomas hurls

Michelle Thomas tossed a no-hitter to lead the Sun City Saints to a 1-0 win over the Downers Grove, Ill., Dolls Friday in the National Women's Fast Pitch Soft Ball Tournament in Salt Lake City.

The win improves the Saints' record to 4-0.

Saints' shortstop Suzy Gaw provided the lone run of the contest when she hit her 16th home run of the season in the eighth inning.

no-no



Third baseman Helen Andrade of the Sun City Saints, left, waits for the ball, far right, as a Raybestos

Brakettes baserunner starts her slide safely into third base. (AP laserphoto)

Saints drop 2 in row, settle for third place

By BURT FREIREICH
SALT LAKE CITY—Going into Saturday's final day of action in the 1983 women's softball nationals, the Sun City Saints had locked up no worse than a third-place finish.

Two games later they had lost twice—once in a most delicate manner and once ignominiously—and wound up with what was to them an extremely disappointing third.

But given the perspective of a few sunrises, third place is an extremely high accomplishment and one which carries blessings of considerable significance.

FIRST, they automatically have qualified for next year's tournament in Buffalo. And they will be seeded so that they are guaranteed not to play any of the other three top seeds before the winners' bracket semifinal if they win in the early rounds.

The last two unbeaten teams squared off Saturday morning—the Saints

and traditional rivals, the California Blazers. Debbie Doom hurled her way through a series of perils before succumbing, 1-0, via an unearned run in the 10th.

Neora Jerry opened the bottom of the 10th with a sharp single to right. On Leslie King's bunt, first baseman Mary Faure made her only error of the tourney, throwing wildly past first.

With runners on second and third Mary took a little roller, looked the runners back and flipped to Karen Fellenz covering first. But Miss Jerry made a belated dash to the plate and Karen zipped a throw to catcher Marilyn Rau for the tag. Marilyn rifled a throw to third that almost nabbed the other baserunner for a triple play.

But Suzy Brazney belted the next pitch to the fence in the left-center alley for the win.

EARLIER Miss Doom had escaped when she

walked two in the first and when Miss Jerry and Miss King opened the third with singles. After both moved up on a bunt, Miss Brazney fanned and a fly to center ended the threat.

The defending champion Raybestos Brakettes of Stratford, Conn., came through the losers' bracket to win five games on Saturday and with them the title once more.

THEIR THIRD victory of the day was a 12-3 thrashing of the Saints in the afternoon.

The Brakettes shelled Michelle Thomas, who had a 3-0 tourney record going in, with a single run in the second and four straight hits for three runs in the third before rookie Connie Clark relieved her.

The Saints' last hurrah came in fifth when they got five of their six hits off Barbara Reinalda (6-0 and winner of the tour-

ney's top pitcher award) for three runs.

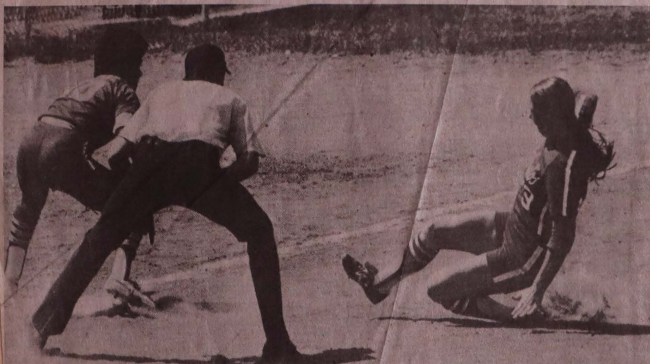
CARLA Stearns singled, moved up on an Andrade sacrifice, raced to third on Laurie Woodcock's single to center and home when the throw got past the catcher. Laurie moved to third on pinch hitter Tammy McKinney's ground out and scored on Barbara Garcia's single to right.

After Miss Fellenz's bunt single, Miss Claw singled sharply to left, scoring Barb and both runners advanced on the throw home. But the string ran out when Miss Rau grounded to third.

Walks, errors and power hitting gave the Brakettes five runs in the sixth and three in the seventh to turn the game into a rout.

The Brakettes rapped up their title march with 2-1 and 5-3 wins over the Blazers in the evening session.

Sports **NEWS-SUN** MONDAY AUGUST 8, 1983



Third baseman Helen Andrade of the Sun City Saints, left, waits for the ball, far right, as a Raybestos

Brakettes baserunner starts her slide safely into third base. (AP laserphoto)

Selectors bypass Saints

SALT LAKE CITY—For the first time in about a decade no Sun City Saint made the Amateur Softball Association's championship tournament all-star team.

It is unusual for a third-place finisher to be blanked in the individual ratings.

The Saints landed five players on the 15-member second team. They were infielders Karen Felenz, Suzie Gaw and Helen Andrade plus pitcher Michelle Thomas (3-1 with a no-hitter) and catcher Marilyn Rau.

NO SAINTS were selected to the third team.

The champion Raybestos Brakettes placed eight on the first team, headed by pitchers Barbara Reinalda and Kathy Ar-

endsen. Others were outfielders Gina Vecchione, Pat Guenzler and Brenda Simmons and infielders Allyson Rioux, Missy Mapes and Pat Duffey.

Making the top team from the runnerup California Blazers were first baseman Sheila Cornell, who won the homer title for the second straight year with three; utility infielder Suzy Brazney and pitcher Tracy Compton.

ROUNDING OUT the first team were Houston outfielder Peanut Mofal, Utah Bees designated hitter Suzy Olson and catchers Maridee Richards of the Beach City (Calif.) Desperados and Jonelle Johnson of the Sacramento (Calif.) Express, who won the outstanding defen-

sive player award.

Miss Reinalda (6-0) with an 0.72 earned run average) won the outstanding pitcher trophy; Miss Duffey, with nine RBIs and a .484 batting average, received the most valuable player award, and Miss Guenzler took the batting trophy with .552.

Making the second team besides the Saints' quintet were Brakettes Diane Schumacher, 1b, and Gretchen Larson, of; the Blazers' Sue Lewis, dh, and Leslie King, c; the Oklahoma Sun-downers' Ann Dyer, of; Jan Krug, utility, and Margaret Rebenar, p.

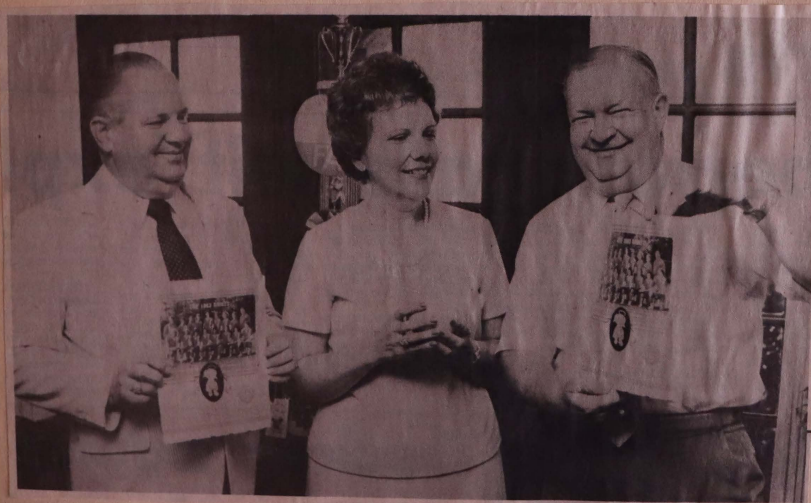
Also, Orlando's Shooki Mulder, of; Downers Grove (Ill.) Robin Egerter, of, and Sacramento's Joanne English, p.

Saints get boost

Joe Davisson, right, displays a copy of the Sun City Saints yearbook as he thanks Art Clementz, left, and Dale Wood for their participation in the Sun City West Night. The event, which raised \$618 for the women's softball team, was sponsored by the Sundome Plaza Merchants Association, of which Mrs. Wood is president. Clementz served as chairman.

(News-Sun photo)

B2 NEWS-SUN FRIDAY AUGUST 12, 1983



**Miss Thomas dislikes
comment in N-S story**

EDITOR:

I am writing in regards to an article entitled, "Oklahoma hires Thomas."

While I do appreciate the story mentioning my new coaching position at OU, I do not appreciate the implication by Steve Hawley in the last paragraph that I was not quite fully recovered from the ankle injury that I suffered earlier in the year.

What gives Steve Hawley or anyone else the right to question my level of competence as a pitcher following a severe injury?

Based on my performance, which included two no-hitters in national caliber play and an overall record of 14-5, I feel my performance indicated that I had fully recovered from the ankle injury.

Prior to the last game I pitched, I had won 13 consecutive games in national championship play before finally losing.

An athlete should be judged on what he or she does in a

given year and be appreciated for that, but not expected to duplicate a performance which might be labeled outstanding (6-0 record in national tourney). Those performances are rare for any athlete and should be appreciated.

Although I was unable to complete my last game (only once in 69 games was I unable to go the distance), I credit the Brakettes' hitters for their athletic ability and admit that I am only human and would like to be respected as such.

I wish I could perform at the superstar level expected each day by the fans, but unfortunately there are many good hitters around the country that make it difficult.

As an amateur athlete who plays part-time, finishing anywhere in the top four in the country is an accomplishment. Whether we finish first or 25th, I am proud to wear the uniform of the Sun City Saints.

I have simply learned to measure success by a different yardstick.

Michelle Thomas
Norman, Okla.

set for Sept. 24 in Lakes Club

The Sun City Saints Booster Club will hold its annual appreciation night Sept. 24 in the Lakes Club. No-host cocktails will be served at 6 p.m. Dinner is set for 7.

Entertainment will include country-western music presented by Saints' player Gay Turley and her family. Awards will be presented for most valuable player, most improved player, rookie of the year and team sparkplug. Tickets are \$13 and reservations may be made through Sept. 21 by calling Rose Schwartz at 977-3544 during the afternoon or evening. Tables for 10 will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, said Mrs. Schwartz.

Sports

Olympic dream grows

By Mark Armijo
Republic Staff

The scenario hasn't changed. Marilyn Rau is still waiting. She's been waiting for four years already, and she'll continue to wait as long as she can, at least until 1988.

Supposedly, the International Olympic Committee may approve fast-pitch softball as an Olympic sport in time for the 1988 Olympics. And that's what Rau is waiting for.

She wants to make that her last hurrah.

"I was hoping it would have been approved for the '84 Olympics," Rau said. "The Olympics are the only dream I have left. I'll wait."

Rau played on the Sun City Saints national championship team in 1979. She was selected the most valuable player in the tournament and was on the U.S. world championship team. She played in the Pan-Am games.

All that helped fulfill Rau's goals. Along the way, she earned additional honors that she wasn't counting on. She has been chosen as Arizona's Amateur Athlete of the Year and has been selected to the All-America team several times.

But if softball isn't approved for the 1988 Olympics, the wait may end for Rau, anyway. There won't be much consolation in being the only original Saint still with the team. She'll be 37.

"I still enjoy playing. . . . It's still fun," Rau said. "I use to rely on strength and speed, but now I depend on guile and finesse. If anything, I know what to look for."

When the legendary PBSW

“
The Olympics
are the only
dream I have
left. I'll wait.
”

— Marilyn Rau

Ramblers folded in 1965, it formed into the Sun City Saints the next year. Rau was a 15-year-old catcher then.

Two knee operations later, she is still a catcher, only 17 years older. By 1988, she may be the designated hitter.

"I take rests every now and then," Rau said. "The DH will be good for me, but I still want to catch. I tried first base, but I got bored there."

"Even though most of the girls nowadays seem to be quite younger than when I first came up, I don't think it will be too unusual for someone my age to still be playing then."

"When I came up, there seemed to be a lot of women still playing at that age."

Rau has seen that reversal and one other noticeable change in her career with the Saints.

"It used to be that the better players would turn to fast-pitch,"

Rau said. "Now, it's the other way

around. A lot of girls are playing slow-pitch. I think that's cut down on a lot of the competition for fast-pitch teams."

The Saints are one team that doesn't seem to be hurting in getting good players, though. They are 20-0 going into this weekend's double-headers with the Phoenix Westerners and the Phoenix Bobettes at Sun City Stadium.

Pitcher Connie Clark continues to lead Sun City on the mound with a 14-0 record and a 0.15 ERA. She had a streak of 87 innings without giving up an earned run snapped when Cheryl Persinger of the Phoenix Blues connected for a two-run double in a May 29 game.

Pitcher Michelle Thomas is still sidelined with an ankle injury. She may be back by the end of June. She has a 6-0 mark and a 1.24 ERA.

The Saints meet the Westerners on Saturday and the Bobettes on Sunday. The Saints already own two wins over the Westerners earlier in the season.

The Bobettes are led by pitchers Kim Bickford and Tonya Adrian. Bickford pitches for Arizona State University, and Adrian had a shutout over the Orlando (Fla.) Rebels last season. The Rebels were the 1981 national champions.

The Saints had an open date last weekend, when seven of their players were trying out for the U.S. team to compete in the Pan American Games. Rau, Gaw, Mary Faure, Barbie Garcia, Karen Fellenz, Helen Andrade and Debbie Doom tried out for the team.

THE RULES

1

The Female always makes the Rules.

2

The Rules are subject to change at any time without prior notification.

3

No Male can possibly know all the Rules.

4

If the Female suspects the Male knows all the Rules, she must immediately change some or all of the Rules.

5

The Female is never wrong.

6

If the Female is wrong, it is because of a flagrant misunderstanding which was a direct result of something the Male did or said.

7

If Rule 6 applies, the Male must apologize immediately for causing the misunderstanding.

8

The Female can change her mind at any given point in time.

9

The Male must never change his mind without express written consent from the Female.

10

The Female has every right to be angry or upset at any time.

11

The Male must remain calm at all times, unless the Female wants him to be angry or upset.

12

The Female must under no circumstances let the Male know whether or not she wants him to be angry or upset.

13

Any attempt to document these Rules could result in bodily harm.

14

If the Female has PMS, all Rules are null and void.



Charles Krcjcsil/Republic

Suzie Gaw: "I'm an equal at the fire station. They've accepted me . . . They're cooperative, and I'm learning a lot."

Hot bat part of life for female firefighter

By Dick Obert
Republic Staff

As a little girl, Suzie Gaw didn't have the same interests that most of her friends had. Instead of playing with dolls and makeup, she was usually in a pickup football game.

"I've always been a bit of a tomboy," Gaw said. "I guess it was inborn."

Today, Gaw, 23, is the only woman firefighter at Phoenix Fire Station No. 9. When she's not putting out fires, she's a much-feared batter on the Sun City Saints women's fast-pitch softball team.

Last season, Gaw, a 5-foot-8 shortstop in her eighth season with the Saints, belted 17 home runs. So far this season, before last weekend's Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament, she had 14 homers in 25 games and was the second leading hitter on the team, batting better than 400.

Although work conflicts have prevented her from playing every game, the fire department, for which she's worked six months, gave Gaw enough time off this summer to play in the National Sports

Festival, where the Saints won the bronze medal, and to try out for the Pan American team, which she made for the second time. The Pan Am Games will be played in Caracas, Venezuela, in August.

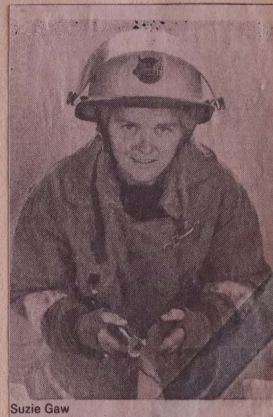
In 1979, Gaw, a freshman at Arizona State at the time, started in right field on the U.S. team that won a gold medal in softball at the Pan Am Games in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She hit a home run there.

That same year, Gaw was an All-American for the Saints, who won the national Amateur Softball Association title. Also, she was selected to the all-tournament team at the College World Series, and she was nominated for the Broderick Award, given to the top female collegiate athlete in the nation.

Despite all the honors, she said, her fondest memory was the sensation she felt walking into the stadium for the Pan Am Games.

"I was amazed when I first marched into the stadium (in San Juan)," said Gaw, who lives in Tempe and graduated from Scottsdale High School in 1978.

—Gaw, Extra 10



Suzie Gaw

SUN CITY
INDEPENDENT

Sports

by Bob Robinson

No free trips

By BOB ROBINSON

Ever since alluding to the "no free lunch" theory, Mr. Editor has been making the rubber chicken and powdered scrambled eggs circuit in the Sun Cities.

The speaking engagements are fun. As for the food, well...

Anyhow, Mr. Editor would like to tell his readers that a recent trip to Salt Lake City, Utah to watch the Saints play in the National Women's Softball Tournament was great fun.

But, no, Mr. Editor sat by the phone, here in Sun City, anxiously awaiting phone reports from L.Q. Yowell, Saints publicist, on how the team was doing.

It should be noted here, L.Q. also sat at home this trip, awaiting phone reports from Saints coach Gerald Stapley, on how the Saints were doing.

To cite an example of how well the line of communication was last week, Mr. Editor got the scores from L.Q. about five minutes before reading it in the daily paper.

That made Mr. Editor wonder is perhaps L.Q. received his daily paper first, then relayed the information to him.

Oh well, that's life in the world of weekly newspaper reporting.

For the second time this issue, Mr. Editor must point out the fact he doesn't own the Independent and thus can't take off at whim to cover the Saints on the road, despite their presence at the prestigious national tournament.

As of this writing (Aug. 5), the Saints were undefeated in tournament play and by now are either celebrating sweet victory or talking about next year's chances.

Mr. Editor, meanwhile, is scheming to make next year's trip. With his luck, the tournament will prob-

ably scheduled for Diablo Stadium in Tempe -- big deal.

Missing attending the tournament this year -- particularly if the Saints win -- is really depressing to Mr. Editor, a longtime Saints' fan and recent Booster Club member.

Because, anybody who is ANYBODY probably made the trip.

To be stuck in the Valley of the Sun like this certainly is not reminiscent of previous years in the newspaper business, where vacations were spent traveling with San Diego's professional ball teams -- at their expense.

Or, at least, the newspaper's expense.

Certainly not Mr. Editor's expense.

Oh well, life goes on. Maybe next year.

- August 24-August 30, 1983 - SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

Saints' night set

Sun City Saints Booster Club will have its Saints Appreciation Night Sept. 24 at Lakes Club, says club president Joe Davisson.

Call Rose Schwartz at 977-3544 for ticket information.

The women's softball team placed third in the recent national tournament.

The team's final season statistics reveal the following:

Batting average leaders were Suzie Gaw, Marilyn Rau, Mary Faure, Barb Garcia and Karen Fellenz. Slugging percentage

leaders were Gaw, Rau, Faure, Fellenz and Garcia.

Most doubles were hit by Rau, Faure and Fellenz and most triples by Fellenz, Faure and Gaw.

Home run leaders were Gaw, Faure and Rau.

Most bases on balls went to Rau, Garcia, Ann Beisser, Gaw and Carla Stearns.

On-base percentage leaders were Rau, Gaw, Garcia, Faure and Stearns. Toughest to strike out were Faure, Garcia and Stearns.

In the pitching department, Connie Clark and Michelle Thomas combined to pitch a perfect game July 31 against the Phoenix Dancers.

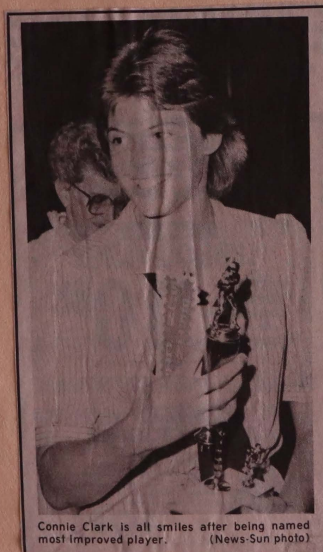
Thomas hurled two no-hitters and Debbie Doom pitched one no-hitter.

Clark and Thomas each had two one-hitters and Doom had one.

Clark pitched 11 shutouts, Thomas eight and Doom six.

Clark struck out 193 batters in 175.2 innings. Thomas fanned 139 in 144.2 innings and Doom struck out 96 in 88 innings pitched.

In the won-lost department, Clark was 19-4, Doom 10-3 and Thomas 17-6.



Connie Clark is all smiles after being named most improved player. (News-Sun photo)

Gaw earns MVP award

By STEVE HAWLEY
Sports Editor

Suzie Gaw, who led the Sun City Saints in hitting, homers and runs batted in this past season, has been named most valuable player by a vote of her teammates.

She and other team members were honored Saturday at a banquet sponsored by the Saints Booster Club.

Gaw, the only Saint chosen to this year's U.S. Pan American Games team, hit .352 with 16 homers and 40 RBI in 37 games. Her home run and RBI totals easily led the team.

THE ARIZONA STATE graduate also had the top slugging percentage (.797). She reached base 41 percent of the time, second only to catcher Marilyn Rau (43 percent).

Rookie of the year award went to catcher-outfielder Carla Searns, who hit .267. She also had 17 RBI in 59 games.

To no one's surprise, the most improved player award went to pitcher Connie Clark.

THE LANKY RIGHT-HANDER, who led her Phoenix Greenway High School team to a pair of state championships, was 19-4 and had three saves. Her 33 appearances were the most by any Saints pitcher.

Clark pitched 175½ innings, allowed 101 hits and posted a 0.56 earned run average. She topped the pitching staff with 11 shutouts and 193 strikeouts.

Outfielder Barb Garcia received the spark-plug award.

GARCIA, KNOWN FOR her outstanding defensive play, batted .293. Her 48 hits put her third on the team in that department.

The Saints finished third in this year's national women's fast-pitch softball tournament.