

Sun City  
Saints

1984



## DAVISSON GETS APEX AWARD

# Area volunteers honored

A man who has served as a volunteer in both Sun City and Sun City West over the past 13 years was announced as the News-Sun's Apex Award recipient at a luncheon Tuesday of the Empire State Club in Ritter's Restaurant.

He is Joe Davisson, a resident of Sun City for nine years and a four-year Sun City West resident.

Men and Women of the Year for 1983 from Sun City, Sun City West and Youngtown also accepted recognition plaques for outstanding volunteerism from News-Sun Publisher Burt Freireich.

**FOR MANY YEARS**, Davisson has been president of the Booster Club, supporting organization for the Sun City Saints women's softball team. When the team encountered financial difficulties, it was his innovative financing and community cooperation that enabled them to continue.

He is a founder and executive vice president of the Sun City West Community Fund, a trustee, a vice president and member of the executive committee of the Sun Cities Art Museum, a past president of the area Cancer Society fund drive and of the local Ohio Club, a Lions member and a board member of the Lakes Club.

Davisson, who is manager of the Sun City West branch, and a vice president of United Bank, was also a founder of the Senior Olympics.

**IN ACCEPTING** his award, he stressed that his participation in activities of both Sun City West and Sun City has been aimed at achieving a closer relationship between the communities—as "sister cities, rather than separate cities."

Recipients of Men and Women of the Year awards were Raymond Korsmeier and Mildred Freeman of Sun City, William H. Thomas and Margaret Bloxom of Sun City West and Mary Glenn of Youngtown.

Korsmeier is active in volunteer work in the American Association of Retired Persons' tax counseling program. Recording for the Blind, Sun City Prides, Sun City Area Transportation, Palmbrook County Club board of directors and, in addition, helps his elderly neighbors with gardening and house-



Ursula Freireich, associate publisher of the News-Sun, at right, congratulates the recipients of the newspaper's ninth annual Men and Women of the

Year awards. From left, they're Raymond Korsmeier, Mary Glenn, Margaret Bloxom, Mildred Freeman and William H. Thomas.

hold repairs. One of his nominators wrote, "I have never known a more unselfish person ... always looking to see how he can help someone."

**MRS. FREEMAN** is active in Prides, United Church's Women's League, Friendly Service and other groups. Christian Women, Dysart Community Center as board member and a tutor. Sun Valley Lodge with the Golden Years Club, has taught sewing to 4-H girls and teaches crafts, collected clothing and food for the "street people" and the victims of flooding, and, said one nominator, "is a wonderful, helpful neighbor."

William Thomas, vice president of the Property Owners and Residents' Association in 1983 was chairman of the committee to plan for and implement Senior Citizen Overlay Zoning Sun City West, revised PORA bylaws to make them more easily understood, was one of the founders of Lending Hands, a sick-room equipment lending program, and helped raise funds for it, and is a member of the Boswell Hospital Auxiliary—a selfless and dedi-

\* Local, A3



News-Sun Publisher Burt Freireich, at left, presents the Apex award for longtime outstanding community service to Sun City West resident Joe Davisson. (News-Sun photos by Jim Painter)



B2 NEWS-SUN THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1984

### Saints to play King & Court

The world-famous four-man softball team, the King and His Court, will play the Sun City Saints at 7:30 p.m. April 17 in Sun City Stadium. Tickets to the fund-raiser are \$4 for adults, \$2 for children and \$9 for a family. They may be obtained from Rose Schwartz, 10312 Talisman Road, at United Bank branches in Sun City and Sun City West, the Sundome, Del E. Webb Development Co. administration building and Webb home realty offices.

B2 NEWS-SUN THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1984

### Game tickets go on sale for Saints, King & Court

Tickets to the April 17 game between the King and His Court and the Sun City Saints can be purchased at several locations in Sun City and Sun City West. Tickets are available at the Del E. Webb Development Co. administration building, Sundome, Sundome Cards and Gifts in Sundome Plaza, Thunderbird Travel Agency offices, United Bank branches, Del E. Webb Home Realty and from Rose Schwartz, 10312 Talisman Road, Sun City.

Proceeds from the game, which will feature the pitching of legendary Eddie Feigner Sr., will be used to cover the Saints' travel expenses to the national softball tournament in Buffalo, N.Y., in August. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$2 for children and \$9 for a family.

B2 NEWS-SUN MONDAY, APRIL 9, 1984

## 'King' to challenge Saints

The King and His Court, the world-renowned softball team headed by pitcher Eddie Feigner Sr., will play the Sun City Saints April 17 in Sun City Stadium.

Formed in 1946 by Feigner, the only active member of the original squad, the team has made appearances against professional baseball players in Yankee Stadium, the Astro-dome, Dodger Stadium and other major league ballparks. The team also has made several television appearances.

Feigner, "The King," mixes ability with humor in his pitching style, hurling blindfolded, from behind his back or between his legs. During nearly

four decades of competition, he has won more than 6,000 games. His victories include more than 1,700 shutouts, 800 no-hitters and 227 perfect games.

Handling the catching chores is Eddie Feigner Jr., better known as "J.R." A graduate of San Diego State University where he lettered in three sports, he can substitute on the mound for his father. During the last eight years he has averaged more than 100 home runs a season. When J.R. is not on tour, his spot is filled by Jim Mackin.

First baseman Gary West played quarterback for Long Beach City College's 1960 na-

tional championship football team. He joined the King and His Court 15 years ago, adding a repertoire of comedy routines to his fielding talents. A salesman in the offseason, West also is an avid golfer.

Shortstop Dave Barnett, in his third season, uses his speed (9.8 seconds in the 100-yard dash) to also cover the outfield. He played center field for the University of North Carolina in the 1978 College World Series. He spent two seasons in the Montreal Expos' farm system and plans to become a baseball coach in the offseason.

The Saints are one of the nation's top fast-pitch women's softball teams. In the last six

seasons, they have never finished worse than fourth in the national tournament.

Tickets for the 7 p.m. game are \$4 for adults, \$2 for children and \$9 for a family.

Tickets may be obtained at the Del E. Webb Co. administration building, Sundome, Sundome Cards and Gifts, Thunderbird Travel Agency offices, United Bank branches in Sun City and Sun City West, Webb Home Realty offices and from Rose Schwartz, 10312 Talisman Road.

Proceeds from the game will be used to help pay for the Saints' trip to the August national softball tournament in Buffalo, N.Y.



# Sports **NEWS-SUN** WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1984



## ***Saints meet King***

Debbie Thompson of the Sun City Saints delivers a pitch during Tuesday's exhibition game against the King & His Court in Sun City Stadium. The King & His Court, led by pitcher Eddie Feigner, beat the Saints 10-1. (News-Sun photo)



## Doom makes jump to new team in '84

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

The Sun City Saints have played much of their early schedule the last two seasons without standout pitcher Debbie Doom.

That will change this year. Debbie, the most valuable player at the 1980 women's major fast-pitch softball tournament as a rookie, won't wear a Saints' uniform at all in 1984.

Saints coach Gerald Stapley said the UCLA junior plans to pitch for a California team this season.

THAT WILL leave the pitching to veteran standout Michelle Thomas and youngster Connie Clark, who had the best winning percentage on the Saints' staff in '83.

How much will the loss of Debbie hurt the Saints?

"Sure, we'll miss her," said Stapley, "but she hasn't done us too much good the last couple of years. She's been injured a lot."

The hard-throwing right-hander was nearly a one-man staff in 1980. She culminated her rookie season with six victories in the national tournament, one a no-hitter. But she was slowed

by injuries over the next three seasons.

ALTHOUGH SHE had the best earned-run average of any Saint last season (0.56), she appeared in just 15 games, compiling a 10-3 mark.

With Michelle and Connie returning, Stapley still has the heart of his pitching staff. Michelle, sidelined part of last season with an ankle injury, was 17-6 in 27 games. Connie appeared in 33 games and was 19-4.

Marilyn Rau, the only remaining member of the original Saints team and a nine-time All-America pick, will be back for another season as catcher. Stapley said Marilyn gave up teaching to become a policeman. She is currently attending the Phoenix Police Academy.

THE INFIELD will remain intact with Helen Andrade at third, Suzie Gaw at short, Karen Fellenz at second and Mary Faure at first.

Suzie hit .352 last year, tops on the team. She also led the team in homers (16) and runs batted in (40).

The outfield will consist of Barb Garcia, Carla Stearns and Julie Gresley or Misty LaSal-

via. The latter two players are rookies.

STAPLEY ALSO said Venita Hokai will join the pitching staff. She is pitching for Glendale Community College this year, Stapley added.

"We're going to be able to field a seasoned team," said Stapley, "but there's the possibility of having two or three rookies (in the lineup)."

Some of the regulars will not be able to play immediately because of commitments to college softball programs. But once he has his regular lineup on the field, Stapley is confident the Saints will be as good or better than the team that finished third last season in the national tournament.

"WE'RE GOING to be all right," he said. "I think we'll hold our own against anybody. If I didn't, I wouldn't be out here."

The Saints, 46-13 last season, open the '84 campaign May 19 with a 7:30 p.m. double-header against the Phoenix Bobcats in Sun City Stadium.

The Saints also will host the Phoenix Ramblers for a 7:30 p.m. May 20 double-header.



NEWS-SUN SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1984



### **Big booster**

Fred Kuentz, right, president of Del E. Webb Development Co., purchases \$1,000 worth of tickets for Sun City Saints games from Joe Davisson, left, the team's booster club president. With the two is Helen Marie Stobar-Flory, booster club finance director.

Purchase of the tickets, which will be distributed to Webb employees and in the area, is the company's way of supporting "a real tradition in the Sun Cities," Kuentz said. Saints open their softball season May 19 at home. (News-Sun photo)



## Stadium to host tournament

The final rounds of the Junior Olympic Girls Fastpitch Invitational Tournament will be held Saturday and Sunday in Sun City Stadium beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Softball competition will be in three age divisions—12 and under, 15 and under and 18 and under—with the two teams with the best records from round-robin play advancing to championship games Sunday.

Among the cities represented by 30 teams will be Phoenix, Glendale, Tucson and Scottsdale.

"We have drawn top teams

from all over Arizona," said John McGonigle, commissioner of the Metro Phoenix Amateur Softball Association, sponsor of the tournament.

Games in the 12-and-under division are set for 5:30 p.m., each night with the 15-and-under group scheduled to play at 7. Games in the 18-and-under division are set for 8:30.

Tickets sold at the gate will be \$1.50 for adults and 50 cents for children under 16. Proceeds will be used to help cover the cost of the Sun City Saints' trip to the national tournament.

## Saints begin 1984 season

Sun City Saints will open their 1984 season schedule of home games 7:30 p.m. May 19 at Sun City Stadium.

The Saints, a young women's softball team which finished third in the nation last year, will play a minimum of 40 home games on weekend evenings this summer.

They will host the Phoenix Bobettes in the opener, then entertain the Phoenix Ramblers at 7:30 p.m. May 20.

Tickets are \$1.50. Season tickets, at \$25, are available from Saints Booster Club members.

Ann Loos, vice president special projects/ombudsman for Del E. Webb Development Company, will throw out the first ball in opening night ceremonies, which will begin at 7 p.m. May 19. Loren Hays, of the Old Time Athletes Association, will be behind the plate and Sam Higginbotham, representing the Lions Clubs, will be in the batter's box.

National Anthem will be sung by Lucy Hays.

Eleven members return from last year's Saints team which posted a 46-13 record.

Heading the list of returnees is veteran catcher Marilyn Rau, the sole remaining member of the original Saints squad. Also returning will be outfielder-shortstop Suzie Gaw, who last year led the team in home runs (16), runs batted in (40), slugging percentage (.797) and batting average (.352). Also back will be pitchers Connie

Clark and Michelle Thomas, who combined for 36 victories and only 10 losses last season.

Other returning veterans are Barb Garcia, Mary Faure, Karen Fellenz, Carla Stearns, Helen Andrade, Tammy McKinney and Gay Turley.

Newcomers include pitcher Venita Hokai, catcher Julia Gresly and utility players Sherry Benefield and Kathryn Encarrega. Wendy Johnson and Diane Woodward will be the team batgirls.

The Bobettes, who handed the Saints a double loss last year to break a 22-game opening season win streak, have two former Saints in their lineup—Becky Rice in the outfield and LeeAnn Easley at second base. On the mound will be Tanya Adrian, who shut out the Saints last year, and Kathy Wahrendorf.

Coached by Bob Border, the Bobettes finished second in the Copperstate League last year.

Although composed of high school players, the Ramblers gave Central Arizona and Glendale Community College a battle earlier this year, losing to the former, 4-3, and to Glendale, 1-0 in 15 innings.

Among the key players under coach Bob Swan's direction are pitcher "Mike" Leavitt, outfielder Jane Dougall, first baseman Kathy Dryer and 15-year-old shortstop Vivian Holm.





CHARLES AND HELEN MARIE FLORY

## *Newlyweds live in Sun City West*

Charles and Helen Marie Flory are making their home at 12946 Desert Glen Dr., Sun City West, after a wedding April 27 in St. Clement Church in Sun City.

The bride is the former Helen Marie Boyda Stobar of Sun City, and formerly of Dearborn, Mich. The bridegroom, whose home is in Sun City West, also is a former Dearborn resident.

Matron of honor was Alice Kane and best man was William Kane.

Flory, who received his doctorate in law from the Detroit College of Law, was a member of the State Bar of Michigan,

the Dearborn Bar Association and Cherry Hill United Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Flory, a Wayne State University graduate in social work, was a probate register of Wayne County probate court, is a former U.S. Navy WAVE, financial director of the Sun City Saints Booster Club, St. Clement's Women's League, the Disabled American Veterans of Glendale and the Glendale post of the American Legion.

A reception in the newlyweds' home followed the wedding.

Many out-of-state guests included two brothers of the bride, Henry and Bernard Boyda.

**NEWS-SUN**  
MONDAY, MAY 14, 1984



# Sports

NEWS-SUN

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1984



KARMEN BOOTH

## Saints' plans

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

Rookies have often played an important part in the success of the Sun City Saints.

Players like pitcher Michelle Thomas and infielders Helen Andrade and Mary Faure have all made big contributions as first-year players for the women's fast-pitch softball team.

This year the rookies to watch will be catcher-outfielder Julia Gresly, pitcher Venita Hokai and outfielder Misty LaSalvia, a student at Tolleson Union High School.

"LASALVIA IS very impressive," said Gerald Stapley, who will handle the general manager duties this season after five years as coach. "She has speed, ball sense and a personality. She's quite a gal," he said.

"Of course, as a high school

student she still has a lot to learn."

Stapley calls Miss Gresly "a real good aggressive catcher" who will be able to spell nine-time All-America pick Marilyn Rau behind the plate.

MISS HOKAI, Stapley said, is a native of New Zealand who played for Glendale Community College this year.

Her addition will help fill the void left by the departure of Debbie Doom. Debbie, 10-3 last season and most valuable player in the 1980 national tournament, plans to pitch for a California team this season, Stapley said.

Miss Hokai "is a seasoned thrower" despite her rookie status, said Stapley, and should get a chance to prove herself immediately.

MISS THOMAS, ace of the

## may include rookies

pitching staff, won't be available until the University of Oklahoma finishes its season, Stapley said. Michelle, 17-6 in 1983, is an assistant coach there.

Connie Clark also will probably be absent when the Saints open their season at 7:30 p.m. today in Sun City Stadium against the Phoenix Bobettes. Connie, 19-4 a year ago, pitches for Central Arizona, which is playing this weekend in the National Junior College Athletic Association tournament at Rockford, Ill.

The regular infield will be unchanged from a year ago. Back from the Saints' team that finished third in the national tournament in Salt Lake City will be Miss Andrade (third), Suzie Gaw (short), Karen Fellenz (second) and Miss Faure (first).

BARB GARCIA and Carla Stearns will make up two-thirds of the regular outfield. Miss LaSalvia could win the other spot.

Miss Stearns teaches in Colorado, Stapley said, and won't be available to the Saints for a couple of weeks. Miss Andrade and Miss Fellenz play for Arizona State and Arizona, respectively, and may be unavailable this weekend.

IN ADDITION to Miss Doom, others who will not return to the Saints this year include infielder Ann Beisser and outfielders Pat Bova and Peggy Miranda.

The coaching switch was agreed to by Stapley and has created "no disruption on the team," said Saints Booster Club President Joe Davisson.

Miss Booth served as an assistant to Stapley last season

and has been working on a doctorate in athletic administration at the University of Utah. She also has experience as a visiting professor at Arizona State.

"SHE HAS extremely good abilities in that area (coaching)," said Davisson. "The change is something we thought would be best. Our goal is to get the national championship."

The Saints claimed their only national title in 1979.

Opening night ceremonies will be at 7. Ann Loos, a Del E. Webb Development Co. vice president, will throw out the first ball. Also taking part will be Loren Hayes, Sam Higginbotham and Burt Freireich.

The Saints will host the Phoenix Ramblers for two games beginning at 7:30 p.m. Sunday.



**NEWS-SUN**

MONDAY, MAY 21, 1984



Sam Higginbotham hits a pitch from Ann Loos during opening ceremonies Saturday prior to Saints game. Catcher is Loren Hays and umpire is Chet Lucas. (Photo by Morris Berman)



## Saints turn errors into pair of wins

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

It may have been a different method, but the result was the same as it had been the previous night in Sun City Stadium.

The Sun City Saints banged out 23 hits in beating the Phoenix Bobettes 7-2 and 17-0 Saturday. Sunday, they managed just three hits, all singles, to escape with a pair of 3-0 victories in front of 681 fast-pitch softball fans.

"I think we were a little laid back after pounding the ball Saturday," said first-year Saints coach Karmen Booth. "We didn't get out of here until about midnight. That makes it a little hard to turn around and come back."

THE SAINTS, 4-0, scored single runs in each of the first three innings of the opener despite being held hitless by Rambler right-hander Mike Leavitt.

In the bottom of the first, Saints shortstop Sherry Benefield walked with one out and moved to third when her Rambler counterpart, Vivian Holm, fielded a Mary Faure grounder and threw wildly past first baseman Cathy Dryer.

Marilyn Rau then was issued an intentional walk and Helen Andrade followed with a sacrifice fly to score Miss Benefield.

THE SAINTS took a 2-0 lead in the second inning with another unearned run.

Right fielder Kathy Escarcega opened with a walk and scored via a pair of wild pitches from Miss Leavitt.

The Saints scored their third unearned run an inning later when Mary Faure reached base on an infield error and eventually came home on another miscue.

ROOKIE right-hander Venita Hokai, meanwhile, hurled a no-hitter in only her second start for the Saints. She gave up just five hits to pick up the victory in Saturday's season opener.

The 21-year-old New Zealander, a student at Glendale Community College, struck out nine and walked two.

Errors also cost the Ramblers, 1-6, in the nightcap.

AN INFIELD error by Rambler third baseman Ann Rowan and walks to Miss Rau and Miss Faure filled the bases for the Saints in the first inning.

Pitcher Lisa Brady looked as though she would escape unharmed when Miss Benefield was forced at home for the second out.

She issued a bases-loaded walk to Miss Andrade, however, to score Miss Faure and Miss Rau scampered home when Miss Holm bobbled a Julie Gresly grounder at short.

THE SAINTS went ahead 3-0 in the fifth when Suzie Lady scored as the Ramblers tried to retire Miss Garcia, who had singled and purposely gotten into a run-down.

Tami Campbell, a senior at Coronado High School in Scottsdale, allowed just one hit, a fifth-inning single, to pick up the victory. It was the second win in as many nights for Tami, who hurled a two-hitter in the 17-0 shutout of the Bobettes on Saturday.

That game ended after five innings due to the 10-run rule.

The Saints will host the Phoenix Peppers Saturday in a 7:30 p.m. double-header. Tucson's Dave LaCompte Sporting Goods will be in town Sunday.

## Connie Clark shines in tourney

Pitcher Connie Clark wasn't in a Saints' uniform over the weekend, but she was making things tough on opposing batters in the National Junior College Athletic Association softball tournament at Rockford, Ill.

Connie blanked Crowder (Mo.) Junior College 2-0 in the title game as Central Arizona captured its first NJCAA championship.

She had 13 strikeouts in that contest and 68 for the tourna-

ment.

Connie led Greenway High School to a pair of state championships in 1982 and '83, but was overlooked last spring by major colleges.

She was the surprise of the Saints' pitching staff last season, posting a 0.56 earned-run average and 19-4 mark in 35 games.

Connie and left-hander Mich-

elle Thomas should be in uniform for the Saints soon. That leaves coach Karmen Booth with a pleasant problem—what to do with Venita Hokai, who won a pair of games for the Saints over the weekend. "Until I see my other pitches, I don't know what I'll do," Karmen said Sunday. "We'll just have to wait."



MONDAY, MAY 21, 1984 NEWS-SUN



### ***True fan***

Sun City Saints second baseman Karen Feilenz has a true fan in 2-year-old niece Angela, shown here in a mini-Saints uniform watching her favorite player Saturday evening in Sun City Stadium as the Saints opened their season with four straight wins in double-headers against Phoenix' Bobettes and Ramblers. (Story, B1).

(Photo by Morris Berman)



## SPORTS

### Hot Peppers meet Saints

Sun City Saints will entertain the Phoenix Peppers in a women's softball doubleheader 7:30 p.m. May 26 at Sun City Stadium.

The Saints will host Tucson's Dave La Compte Sporting Goods in a May 27 twin-bill.

Sun City Pom Pom Girls will entertain between games May 26.

Game tickets are \$1.50, but season tickets for 22 dates, are available from

Booster Club members for \$25.

The Peppers won the ASA Class B state title last year with a 48-9-1 record. They won the regional championships in 1982.

Coached by Herb Brakefield, the team boasts a pair of top hurlers in Gayle Van Der Linden, who pitched four no-hitters

last year, and Lori White, who compiled a 21-1 record at Cactus High School in 1983.

La Compte won the 18-year and under title in the Glendale Invitational Tournament at Sun City Stadium earlier in May. The team won the state title and finished fourth

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in regional competition in its age group last year. They were 44-8.

"Seven of the players from last year's AAA champion Saguaro High School team are on our squad," says coach Joe Fuentes, "and four of them were named all-state or all-city."

In this group are hurlers Chris Liechty (14-2) and Nickie Sandstede (12-0), first baseman Susan Hammer and third baseman Mickie McBride. Both Hammer and

McBride hit over .400 last year, with Hammer belting 11 homers. Liechty, another

.400 hitter, plays shortstop when she's not pitching.

The Saints, who opened their season last weekend, build an offense around the bats of Suzie Gaw, Marilyn Rau and Mary Faure. Defensively, they count on the pitching arms of Michelle Thomas, who is ex-

pected to join the club by the end of the month, and Connie Clark.

Karmen Booth, who assisted Gerald Stapley last year, takes over the coaching duties this year. Stapley will handle the club's business affairs as general manager.

### Saints schedule

May 19	Phoenix Bobettes
May 20	Phoenix Ramblers
May 26	Phoenix Peppers
May 27	Dave LaCompe
June 2	Phoenix Royals
June 3	Phx Metro
	All-Stars
June 5	North Missouri CTs
June 6	North Missouri CTs
June 9	Tucson Playmakers
June 10	Phoenix Devils
June 16	Phoenix Westerners
June 17	Phoenix Travelers
June 23	Phoenix Blues
June 24	Phoenix Blues
June 30	San Diego Astros
July 1	San Diego Astros
July 6-8	Webb Tournament
July 14	Calif Silverstreaks
July 15	Calif Silverstreaks
July 17	at Vancouver
July -22	tournament
July 28	California Blazers
July 29	California Blazers
Aug. 4	Phx Apaches
Aug. 5	Phx Stars
Aug. 17	National
Aug. -24	Tourney

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



# Sports **NEWS-SUN** SATURDAY, MAY 26, 1984

## Pitchers' return

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

Karmen Booth is faced with a problem, but it's one she can easily live with.

The first-year coach of the Sun City Saints has to decide how she'll work a pair of impressive rookies into a pitching staff that already has two outstanding arms.

Michelle Thomas and Connie Clark will be in a Saints' uniform for the first time this season when the Phoenix Peppers visit Sun City Stadium for a double-header at 7:30 p.m. today.

THEY WILL join rookie hur-

lers Venita Hokai and Tamara Campbell. Both right-handers are 2-0.

Miss Hokai, a native of New Zealand who attends Glendale Community College, hurled a no-hitter last Sunday as the Saints beat the Phoenix Ramblers 3-0 in the first game of a double-header. In two complete games she has allowed just one run while striking out 14.

"She was throwing real hard and hitting spots," said Karmen.

MISS CAMPBELL, a senior at Scottsdale's Coronado High School, pitched a one-hitter against the Ramblers in Sun-

day's nightcap as the Saints again triumphed 3-0. The night before she gave up just two hits in a 17-0 Saints' victory over the Phoenix Bobettes.

Michelle, an assistant softball coach at the University of Oklahoma, is coming off a 17-6 season for the Saints, who finished third in the 1983 women's national fast-pitch softball tournament.

The hard-throwing left-hander struck out 139 batters in 144½ innings last season while posting an impressive 0.73 earned-run average.

GIVEN THE opportunity to pitch regularly for the first time

## bolsters Saints' staff

last year, Connie proved she was more than equal to the challenge. The former Greenway High School star made the most appearances of any Saints' pitcher, 33, and was 19-4.

The right-hander had a 0.56 ERA and struck out 193 batters in 175½ innings. Her 11 shutouts were tops on the staff.

Connie was not offered a scholarship by any of the big schools last year and has shown the likes of Arizona State that they may have made a mistake.

LAST WEEK in Rockford, Ill., Connie led Arizona Central to the National Junior College Athletic Association softball

championship. She fanned 13 batters in a 2-0 shutout of Crowder (Mo.) Junior College in the title game. Her 68 strikeouts for the tournament was a record.

For now, Karmen said, she'll use all four "in rotation."

That would be a change over last year when former coach Gerald Stapley basically relied on two starters.

KARMEN ALSO said she plans more moves like that which saw regular first baseman Mary Faure move to second for a game last Sunday.

"I'll mix it up," she said, "I plan to use them at different places in case someone gets hurt."

Also returning today will be backup infielder Tammy McKinney, who just completed her freshman year at Cal State-Fullerton.

THE PEPPERS were 48-9 last season and won the class B state title. They are led by pitchers Gayle Van Der Linden and Lori White.

The Saints will host Tucson's Dave La Compe Sporting Goods for a 7:30 Sunday double-header.

Dave La Compe, 44-8 last year, won the Glendale Invitational tournament played earlier this month in Sun City Stadium.



# Saints keep rolling

No-hitters are supposed to be something special, but they have become routine for the Sun City Saints early in their 1984 women's fast-pitch softball season.

Connie Clark hurled a five-inning no-hitter before Michelle Thomas and Tamara Campbell teamed for another as the Saints swept a double-header from Dave La Compte Sporting Goods Sunday, 10-0 and 8-0, to climb to 8-0.

Venita Hokai threw a no-hitter for the Saints May 20.

THE SAINTS grabbed a 3-0 lead against the Tucson squad in Sunday's first game before 882 fans in Sun City Stadium to seal the victory.

Lead-off hitter Barb Garcia reached on a bunt single and moved to second base on Karen Fellenz' sacrifice. Barb then advanced to third as Mary Faure grounded out and scored when Dave La Compte's Kris Leichty unloaded a wild pitch.

Marilyn Rau and Tammy McKinney scored on a pair of outfield errors to make it 3-0.

THE SAINTS took a 4-0 lead in the second when rookie Kathy Escarcega tripled for her first of three hits during the game and scored on an infield error.

The Saints added three runs in the third, two in the fourth and one in the fifth to move

ahead 10-0. The game was called after the fifth-inning run due to the 10-run rule.

Miss Escarcega has been a surprise to Saints' fans who hadn't seen the Californian play before this season.

SHE WAS the leading hitter this past season for Arizona State, where she drew the attention of Saints' Coach Karmen Booth.

"She's not a sleeper," said Karmen. "I knew what I was getting when I asked her to play. She's a power hitter and has excellent hitting skills."

Miss Clark, making her first start, struck out 13 and walked one.

IN THE nightcap, Helen Andrade's two-run single in the second gave the Saints all the runs they needed.

Sherry Benefield also singled home a run in the second and the Saints scored three more times in the third to move ahead 6-0. Michelle worked three innings and struck out five before giving way to Miss Campbell, who pitched the final four innings and got the victory.

On Saturday, the Saints beat the Phoenix Peppers 5-2 and 4-3.

MICHELLE pitched the first game and struck out 15 batters.

Miss Hokai struck out eight in the nightcap.

The Saints host the Dusters in a 7:30 p.m. Saturday double-

header in the stadium. The Saints will entertain the Phoenix Metro Allstars in a 7:30 p.m. Sunday twin-bill.

The Saints were scheduled to play the Phoenix Royals Saturday. The Royals had scheduling problems and were replaced by the Dusters.



## Saints to host Dusters

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

The Sun City Saints will put their perfect record on the line when they host the Phoenix Dusters in a 7:30 p.m. double-header today at Sun City Stadium.

The Saints, 8-0, come into today's action off a double-header sweep of Tucson's Dave La Compte Sporting Goods.

Connie Clark hurled a no-hitter as the Saints drubbed Dave La Compte 10-0 in last Sunday's first fast-pitch softball game. The 10-run rule ended that game after five innings.

MICHELLE Thomas and Tamara Campbell teamed to hurl another no-hitter as the Saints

took the nightcap, 8-0.

Both Michelle, an assistant softball coach at the University of Oklahoma, and Connie, who pitched for national junior college champion Central Arizona this spring, made their season debuts for the Saints last weekend and appeared in mid-season form.

"Michelle had been pitching batting practice at Oklahoma all spring," said coach Karmen Booth, "and Connie got in plenty of work for Central Arizona."

PERHAPS THE biggest surprise of the early season has been infielder-outfielder Kathy Escarcega, who will take a team-leading .545 batting average into

today's action. She also boasts a hefty .954 slugging percentage with 21 total bases in 22 at-bats.

Miss Booth said she recruited Kathy after watching her play in February for the Arizona State softball team.

"She's an excellent hitter," Karmen said of the 19-year-old Californian, who will be a sophomore when she resumes studies at Arizona State. "She's also valuable because she can play several positions."

THE SAINTS could face their toughest test of the season Sunday when they host the Phoenix Metro All-Stars for a 7:30 p.m. double-header.

The All-Stars feature many of the top players in the Phoenix Metro League, including catcher-infielder DeDe Stradon of the Dusters. Other top Phoenix players on the All-Stars include shortstop Nina Parker of the Dancers and Peppers first baseman Lori "Rabbit" Roberts.

The Saints won't get much time off after this weekend. They return to action Tuesday when the North Missouri CTs visit Sun City.

THE CTS will play the Saints at 7:30 p.m. before taking on the Phoenix Blues at 9. On Wednesday the CTs will play the Blues at 7:30 and the Saints at 9.

6 -View- Thursday, June 7, 1984 NEWS-SUN

## Saints gear up for Sinnerama

The Sun City Saints will present their annual variety show, *Sinnerama*, featuring local entertainers at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Sun City Stadium.

The Spielmannszug, a German-American drum and bugle corps, will present the Colors. Guest soloist Lee Walker, retired minister of the First Presbyterian Church, will play *The National Anthem* on the trumpet.

Rose Schwartz, Booster Club vice president, will present her students in aerobic routines.

Showing off some of their new costumes and routines will

be the Sun Cities Pom Poms, who have marched in Orange Bowl parades and appeared on national television and at many civic and private parties.

Art Tabbert will present a special dance number with his "girlfriend."

Dick Jaynes, who recently played Sid in the Sun City Players' *The Pajama Game*, will sing a tenor solo.

Filling the air with all-time favorite melodies will be the Sounds of Swing, a combo comprised of George Rouvalis, bass; Ken Hugo, drums; Mel Rush, trombone; Bill Jones,

clarinet and sax; Jack Lowman, trumpet and Ellen Lowman, piano. Rouvalis and Ellen Lowman will sing.

Also featured will be the Kiss-a-thon during which the Saints sell kisses for \$1. Assisting them will be Channel 12's Jerry Foster, who also will land the Skywatch 12 Helicopter on the ballfield, and the Saints' general manager, Gerald Stapley.

The event's emcee and chairman, Lucy Hays, who recently played Babe in *The Pajama Game*, will sing some special songs.

Tickets, at \$1, are available from Booster Club members, at all United Banks, or at the gate. The event is a benefit for the Saints' team and travel expenses.



# Sports NEWS-SUN MONDAY, JUNE 4, 1984

## Saints make most

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

Victories have come easy for the Sun City Saints this season.

So maybe it shouldn't come as a surprise when coach Karmen Booth considers the Saints' 7-0 win against the Phoenix Metro All-Stars Sunday a triumph over adversity.

"I was proud of the fact they could come back and close out the game," she said. "It was a

pretty good matchup."

**THE WIN** before 1,000 fans in Sun City Stadium completed a Saints' double-header sweep of the All-Stars and upped their fast-pitch softball record to 12-0. The Saints also swept a double-header from the Phoenix Dusters Saturday, 9-2 and 8-0.

The Saints scored their winning run of Sunday's opener when Barb Garcia scored from second on a first-inning single by

Karen Fellenz.

Barb, the Saints' leadoff batter, reached first on an infield error and stole second before Karen's game-winning hit.

**THE SAINTS** added a pair of unearned runs in the third inning to move ahead 3-0.

They made it 5-0 in the fifth on a run-scoring ground out by Marilyn Rau and Kathey Escarcega's sacrifice fly.

Winning pitcher Michelle

## of All-Star mistakes

Thomas, 2-0, went the distance and gave up just two hits. The left-hander struck out eight All-Stars.

**GAYLE** Vanderlinden held the Saints to just one hit—a single by Miss Garcia—through three innings of the nightcap before fielding mistakes again did in the All-Stars.

In the fourth, Suzie Gaw reached first base when catcher Amy Berberick dropped a rou-

tine pop-up, advanced to second on a sacrifice and scored the winning run when Miss Escarcega singled.

Miss Escarcega later came home on a passed ball and Gay Turley made it 3-0 with a single that scored Tammy McKinney.

**THE SAINTS** added four runs in the fifth, two coming on a base hit by Helen Andrade, to take a 7-0 lead.

Right-hander Connie Clark, 2-

0, picked up the win. She gave up just two hits—both in the sixth inning—and struck out 11 batters.

The Saints will host the North Missouri CTs at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Sun City Stadium. The CTs also will play the Phoenix Blues at 9.

Miss Booth said Michelle will start Tuesday's game against the CTs.

### Softball

SUN CITY SAINTS *v.* NORTH MISSOURI CTs 1  
North Missouri 0-0 0-0 1-1 1-1  
Sun City Saints 0-0 3-0 2-0 2-0  
Thomas and Cravler, Soderberg and Gerhardt.  
W—Thomas, 2-0 L—Soderberg



# Sports

NEWS-SUN

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 1984

## CTs to open series against 12-0 Saints

The North Missouri CTs will compete this weekend in a women's fast-pitch softball tournament in Las Vegas, Nev.

But before they complete their journey to Las Vegas, the CTs will fight tough odds by taking on the unbeaten Sun City Saints.

The Saints, 12-0, will play the CTs at 7:30 p.m. today in Sun City Stadium. The CTs and Phoenix Blues will meet at 9.

The CTs will be in town again Wednesday night for two games, playing the Blues and Saints at 7:30 and 9, respectively.

Saints Coach Karmen Booth said she will start Michelle Thomas in tonight's opener. Newcomer Bonnie Kraemer will get the call Wednesday, Miss Booth said.

Michelle, 2-0, gave up just two hits and struck out eight in a 5-0 win Sunday over the Phoenix Metro All-Stars. Bonnie hurled an 8-0 shutout against the Phoenix Dusters Saturday in her pitching debut for the Saints.

The CTs, coached by Nanetta Carter, were 21-14 last year. The St. Joseph, Mo., squad is led by 16-year veteran Linda Rapp and pitcher DeOrne Sederburg, who played for the University of Missouri last year.

Winner of the May Junior Olympic Girls Fast-Pitch Invitational tournament in Sun City Stadium, the Blues are led by pitcher Lucy Casares and catcher Kathey Hicks.

The Blues also have several college players on their roster, including outfielders Cheryl Persinger and Kelly Prendergrass (Arizona State) and shortstop Tracy Almjhell (Arizona).

Women					
SAINTS 5, METRO ALL-STAR 0					
First game					
Metro All-Stars	000	000	0-0	2-4	
Sun City Saints	101	020	1-0	5-0	
James and Smith; Thomas and Rau. W—Thomas, 7-0.					
SAINTS 7, ALL STARS 0					
Second game					
Metro All-Stars	000	000	0-0	2-2	5
Sun City Saints	000	300	0-0	7-9	1
VanderLinden, Boudrie (4) and Smith. Head (4); Clark and Rau. W—Clark, L—VanderLinden.					

Page 22—June 6-12, 1984—SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

## SPORTS

### Saints face all-stars

Sun City Saints, who are playing a team from Missouri June 6, won't have much rest before taking on the Tucson Playmakers in a 7:30 p.m. doubleheader June 9 at Sun City Stadium.

An opponent for June 10 had not yet been determined by press time.

The Saints increased their win streak to 12 games by winning two doubleheaders last weekend. They defeated the Phoenix Dusters, 9-2 and 8-0, June 2 and shut out the Metro All-Stars, 5-0 and 7-0, June 3.

The Playmakers, who won 15 of their

## SPORTS

Continued from page 22

out 15 and walked one.

Venetia Hokai won her third in the nightcap as the Saints rallied to win, 4-3.

Through May 27, Saints pitchers had allowed only one earned run in 52 innings for an ERA of 0.13.

Rookie Kathy Escarcega had the hot bat that weekend with nine hits in 13 trips to the plate. She had two doubles, three triples and four runs batted in. Marilyn Rau had four hits in seven at bats, including two doubles, a triple and two runs batted in.

Game tickets are \$1.50 or \$25 for a 22-punch season ticket. A cardholder can have as many holes punched—or used—per night. That way, a fan can bring an entire family or numerous guests all on just one card.

first 16 games this season, have won the Arizona Parks and Recreation association and the El Barrio tournaments this year.

Among the key players are pitchers Denise Gorman, chosen most valuable player in the 1983 regional; hurler Elma Rude, all-conference at Pima Community College; and two former Saints, second baseman Kathy Gonzales and first baseman Rocky LaRose, known as Rocky Rockenfield while playing for the Saints.

The Phoenix Devils were originally scheduled for June 10, but cancelled to participate in a Las Vegas tournament.

The Saints threw two no-hitters at Dave

LaCompte Sporting Goods May 27. Connie Clark, making her 1984 pitching debut, faced only 16 batters in the five-inning opener, won by the Saints, 10-0. Clark walked one and fanned 13 batters.

In the second game, Tami Campbell picked up her third win by pitching the final four innings in relief of starter Michelle Thomas. Thomas pitched three perfect innings, fanning five of the nine batters she faced.

Thomas made her season debut in the May 26 opener against the Phoenix Peppers, allowing three hits in a 5-2 win. She struck

Continued on page 23



## Saints set variety show

Sun City Saints will present their annual Sinnerama variety show featuring local entertainers 7:30 p.m. June 11, at Sun City Stadium, 111th and Grand Avenues.

The event will raise money for team and travel expenses to tournaments.

The German-American drum and bugle corp, Spielmannsburg, will present the colors and Dr. Lee Walker, retired minister of First Presbyterian Church, will present a trumpet solo.

Entertainment includes Rose Schwartz and her aerobic students performing routines and Corrine Leslie and the Pom Poms. Art Tabbert will be featured in a



TELEVISION HELICOPTER pilot/weatherman Jerry Foster has always been welcome in the Sun Cities as a speaker. However, this time Foster will offer his lips in a Kiss-A-Thon sponsored by Sun City Saints Booster Club during their Sinnerama variety show June 11 at Sun City Stadium. Tickets are \$1 each. Saints general manager Gerald Stapley, Foster and members of the Saints will be available to pucker up beginning at 7:30 p.m.

B2 NEWS-SUN WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984



## Booster plans

Lucy Hays, left, chairman of Monday's Sinnerama, discusses fund-raising plans for the Sun City Saints Booster Club with Jean Lucas, season ticket chairman, center, and Betty Webb, membership

chairman. Sinnerama and season tickets can be purchased at area United Bank offices. Information concerning club membership can be obtained by calling 974-1487.

(News-Sun photo)



## **Pucker up: Sun City Saints are prepared to thrill you during 'Kiss-a-thon' event**

SUN CITY — A "Kiss-a-thon," where members of the Sun City Saints amateur womens' softball team sell kisses for \$1 apiece, will be among the highlights of "Sinnerama," a fund-raising event for the team at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Sun City Stadium.

Also selling kisses will be Gerald Stapley, the Saints' general manager, and Jerry Foster, a KPNX-TV (Channel 12) personality.

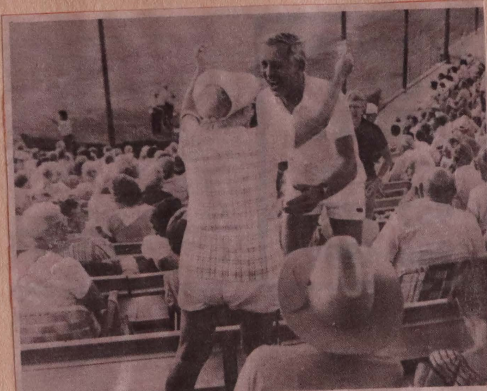
In last year's "Kiss-a-thon," Foster sold \$200 in

kisses and Stapley sold \$180.

The Sinnerama, which will help pay the team's travel expenses to tournaments, will include performances by the Spielmannszug — a German-American drum and bugle corps — the Sun City Pom Poms, the Sounds of Swing band, and Dr. Dick Jaynes, a singer.

Tickets are \$1 and are available at all United Bank branches, from Saints Booster Club members and at the gate the night of the performance.





AN ENTHUSIASTIC FAN, above, of either the Sun City Saints or television personality Jerry Foster, is about to overwhelm the Channel 12 weatherman-helicopter pilot during the recent Kiss-A-Thon. Several hundred dollars were raised during the Saints Booster Club's Sinnerama for travel expenses. Below, Saints pitcher Connie Clark smooches the cheek of a happy fan. Photos by Morris Herman





## CTs receive cool

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

The North Missouri CTs came west to play the Sun City Saints.

And after facing the strong left arm of Michelle Thomas Tuesday, they found their batting averages had gone south.

Michelle, 3-0, gave up just two hits and struck out nine as the Saints kept their perfect fast-pitch softball record intact with a 9-1 victory in Sun City Stadium.

IN A SECOND game, the Phoenix Blues blanked the CTs

11-0.

The Saints, who entered the game with a hefty .340 team batting average, were held hitless in only one inning, the first, by losing pitcher DeOnn Sederberg.

Saints' left fielder Kathy Escarcega got things going in the second with a leadoff triple and trotted home when Suzie Gaw doubled to right.

SHERRY Benefield made it 2-0 with an infield single that scored Miss Gaw. Miss Benefield later moved to third on an error

and scored on Julie Gresly's one-out grounder.

In the fourth, the Saints, 13-0, added three more runs to take a 6-0 lead.

Miss Gaw opened the bottom of the inning with a double and remained at second as Miss Benefield reached base on an error by CTs' shortstop Laura Smith.

VENITA HOKAI'S ground out moved both runners up a base and set the stage for a peculiar fielding play.

Helen Andrade beat a pitch

## welcome from Saints

into the ground in front of home plate and catcher Patti Gerhardt pounced on the ball. Her throw, however, sailed by first baseman Rita Rice and right fielder Taryn Taulbee, who was backing up the play. By the time anyone could chase down the ball, all three runners had scored to give the Saints a 6-0 lead.

Miss Gaw's second homer of the season, a three-run shot to center field, made it 9-0 in the fifth.

MICHELLE CAME within two outs of posting her second

shutout of the season, but two errors, one of her own doing, put North Missouri on the scoreboard.

Miss Smith hit a pop-up to open the top of the seventh, but Michelle called teammates off the ball before dropping it for an error. Miss Sederberg followed with the second single off Michelle to move Miss Smith to second.

Debbie Lopez moved both runners up with a sacrifice bunt and Miss Smith scored when Miss Escarcega then dropped a rou-

tine fly ball in right, spoiling Michelle's shutout bid.

Blues 11, CTs 0

The Blues grabbed a 4-0 lead in the first before adding seven second-inning runs.

Lucy Casarez, winning pitcher, held the CTs to three hits while her teammates were banging out 11.

THE BLUES and CTs will meet again at 7:30 p.m. today in Sun City Stadium. The CTs then will take on the Saints at 9.

Bonnie Kraemer, 1-0, is slated to start for the Saints.



# Blues, Saints

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

The North Missouri CTs hoped for a tuneup prior to playing in a Las Vegas, Nev., fast-pitch softball tournament this weekend.

What they found instead were wrecking crews in the form of the Sun City Saints and Phoenix Blues.

The Saints, 14-0, defeated the CTs 4-1 Wednesday in Sun City Stadium. It was their second victory in as many days over the

St. Joseph, Mo., team, which also dropped a 14-1 decision to the Blues Wednesday.

**THE SAINTS**, who will entertain the Tucson Playmakers Saturday, looked like they might pick up where they left off Tuesday when they rolled to a 9-1 win.

Rookie Sherry Benefield opened the bottom of the first inning for the Saints with a single and stole second before Karen Fellenz was walked by

losing pitcher DeOnn Sederberg.

A bunt by Mary Faure moved both runners up and Kathy Escarcega, who entered the game with a team-leading .500 batting average, lofted a sacrifice fly to right that scored Miss Benefield and gave the Saints a 1-0 lead.

**A FOURTH-INNING** single by Suzie Gaw put the Saints on top 2-0, but North Missouri answered with a run in the fifth off right-hander Bonnie Kraemer.

Miss Sederberg opened the

## rough up CTs

fifth inning with a single, moved to second on a ground out and scored when Patti Gerhardt stroked a base hit to left.

The Saints scored twice in the fifth to move ahead 4-1. Miss Escarcega scored on Carla Stearns' ground out, which also advanced Miss Gaw to third.

Miss Gaw, who had reached base on a double, scored when Miss Sederberg dropped a routine pop fly near the mound.

**MISS KRAEMER**, 2-0,

struck out seven batters.

Miss Sederberg, who lost to the Saints Tuesday night, struck out five.

The Saints may find themselves in a fight to keep their perfect record intact when the Playmakers visit Sun City Stadium Saturday for a 7:30 p.m. double-header.

**THE TUCSON** squad, winner of last year's Amateur Softball Association regional tournament in San City Stadium, was 15-1 at

one point this season.

Pitcher Denise Gorman, voted most valuable player in the '83 regional, heads a Playmaker roster that lists two former Saints, infielders Kathy Gonzales and Rocky LaRose.

**Blues 14, CTs 1**

Cheryl Persinger's inside-the-park grand slam highlighted an eight-run second inning for the Blues.

Winning pitcher Cindy Sullivan gave up just one hit.



# Sports

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1984

## Pitcher finds home

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

There are a lot of similarities between softball pitchers Connie Clark and Debbie Doom.

Both are hard-throwing right-handers.

Both were standouts as Arizona high school pitchers.

**BOTH LED** their college softball teams to national titles this spring.

And both were good enough to wear a Sun City Saints' uniform before they celebrated their 17th birthday.

When Debbie neared the end of her senior year at Tempe's McClintock High School in 1981, the big-name schools were knocking at her door, ready to present their sales pitch.

**BUT AS** graduation day neared at Phoenix's Greenway High School in '83, Connie didn't

find herself in the same situation. She was the one doing the knocking.

Connie said Arizona and Arizona State listened, but neither offered a full athletic scholarship.

So the rangy youngster, who led Greenway to consecutive state high school championships in 1982 and '83, decided to spend her freshman year at Central Arizona College in Coolidge.

"I WAS kind of disappointed," Connie said of being overlooked by Arizona and Arizona State. "I've talked to both recently. I told them my decision was to go to Central again."

"I don't know what I'll do after that," she added. "I'd like to go to a California school, I think."

Connie led Central Arizona to its first national junior college

softball championship last month in Rockford, Ill. A win in the title game boosted her tournament mark to 3-1. She also struck out 13 batters in that contest.

**DESPITE** A busy spring, Connie has shown no signs of fatigue for the Saints, 14-0.

She will take a 2-0 mark into today's 7:30 p.m. double-header with the Tucson Playmakers at Sun City Stadium. In 15 innings of work she has allowed no runs on just two hits and has fanned 31 batters.

Connie said she feels stronger this season and credits the increased strength to the physical conditioning program at Central. Connie said she was required to do a lot of running and pitching there, even during the off-season.

**"THE RUNNING** has helped," said Connie. "I can tell

## at Central

the difference. I feel stronger and that should help in the long run.

"I'm also quicker now from throwing every day."

Saints Coach Karmen Booth also notices a difference in Connie over last year.

**"HER PITCHING** has changed tremendously," Karmen said.

"Her ball is very deceiving. It looks like she isn't using any effort."

With Debbie and left-hander Michelle Thomas bothered by injuries part of last season, it was up to Connie to pick up the slack.

**SHE LED** the Saints' hurlers in appearances (33), innings pitched (175.2) and wins (19). Connie's 0.55 earned-run average tied her with Debbie for the team lead in that department.

Although Debbie—who led

UCLA to the women's College World Series title last month—isn't with the Saints this season (she opted to play for a California team), Connie probably will not see as much duty as she did in '83.

Rather than rely on two or three pitchers to shoulder the load, Karmen has divided the work among five hurlers so far this season.

"I **FEEL** it's good for me because I've been pitching since September," said Connie. "A little break is nice."

The Saints also will host the Sing High Eagles in a 7:30 p.m. Sunday double-header.



CONNIE CLARK



# Saints lose, yet

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

It took a strange set of circumstances and the outcome won't count officially.

But the Sun City Saints finally lost a softball game. In fact, they lost a double-header Sunday, 6-2 and 6-5, in Sun City Stadium.

Until a few weeks ago, the Saints, 14-0, were scheduled to play the Phoenix Devils Sunday. The Devils couldn't make it and were replaced by another Phoenix team, the Sing High Eagles.

**FRIDAY NIGHT**, Saints General Manager Gerald Stapley said he received word from the Eagles that they, too, would not be able to keep their date.

Caught in a difficult situation, Stapley was forced to schedule the Mesa Patriots, a slow-pitch team. To make the games competitive, the Saints, a fast-pitch

squad, and Patriots played against their own pitchers and catchers.

In Sunday's first contest, a three-base error by Saints short-stop Tammy McKinney allowed Tracy Mazzoli to score from first and Karen Mazzoli doubled home Mary Eppelheimer as the Patriots broke a 1-1 tie in the top of the fifth and moved ahead 3-1.

**THE SAINTS** cut the Patriots' lead to 3-2 in the bottom of the fifth when.

Helen Andrade singled, moved to second on a wild pitch and scored when pitcher Bonnie Kraemer threw past first.

The Patriots pushed across three runs in the sixth to take a 6-2 lead.

**MISS KRAEMER**, 2-0, allowed her teammates seven hits, two by veteran Marilyn Rau.

The Saints' Connie Clark, 3-0,

## remain 14-0

also found little sympathy from her teammates.

Connie, who had given up just five hits and no runs in 22 innings of work prior to Sunday, was touched for six hits by her teammates but was tough down the stretch as the Patriots edged the Saints 6-5 in the nightcap.

**THE PATRIOTS** grabbed a 4-0 lead in the top of the first and never trailed.

Sherry Benefield walked and scored on an error and Venita Hokai's single drove home Karen Faltz as the Saints cut the Patriots' lead to 4-2 in the first.

An illegal pitch by Connie in the third inning scored Miss Benefield from third and cut the Patriots' lead to 4-3.

**THE PATRIOTS** pushed across two more runs in the fifth

to take a 6-3 lead, but in their half of the inning the Saints scored twice on Miss Hokai's two-run single to make it 6-5.

Connie held the Saints hitless over the final two innings to seal the victory.

Miss Clark and Michelle Thomas both tossed three-hitters Saturday as the Saints swept a double-header from the Tucson Playmakers, 8-0 and 4-0, respectively, in Sun City Stadium.

**CONNIE STRUCK** out eight batters while Michelle, 4-0, fanned 10.

The Saints will host the Phoenix Westerners for a 7:30 p.m. Saturday double-header. The Phoenix Travelers will be in town Sunday for a 7:30 p.m. twin-bill.





Sun Cities' Pom Poms are silhouetted against the early morning light while practicing in the Sun Bowl.

# POM POMS

*'We're going to die with our boots on'*

By JULIE WESSEL  
Staff Writer

With music booming and pom-poms swishing, those high-stepping ladies in red look more like high school cheerleaders at a homecoming game than a retirement-age pompon squad at an early-morning practice.

Just what does it take for a grandmother to be able to move like this?

**TRY ENERGY**, enthusiasm, dedication, practice and time.

At least that is what three of the 16 Sun Cities' Pom Poms say it takes to get out and perform every Saturday night for the Sun City Saints' games plus some weekday evenings and road trips for other groups.

What keeps them going?

"The response we get when we go out and perform," answered Geri Parker, 70. "We always get a standing ovation. That really gets our adrenalin going."

**THE THREE WOMEN'S** faces light up as they tell about their performances and the "unbelievable" audience responses.

"It's terrific," said Regina "Gene" Sonnenleiter, 72.

"We all love it, of course," Mrs. Parker said. "Kids go crazy when they see us doing this."

The women practice twice a week for three hours a day, starting at 7:30 a.m.

**THE GROUP PERFORMS** an average of six to eight times a

month, said its director, Corinne Leslie, who celebrated her 82nd birthday this month.

Aside from their practices and performances, the women do some exercising at home, but none of them has a set exercise program to keep fit.

Mrs. Leslie stays active at home on her trampoline and she also uses dumbbell weights.

Mrs. Sonnenleiter said she also has a small trampoline and Mrs. Parker practices her cartwheels during the week.

**DO ANY OF THEM** stick to a strict diet to stay in shape?

"I don't have to diet," Mrs. Leslie said matter-of-factly, but quickly added that she doesn't eat anything made with white flour, sugar or salt.

She also avoids eating red meat and sticks to a diet of fish and chicken.

"I don't diet. I eat plenty," she said with a laugh. "but those foods just aren't good for you."

**"I JUST TRY** to eat a balanced diet," Mrs. Sonnenleiter added.

Mrs. Parker said she does not have to diet to stay thin and only one member of the group sticks to an actual diet.

Watching the Pom Poms do their kicks and turns, their headstands and cartwheels, their sharply choreographed formations, one would guess that these were the original Dallas Cowboy

Cheerleaders.

It is hard to believe that none of them was a cheerleader or pompon girl in school.

**"THERE WAS NO** such thing as a pompon group when I was in school," Mrs. Leslie said.

"I never even thought of being a cheerleader," Mrs. Parker said.

Mrs. Sonnenleiter was in charge of a cheerleading squad when she taught physical education at Taft High School in Chicago, but she never participated in a squad as a teen.

However, some of the ladies have daughters and granddaughters who were cheerleaders or on drill teams.

**"IT RUBBED** off on us," Mrs. Sonnenleiter said.

All three described themselves as athletic.

"I was always interested in anything that was active," said Mrs. Sonnenleiter, who was not only a physical education teacher at Taft, but also taught dancing and swimming at DePaul University in Chicago for three years.

Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Leslie also were active in sports during their school days.

**AS THE THREE** women sat together chatting about their upcoming performance in the Milwaukee Second Annual City of Festivals Parade, they seem more like sisters than just friends.

"It's more like a family," said Mrs. Sonnenleiter.

"We get along beautifully," said Mrs. Leslie. "I'd never have made it without them."

"It's very important because of the relationship among the girls," said Mrs. Sonnenleiter. "We're closer than any other group we are in."

**THE WOMEN CARE** about each other, worry when someone is sick and are willing to help each other at any time, she added.

They also enjoy support from their families, especially their grandchildren.

"They're so proud of me," Mrs. Parker said, confessing that her two granddaughters carry pictures of the group around with them and show them off regularly.

Mrs. Leslie admitted that her grandson also carries a picture around with him, telling everyone about his famous performing grandmother.

**MRS. SONNENLEITER** said her grandchildren put posters of the group up on their walls and enjoy telling people about them.

If there were any drawbacks to being in the group, it would be

\* Pom Poms, B4





Director Corinne Leslie demonstrates a new routine as granddaughter Shawna Sarles, 8, watches. Shawna occasionally performs with the group.

(News-Sun photos by Jim Painter)

## NEWS-SUN

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 1984

# \* Pom Poms face tough agenda

—From B3

the amount of time the practices and performances take away from other things, Mrs. Leslie said.

"Sometimes I wish we didn't have as many shows," she said, because they take away time for the sports she loves.

"It requires much more time for me than it does for the girls," Mrs. Leslie said.

AS THE DIRECTOR of the group, she looks for music, thinks up and works out routines, takes care of the costumes and helps arrange and coordinate the performances.

She, and her late husband, Ray, were professional dancers and had a dance school in California where they taught jazz, tap and ballet.

Leslie also helped with the Pom Poms and served as the group's emcee until he became ill five years ago, Mrs. Leslie said.

Mrs. Sonnenleiter said there are some days when she doesn't think she can do it anymore, "but then I look at Corinne ... she is an inspiration. I can't be sorry for myself. I have to go ahead and do it."

THE WOMEN said they never dreamed they would be doing this in retirement, al-

though Mrs. Sonnenleiter said she and her husband came to Sun City for an active lifestyle.

For Mrs. Leslie, it's more of a routine.

"I've done this all of my life. I wanted to retire," she said. She would have no problem finding other things to do if the group stopped performing, she said.

But for Mrs. Parker, the Pom Poms keep her retirement jumping.

"I REALLY DIDN'T want to retire. Retirement is boring if you don't get into something. It's nice to be a part of the group," Mrs. Parker said.

How long are they going to keep this up?

"Forever," Mrs. Sonnenleiter said. "We're going to die with our boots on."

"Until we drop out one at a time," Mrs. Parker added.

BUT FOR NOW the 16 Pom Poms, whose ages range from 60 to 82, are still standing—legs kicking to the right and left in unison, counting the beats to each step, keeping up with the music, concentrating on every move and turn and twist.

"Sometimes I think I'll give it up," said Mrs. Leslie, "and then I think, this is my family."



## Booster's president explains game switch

This is written in response to the recent article by your sports editor concerning the Saints game played against a Mesa slow-pitch team, and the resulting concern by some of the local supporters who had purchased season tickets who had expected a fast-pitch team that evening.

We feel that an explanation is in order since all concerned certainly have a valid point.

Hopefully when the following facts are known, there will be a better feeling because both the Saints and Boosters are striving to provide the best games possible.

**WE ARE PLEASED** by the very fine support given the Saints this year, and it is imperative that this continue due to the fact that travel expenses alone this year will be approximately \$20,000.

The Saints will be traveling to a tournament in Vancouver, B.C., in late July to prepare them for the National Tournament. Nationals this year will be in Buffalo, N.Y.

Although the Saints Booster Club handles all administration for the team, the stadium, and assumes all liabilities, the scheduling is done by the general manager, Gerald Stapley, and Marilyn Rau, assistant coach. We feel that they have the exper-

### REBUTTAL

tise to ensure high caliber competition. Coach Karmen Booth had not joined the team in an official capacity when scheduling was done.

**IN ANY EVENT**, when the Phoenix Devils canceled at the last moment for the June 10 games, another team (fast-pitch) indicated acceptance but also canceled.

The decision, naturally, was either to cancel the night altogether or at least provide a night of entertainment with our Saints.

Because it is imperative that we raise as much money as possible not only for travel expenses but for the stadium and insurance uniform expenses also, we want the actual facts known.

**FURTHER, TO** avoid misunderstanding regarding the Taiwan games on June 19-20, these are not included in our regular season tickets, and costs are \$2.50-Adult \$1-Children.

Our reason is that this is a major fund-raiser, and we are paying for lodging, transportation and food for their team.

It will be outstanding competition, and well worth the price.

Joe Davisson,  
President,  
Sun City Saints Boosters



# Sports

NEWS-SUN

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1984

## Opposition makes

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

Coach Karmen Booth has watched the Sun City Saints' bats produce with resounding authority so far this season.

But she admits it's difficult to predict how hot the lumber will remain as the season wears on.

"We're hitting real well," said Karmen, "but we haven't seen a lot of strong pitching. We won't know where we stand until we get into some good competition."

THE SAINTS enter today's double-header at 16-0, but every

win has come against far less talented teams. Last Saturday, for instance, they blanked the Tucson Playmakers, 8-0 and 4-0.

Ten of the Saints' victories have been by shutout. Saints batters, meanwhile, have been credited with 66 runs batted in as opposed to four by the opposition. The Saints also have outthit their opponents 129 to 37.

While being thankful for a fast start, Karmen does worry there's always that chance the Saints could run out of ammunition down the line.

"I DON'T want the girls to peak early," she said. "I'm trying to keep things down to a dull roar, but going forward."

"I want to win a national tournament," Karmen added. "So if we lose a couple games along the line I won't be upset."

The opposition for today's 7:30 p.m. double-header in Sun City Stadium will be the Phoenix Westerners. The Saints will host the Phoenix Travellers in another 7:30 p.m. double-header on Sunday.

TODAY'S GAMES will pro-

### Softball

#### SAINTS 1, WESTERNERS 0

First game

Phoenix Westerners 000 000 000-0 1 3  
Sun City Saints 000 001 0-1 4 4

Ritchey and Peters; Clark and Karmen. W—Clark (6-0), L—Ritchey (13-8).

#### SAINTS 2, WESTERNERS 0

Second game

Phoenix Westerners 000 000-0 2 4  
Sun City Saints 000 001 0-1 10 0

Came called in the sixth on eight run pipe.

Campbell and Peters; Karmen and Swain. W—Karmen (2-1), L—Campbell (3-1).

AAA PASTRYCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE  
Turquoise Kings 1, Southern Trucks 0  
Turquoise Kings 2, Kellands 2

## Saints hard to judge

vide a reunion of sorts. Four Westerners—pitcher Shawn Ritchey, catcher Gail Peters, outfielder Pat Bova and infielder Woody Woodcock—all have played for the Saints.

Westerner second baseman Karen Carter also was a teammate of Saints pitcher Connie Clark this season at Central Arizona, which last month won the national junior college championship.

Miss Ritchey could provide the tough pitching Karmen has been waiting for when she takes the

mound tonight. The former standout at Arizona State picked up victories in her first six appearances for the Copperstate League team this season.

The Travellers, a first-year team from the Copperstate League, also lists some talented players on its roster.

AMONG THEM are former Saints pitcher Sally Swain and catcher Becky Brandt, another teammate of Miss Clark's this year at Central Arizona.

Karmen said she planned to start southpaw Michelle Thomas

(4-0) and right-hander Bonnie Kraemer (2-0) tonight, with Miss Clark scheduled to pitch a game Sunday.

The Saints will get just one day off before returning to action Tuesday in Sun City Stadium against the Chinese Taipei Women's National Team.

TAIPEI, WHICH finished second in last year's Women's World Championship, will also be in Sun City for a pair of games beginning at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday before traveling to Prescott.



**NEWS-SUN**

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 1984

## Saints, Taipei team to meet next week

The Sun City Saints, undefeated this season, will host the Chinese Taipei Women's National Team for Tuesday and Wednesday fast-pitch softball double-headers in Sun City Stadium.

Taipei will stop in Sun City on its way to the June 29-July 4 Women's International Cup in Whittier, Calif.

"This Taipei national team is one of the finest teams in the world," said Bill Plummer, communications director for the Amateur Softball Association. "It finished second out of 23 nations in the Women's World Championship last year in Taipei and is an exciting, well-drilled fast-pitch team that fans in the Sun City area will certainly enjoy watching."

Following its stop in Sun City, Taipei will travel to Prescott for

games Thursday, June 22 and 23.

Eight teams, each representing a different country, will compete in the International Cup at Whittier Narrows Park.

The United States will be represented by the Stratford (Conn.) Brakettes, winner of last year's national women's fast-pitch tournament.

The round-robin tournament also will give the International Softball Federation an opportunity to showcase the sport for the International Olympic Committee.

The IOC will attend games "to evaluate softball for its merit and appeal" as a possible Olympic sport, the ASA reports.

Saints season tickets will not be honored at the Tuesday and Wednesday games.

Admission will be \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children.

The Sun City Saints Booster Club is paying for meals and lodging of the Taipei team while it's in town, said Joe Davison, booster club president.

The Saints, 16-0, and Phoenix Westerners will play a 7:30 p.m. Saturday twin-bill in the stadium.

**NEWS-SUN**

TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 1984

## Test awaits 19-1 Saints

The Sun City Saints, who have completed about half of their schedule, will take a mid-term exam of sorts when they play a 7:30 p.m. double-header today against the Chinese Taipei Women's National Team.

"We should be able to clear up some things when we play Taiwan," said Coach Karmen Booth, whose Saints will take a 19-1 record into tonight's games in Sun City Stadium.

The Saints should receive their toughest test of the season against Taipei, which will be in town again Wednesday for a 7:30 p.m. double-header.

"THIS TAIPEI national team is one of the finest teams in the world," said Bill Plummer, communications director for the Amateur Softball Association.

Taipei finished second in the 23-team Women's World Championship fast-pitch softball tournament last year, Plummer said.

The Saints, meanwhile, finished third in the 1983 national fast-pitch tournament.

FOLLOWING its Sun City stop, Taipei will travel to Prescott for games Thursday, Friday and Saturday before heading to Whittier, Calif., for the June 29-July 4 Women's International Cup.

Eight teams, each representing a different country, will compete in the Women's International Cup.

The United States will be represented by the Stratford (Conn.) Brakettes, '83 national champion.

THE TOURNEY will give the International Softball Federation a chance to showcase the sport for the International Olympic Committee. The IOC will attend games "to evaluate softball for its merit and appeal" as a possible Olympic sport, the ASA reports.

Saints season tickets will not be honored tonight and Wednesday.

Admission will be \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children.



# Win gives Taipei split of twin-bill

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

It took an inning for both Connie Clark and Chang Chien Chin-Lin to find their pitching rhythm Tuesday night.

Unfortunately for the Sun City Saints, the Chinese Taipei Women's Softball Team made better use of Connie's shaky start before holding on for a 3-2 win. The victory gave Taipei a split of its double-header with the Saints before 1,372 paying fast-pitch softball fans in Sun City Stadium.

Taipei, which is 12-7-2 against U.S. teams on its tour of this country, took advantage of an error and rocky start by Miss Clark to grab a 3-0 lead in the first inning.

**LEADOFF** hitter Sun Shiou-Pin reached base when a throw from Saints shortstop Kathy Escarcega pulled first baseman Mary Faure off the bag.

Back-to-back singles by Lee Mei and Wu Yu-Jen loaded the bases for Su Yu-Chun, who drove home Sun with a grounder.

Yeh Mei-Shiou then singled sharply to left, scoring Lee and Wu Yu and giving Taipei a 3-0 lead. Those two tallies were the first earned runs given up by Connie, 4-1, this season.

**BARB GARCIA**, hitless in the Saints' 2-0 opening-game win, greeted Chang Chien with a single in the bottom of the first inning and advanced to second on Sherry Benefield's bunt.

Chang Chien fanned Miss Faure for the second out, but Miss Escarcega, hitting .448 coming into Tuesday's games, cut Taipei's lead to 3-1 with a

double that scored Miss Garcia.

Connie worked out of a jam in the second inning, then settled down and gave up just one hit over the final five frames.

**CHANG CHIEN**, relying heavily on a rise ball, also allowed just one hit after the first until running into trouble in the bottom of the seventh.

Miss Faure opened the bottom of the seventh with a triple and scored when Miss Escarcega followed with a single that cut Taipei's lead to 3-2.

Carla Stearns flied out and Miss Escarcega was retired at second on a force play for the second out.

**HELEN ANDRADE** then lined out to end the game.

"She was a little faster than their first pitcher," Saints Coach Karmen Both said of Chang Chien. "It took us longer to get onto her game."

Miss Escarcega tripled home Miss Garcia and Miss Benefield in the first inning of the opener and Michelle Thomas, who has yet to allow an earned run this season, struck out eight batters as the Saints coasted to their 20th win.

"IN TAIWAN the pitchers rely on good control," Taipei Manager Lin Chia-Nai said through an interpreter. "American pitchers have good speed."

Michelle used that speed and a changeup to run her strikeout total to 67 in 45 innings.

Michelle, 6-0, will get a chance for another win when the Saints host Taipei for a 7:30 p.m. double-header today. Bonnie Kraemer, 3-1, also will get a start tonight, Karmen said.



NEWS-SUN WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1984



Barb Garcia of the Sun City Saints, left, slides safely into second base in first game against the Chinese Taipei Women's Softball

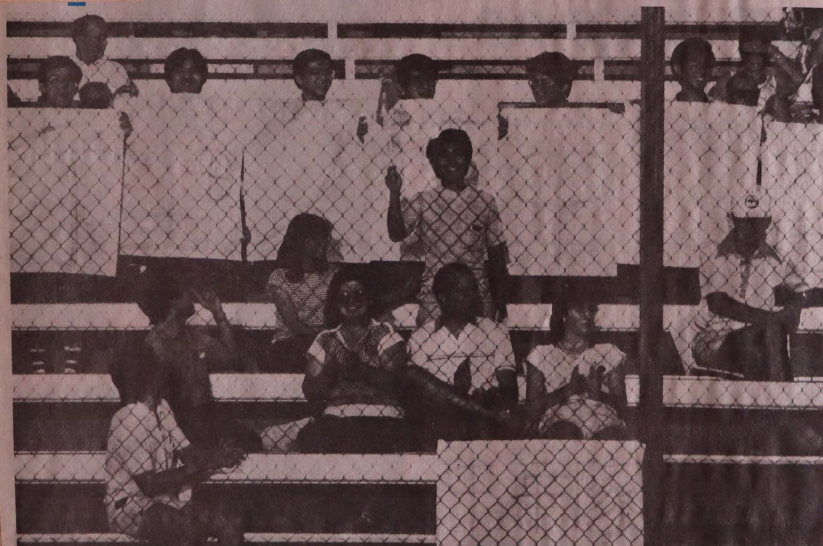
Team. Throw from Taipei's third baseman pulled shortstop Chuang Jin-Chiuch off bag.

(News-Sun photo by M.J. Hoppes)



**NEWS-SUN**

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1984



Several Taiwan citizens, complete with signs, cheer on the Chinese Taipei Women's Softball Team in Sun City Stadium. They were

among a crowd of 1,111 that watched Taipei play a double-header against the Sun City Saints. (Photo by Morris Berman)



# Saint arms quiet bats of Taiwan

By **STEVE HAWLEY**  
Sports Editor

The Chinese Taipei Women's Softball Team forced Michelle Thomas to alter her pitching style, but it didn't have much effect on the end result Wednesday night in Sun City Stadium.

Michelle, who has not allowed an earned run this season, hurled a two-hitter as the Sun City Saints blanked Taipei 1-0 in the second game of a double-header played before 1,111 appreciative fans. Saints right-hander Bonnie Kraemer allowed no hits in the first game as the teams battled to a 0-0 tie. That game ended after seven innings by mutual consent.

"I couldn't use my rise ball inside because they stand so close to the plate," said Michelle. "You have a tendency not to want to throw toward their face."

**MICHELLE, 7-0**, still managed to strike out six batters. The left-hander has fanned 73 in 52 innings this season.

Miss Thomas, 17-6 in 1983, said she feels stronger than she did a year ago.

"Physically and mentally I struggled last year," she said. "I'm working on a golf course (in Sun City) and that's helped my strength."

**THE SAINTS**, 21-2-1, managed just one hit off Taipei right-hander Chang Chien Chin-Lin through four innings.

In the fifth, Chang Chien retired leadoff hitter Carla Stearns, but Helen Andrade followed with a single to left. Venita Hokai reached first on a fielder's choice as Helen was retired at second and Tammy McKinney, hitless in seven previous at-bats against Taipei, drove in Miss Hokai with a double to the fence in left-center.

The Saints, who finished the Taipei series 2-1-1, threatened to add an insurance run in the sixth inning against Chang Chien.

**KAREN FELLEZ** reached first on a one-out error and scampered to third base when Mary Faure followed with a sharp single to center.

After Suzie Gaw was intentionally walked to load the bases, Miss Stearns lined into a double play.

Taipei's only threat came in the fourth inning with the game scoreless.

WU YU-JEN drew a one-out walk and Miss Hokai dropped a routine fly ball in right to put Taipei runners on first and second.

A bunt single by Chao Chun-Huey loaded the bases, but Wu was forced at the plate and Michelle got Liu Shu-Mei on strikes.

Miss Kraemer, 4-1, struck out four batters in the first game.

**TWO TAIPEI** batters reached base, both on errors, but never got past first.

The Saints, meanwhile, could manage just one hit off Yeh Hsiou-Ing, who also didn't allow a runner to get past first.

The lone Saints' hit was Miss Hokai's second-inning single.

"WE GOT good experience here," said Taipei Manager Lin Chia-Nai. "They're a good team."

Taipei, which beat the defending national champion Stratford (Conn.) Brakettes two out of three games earlier this month, will compete in the Women's International Cup June 29-July 4 at Whittier, Calif.

Eight teams, each representing a different country, will compete in the round-robin event. Stratford will represent the United States.

The Saints will return to action Saturday when they host the Phoenix Westerners for a 7:30 p.m. double-header. The Saints and Phoenix Blues will play another 7:30 twin-bill Sunday in the stadium.

**Softball — Taiwan vs. Sun City Saints, Sun City Stadium, 7:30 p.m. Phoenix Blues vs. Sun City Saints, Sun City Stadium, 9 p.m.**

## Softball

**SUN CITY SAINTS 0, TAIWAN NATIONALS 0**  
First game

Game called after seven innings because of scoreless tie.

Sun City	000	000	0-0	1	2
Taiwan	000	000	0-0	0	0

Kramer and Sterns; Hsiou-Ing and Hsuhuey-I.  
SUN CITY SAINTS 1. TAIWAN NATIONALS 0

SUN CITY SAINTS 1, TAIWAN NATIONALS 1  
Second game

Sun City	000	010	0 - 1	4	3
Taiwan	000	000	0 - 0	2	1

Thomas and Sterns; Chang-Chien-Chin-Lien  
and Sterns-Chun

and SUDU' CHON.



## Saints to host

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

A week ago the Sun City Saints were 16-0.

No longer does that unblemished fast-pitch softball record exist. The Saints will take a 21-21 mark into today's 7:30 p.m. double-header against the Phoenix Westerners in Sun City Stadium.

The Saints found things to

their liking during the first month of the season. But the schedule has gotten tougher, and it figures to stay that way until the Saints head for the women's national fast-pitch softball tournament in Buffalo, N.Y., in mid-August.

**RIGHT-HANDER** Tami Campbell and her Westerner teammates handed the Saints their first loss of the season last

Saturday with a 5-3 victory. The Saints lost their second game Tuesday when they fell to the Chinese Taipei Women's Softball team, 3-2. The Saints, however, emerged from the Taipei series 2-1-1.

Miss Campbell, a recent graduate of Scottsdale's Coronado High School, was 3-0 for the Saints this season before joining the Westerners. She and Shawn

## Westerners, Blues

Ritchey, another former Saint, probably will start tonight against their old teammates.

Shawn was victimized by a throwing error last Sunday and dropped a tough 1-0 decision to the Saints.

**THE PHOENIX** Blues will visit Sun City for a 7:30 p.m. Sunday double-header against the Saints.

If common opponents are any

indication, the matchup between the Saints and Blues should be a good one.

Earlier this month the Blues beat the North Missouri CTs 11-0 and 14-1 in the stadium. The Saints, meanwhile, also handled the CTs easily, winning 9-1 and 4-1.

**THE BLUES** are led by former Arizona State pitching standout Lucy Casarez and current

Lady Sun Devils Cheryl Persinger and Kelly Prendergrass.

The Saints were hitting .386 as a team entering the Taipei series, but pitching has been their biggest strength.

Left-hander Michelle Thomas, who has not allowed an earned run in 52 innings this season, is 7-0, while right-handers Connie Clark and Bonnie Kraemer are both 4-1.



# Win gives Saints split

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

With Michelle Thomas and Connie Clark back for another season, the Sun City Saints figured to have a potent 1-2 pitching combination in 1984.

But the emergence of Bonnie Kraemer, who joined the Saints earlier this month, has made it a 1-2-3 combination.

Bonnie, who pitched for the Downers Grove (Ill.) Dolls in 1983, boosted her record to 4-1 Sunday night with her second straight shutout.

"FROM AUGUST (1983) until she walked on the field in June she hadn't pitched a game," Coach Karmen Booth said after watching Bonnie blank the Phoenix Blues 4-0 in the second game of a double-header in Sun City Stadium. "She's starting to come along."

Bonnie, who lost a 1-0 decision to the Saints in last year's national fast-pitch softball tournament, gave up a double to leadoff hitter Cheryl Persinger in the first and was touched for a fourth-inning single by Linda Neely.

She struck out seven and walked one.

**THE SAINTS**, who lost Sunday's first game 5-0, gave Bonnie all the offensive support she needed in the first inning.

Leadoff hitter Barb Garica doubled and scored when Karen Fellenz followed with a single to right to put the Saints on top 1-0.

The Saints, 22-3-1, added a pair of runs in the second inning off losing pitcher Misty Davis.

**TAMMY** McKinney opened the bottom of the second with a single and moved up a base on Helen Andrade's bunt. Barb Garica followed with a single and purposely got into a rundown between first and second, hoping

Tammy, who had moved to third on the hit, could score.

Tammy eventually streaked for home, but was gunned down on a perfect throw from Blues second baseman Karen Fifield as Miss Garica moved to second.

Miss Fellenz followed with her second hit of the game, a bunt single, and Barb scored on the play when Miss Persinger fielded the ball and threw wildly past first.

**KAREN ALSO** moved to second on the error and scored to make it 3-0 when Kathy Escarrega laid a two-out single to center.

A run-scoring single by Carla Stearns in the fifth put the Saints on top 4-0.

Right-hander Lucy Casarez of the Blues, a former pitching standout at Arizona State, gave up three harmless singles to the Saints in the first game.

**THE BLUES**, 26-7, took a 1-0 lead in the first off Miss Clark, 4-2, and moved ahead 4-0 in the fifth.

Miss Persinger got a one-out single and moved to second when Connie issued a walk to Miss Neely.

Miss Casarez, 17-1, then doubled and scored behind Miss Persinger and Miss Neely when Saints left fielder Sherry Benefield let the ball get past her for a two-base error.

**A SCHEDULED** Saturday double-header against the Phoenix Westerners was canceled.

Gerald Stapley, general manager of the Saints, said he was told by the Westerners on Friday that they were unaware they were supposed to play the Saints Saturday. Stapley said he was unable to schedule another team so the games were canceled.

## Softball

### Women's Fastpitch

#### PHOENIX BLUES vs. SUN CITY SAINTS

First game

Phoenix Blues	000	000	1-6	7-9
Sun City Saints	000	000	0-0	0-0

Casarez and Hicks, Carla Thomas (1) and Stearns, W - Casarez, 17-1, L - Clark, 4-2.

#### SAINTS vs. BLUES

Second game

Blues	000	000	0-0	1-0
Sun City	100	001	2-4	11-8

Davis, Sullivan (2) and Miller, Hicks (12) Kraemer and Rau, W - Kraemer, 4-1, L - Davis, 5-3.



## Astros defeat

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

It may not have been an artistic success, but Sunday's game between the Sun City Saints and San Diego (Calif.) Astros provided plenty of drama.

The Saints, who had tied the game with a ninth-inning run, failed to take advantage of two later scoring opportunities and dropped a 4-1 decision to the Astros in Sun City Stadium.

The defeat marked the first time this season that the Saints, 23-5-1, had lost two straight fast-pitch softball games.

"THEY WERE an excellent team to play," said Saints Coach Karmen Booth, looking ahead to the Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament which will get under

way Friday.

Saints left-hander Michelle Thomas, who blanked the Astros 1-0 Saturday in the first game of a double-header, gave up just two hits through the first seven innings.

Right-hander Kristie Skoglund of the Astros, meanwhile, gave up just one hit over that span, a second-inning single to Kathy Escarrega, and the game went into extra innings.

NEITHER TEAM threatened in the eighth, but that changed an inning later.

Michelle, 8-0, issued a leadoff walk to Miss Skoglund in the top of the ninth and Denise Borden then hit a liner that was knocked down by Saints first baseman Mary Faure. Mary re-

covered the ball quickly, but threw it past Karen Fellenz covering at first.

Right fielder Venita Hokai retrieved the ball and threw past Helen Andrade at third as Miss Skoglund and Miss Borden advanced a base.

KELLY SMITH then hit a grounder to short, but Miss Escarrega threw late to first after looking Miss Skoglund back to third and the Astros had the based loaded with no one out.

Marylou Ramm followed with a sacrifice fly to give the Astros a 1-0 lead.

Michelle, who has not allowed an earned run in 57 innings this season, avoided further damage by getting the next two batters to ground out.

## Saints in 16th

### Softball

Sun City Saints										
SAINTS 1, ASTROS 0										
San Diego	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000
Sun City	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000
Skoglund and Klein; Thomas and Rau W — Thomas (8-0). L — Skoglund.										

### Softball

Women's fastpitch										
SAN DIEGO ASTROS 4, SUN CITY SAINTS 1										
San Diego	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000
Sun City	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000
Skoglund, Ramm (9) and Klein; Thomas, Kraemer (1) and Rau.										

MISS Fellenz opened the Saints' ninth with a double to the fence in left field. Miss Ramm, who picked up a win in the Astros' 2-1 victory in Saturday's second game, then replaced Miss Skoglund on the mound.

"She (Miss Skoglund) had arthroscopic surgery on a knee about three or four weeks ago," said Astros Coach Les O'Neal. "She was getting the ball up. It looked like she was running out of gas."

A passed ball allowed Karen to advance to third and she scampered home with the tying run when catcher Linda Klein again was credited with a passed ball. The pitch also was ball four and Miss Faure trotted to first.

MISS FAURE moved to sec-

ond on a wild pitch and advanced to third when Marilyn Rau lashed a single to center. A throw home on the play allowed Marilyn to move to second.

Miss Escarrega then hit a ball sharply to short and Miss Faure was throw out attempting to score.

Miss Ramm then got Carla Stearns and Miss Hokai to ground out, leaving Marilyn stranded at third.

BOTH TEAMS later threatened, but it wasn't until the 16th inning that someone finally scored.

Miss Smith, the inning's leadoff batter, reached first base when Miss Escarrega booted a grounder and moved to third

when Miss Ramm followed with a single off right-hander Bonnie Kraemer, who had replaced Michelle in the 13th.

A throw home on the play allowed Miss Ramm to move to second base and she scored behind Miss Smith to make it 3-1 when Maggie Earner stroked a single to left. Miss Earner moved to third on the play when the ball got past left fielder Sherry Benefield and scored a play later when Miss Faure dropped a throw at first.

The loss evened Miss Kraemer's record at 3-3.

Due to the length of the game and San Diego's travel plans, a scheduled second contest was canceled.



## Saints pay tribute to Freireich

A tribute to a longtime Sun City Saints fan and the first in a series of games against California opponents highlight June 30 women's softball games at Sun City

Stadium, 111th and Grand Avenues.

Honored will be Burt Freireich, founder and retiring editor-publisher of Daily News-Sun. The Saints Booster Club is honoring Freireich for his support and the fact he was instrumental in bringing the team to Sun City in 1965.

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Providing opposition to the Saints on the field in 7:30 p.m. doubleheaders June 30 and July 1 will be the San Diego Astros. Game tickets are \$1.50 for adults.

The Astros move into major ASA competition this year after winning the Class A national title in three of the last five years.

Coached by Pat Ardizu, the team is comprised of shortstop Kelly Smith, named All-American this spring; former All-American pitcher Marylou Ramm and pitcher Kristie Skoglund--all of whom play for Utah State during the college season.



# Sports

SATURDAY, JULY 7, 1984

## Webb tourney

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

In most other years, the Sun City Saints would be overwhelming favorites to win the Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament.

But that isn't the case this year. The Saints, 23-5-1, probably will find the fast-pitch softball competition equal to expected temperatures in Sun City Stadium.

"I'm excited about the tournament," said Saints Coach Karmen Booth. "It should give us a good indication of our quality."

**THE SAINTS** open tournament play with a 9:30 a.m. game today against the California Silverstreaks. The San Diego Flames and Orange County Bat Busters kick off the double-elimination tournament with an 8

a.m. contest today. The Phoenix Bobettes and California Renegades are slated to meet at 11 a.m. Final opening-round game, slated for 12:30 p.m., will pit the Phoenix Blues against the Fullerton Arrows.

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

Competition continues Sunday morning and afternoon with the championship game scheduled for 7:30 p.m. A second contest, if necessary, is slated to follow at 9.

**RIGHT-HANDER** Connie Clark, 4-2, was scheduled to pitch Friday's practice game against the Bat Busters, but Karmen said she didn't plan to use a set rotation for regular tournament play.

"I'm lucky in that I have three pitchers with three different qualities," Karmen said.

"If we know they can't hit a drop ball we can throw Connie. If they have trouble with a high rise it's Bonnie (Kremer). If they have trouble with fast stuff it's Michelle (Thomas)."

**"IT MAKES** it much easier to choose what pitcher we can use against what set of batters."

The Saints are coming off a series last weekend in which they lost two of three games to the San Diego Astros.

Michelle, 8-0, kept intact her string of innings pitched this season without allowing an unearned run (73%). The left-hander has fanned 87 and walked just eight during that span.

**ALTHOUGH** Miss Kraemer,

## draws standout field

4-3, dropped two decisions to the Astros, the right-hander has a fine 1.19 earned-run average.

Connie, 4-2, has a 0.65 ERA.

Several other standout pitchers will be on hand, including former Saint Debbie Doom.

**DEBBIE, WHO** led UCLA to the women's College World Series title this past spring, plays for the Arrows.

Miss Doom, who was 10-3 with the Saints last season, has been bothered by arm problems and has seen limited action.

The Arrows, 14-3 as of June 25, won the Inland Cities tournament earlier this season.

**THE RENEGADES** were 21-2 through June 25 and had won two tournaments.

A familiar team to Saints fans will be the Blues, who are 3-1 in Sun City Stadium this season.

They beat the North Missouri CTs twice and split a pair of games with the Saints.

### Tournament schedule

Today	Sunday
Game 1, 8 a.m.—San Diego Flames vs. Orange County Bat Busters.	Game 9, 8 a.m.—Winner game 6 vs. loser game 7.
Game 2, 9:30 a.m.—California Silverstreaks vs. Sun City Saints.	Game 10, 9:30 a.m.—Loser game 8 vs. winner game 5.
Game 3, 11 a.m.—Phoenix Bobettes vs. California Renegades.	Game 11, 11 a.m.—Winner game 7 vs. winner game 8.
Game 4, 12:30 p.m.—Phoenix Blues vs. Fullerton Arrows.	Game 12, 12:30 p.m.—Winner game 9 vs. winner game 10.
Game 5, 5 p.m.—Loser game 1 vs. loser game 2.	Game 13, 6 p.m.—Winner game 12 vs. loser game 11.
Game 6, 6:30 p.m.—Loser game 3 vs. loser game 4.	Game 14, 7:30 p.m.—Winner game 11 vs. winner game 13.
Game 7, 8 p.m.—Winner game 1 vs. winner game 2.	Game 15, (if necessary), 9 p.m.—Winner game 14 vs. loser game 14.
Game 8, 9:30 p.m.—Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 4.	

## Clark pitches no-hitter

Connie Clark pitched a five inning no hitter to defeat the Orange County Batbusters Friday night, 2-0.

Conni fanned seven and walked one in the rain shortened contest.

The Saints scored both runs in the first inning on a walk to Karen Feilenz, a stolen

base and a two-out single by Kathy Escarcego, the only hit of the game by either side. Kathy moved to second on the throw to the infield and scored on a wild pitch.

Because of intermittent rain and a dust storm, one game was cancelled and the remainder held to five innings.



# Sun City shows old-fashioned support for team

By Martin Zabel  
USA TODAY

The residents of Sun City, Ariz., don't show enthusiasm for young people in their by-laws, but they make up for it in their support of their softball team.

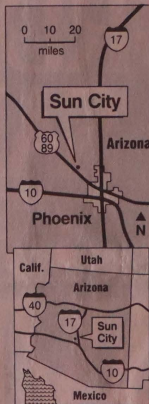
"Basically, our support comes from the people in Sun City," said Karmen Booth, first-year coach of the Sun City Saints women's fast-pitch softball team. "They back us all the way."

Sun City has zoning laws that forbid people younger than 18 from living in the community for more than 90 days unless the homeowner obtains a variance. Each home must have at least one resident older than 50. But the Saints Booster Club, whose members are all older than 50, has supported the Saints since 1974 and has run the team since 1982.

"They see us as the daughter-next-door image," said catcher Marilyn Rau, the only team member who also played on the team in 1986, its first year. "A lot of people like us the way they like their daughters or granddaughters."

"It's a labor of love," said Joe Davison, 55, the president of the booster club. "They're ladies in addition to being great players."

"I think it's pretty funny they support a young organization like ours, but have strict rules," said Booth. "I don't want them to stop supporting us because we're young."



By Warren Isensee, USA TODAY

The Saints, most of whom are college students or recent graduates, have given residents of Sun City good reason to support them. They have qualified for the Amateur Softball Association national tournament each year they have played and have not finished worse than fourth since 1973. They won the ASA title in 1979 and the National Sports Festival championship in 1982.

"The key to our success is



By Don Stevenson

**HIGH STANDARDS:** Saints coach Karmen Booth says the Sun City fans expect and receive top performances.

our standards," said Rau, 33. "We don't fool around on or off the field."

"Our defense has kept us in the limelight for so long," said Booth, 33. "We have excellent pitchers."

The Saints have a 27-7-1 record this year. The team is led by pitcher Michelle Thomas, who is 9-1 and has not given up an earned run in her last 85 innings.

The Saints play double-

headers at Sun City Stadium and average 1,100 fans Saturdays and 900 Sundays.

The crowd has high standards. "They're rowdy," said Booth. "It's hard at home."

Said Rau, the 1980 Arizona amateur athlete of the year: "Fans are so critical here. They're in their 60s and have been working hard all their lives. They want to see perfection. When we're not, that's when they get rowdy."



## Softball

### Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament

#### Championship games

<b>RENEGADES 7, SAINTS 1</b>
California 012 100 0-7 1
Sun City 200 000 0-0 0
LeFebvre and Moore, McEvea (1); Kraemer, Thomas (7) and Rau. W. — LeFebvre, L. — Kraemer.

#### Lower bracket championship

<b>SAINTS 1, ARROWS 0</b>
Edgerton 000 000 0-0 0
Sun City 000 000 0-0 0
Kessling and Booth; Clark and Rau. W. — Kessling, L. — Clark.

#### Lower bracket semifinals

<b>ARROWS 4, BLUES 0</b>
Arrows 302 000 0-4 0
Blues 000 000 0-0 0

#### Winners' bracket semifinals

<b>RENEGADES 1, SAINTS 0</b>
Renegades 000 100 0-1 0
Saints 000 000 0-0 0
Stoll and McEvea; Thomas and Rau.

#### First round

<b>BATBUSTERS 7, FLAMES 0</b>
Draper County 102 011 0-7 0
Flames 000 000 0-0 0
Carpenter and Campbell; Miller and Wright.

#### SAINTS 11, SILVERSTREAKS 0

Saints 200 34 0-11 0
Silverstreaks 000 000 0-0 0
Kraemer and Rau; Selvy, Anthrobus (3) and Taubovitch.

#### RENEGADES 7, BOBETTES 0

Bobettes 000 000 0-0 0
Renegades 202 211 0-7 0
Wahrendorf and Stork; Stoll and McEvea.

#### ARROWS 1, BLUES 0

Blues 000 000 0-0 0
Arrows 000 000 0-0 0
Cassara and Tackel-Hicks; Doom, Kessling (4) and Booth.

#### SILVERSTREAKS 3, FLAMES 0

Flames 000 000 0-0 0
Silverstreaks 170 000 0-3 0
Daskins, Fisher (3) and Wright; Anthrobus and Gray.

#### BLUES 4, BOBETTES 1

Blues 100 000 000 3-4 10
Bobettes 010 000 000 0-1 0
Davis and Tackel-Hicks; Adrian and Stark.

#### SAINTS 2, BATBUSTERS 1

Batbusters 000 010 0-2 1
Saints 000 000 0-2 1
Oakley, Carpenter (3) and Campbell; Thomas, Hoke (3) and Rau.

#### RENEGADES 4, ARROWS 1

Renegades 010 100 0-4 1
Arrows 000 010 0-1 0
LeFebvre and Moore; Kessling and Brannan.

#### Lower bracket quarterfinals

<b>BLUES 1, BATBUSTERS 0</b>
Blues 000 000 0-0 0
Batbusters 000 000 0-0 0
Sullivan and Tackel-Hicks; Carpenter, Oakley (3) and Amare.

#### ARROWS 5, SILVERSTREAKS 0

Silverstreaks 000 000 0-0 0
Arrows 001 100 0-5 0
Belive and Gray; Kessling, Steffen (3) and Buks.

## Saints prove cure for pitcher's aches

By Tom Gibbons  
Republic staff

Bonnie Kraemer finally tired of the headaches and arm aches.

Kraemer had grown weary of two years of administrative hassles with her former team, the Downers Dolls of Downers Grove, Ill. And eight years of abusing her arm as the primary pitcher with the Dolls and, before that, the Chicago Windmills was starting to take its toll.

"It was a spur-of-the-moment thing," Kraemer said. "I just called (Sun City Saints General Manager) Gerald (Stapley) and asked if he needed any pitchers."

It just so happened that the Saints, who finished third in the country in the ASA nationals in 1983, needed another pitcher. They had lost their ace — UCLA's Debbie Doom. Doom, who pitched the Bruins to the NCAA title in May, had decided to play this summer with the Fullerton Arrows.

"Their was no bitterness involved," Saints manager Karmen Booth said. "It was just that Debbie wanted to stay in California. She had gotten tired of moving back and forth."

"Of course, it always hurts to lose a pitcher of Debbie's caliber. But when something like that happens, you have to try and do your best to replace them. We were fortunate to get Bonnie Kraemer."

Kraemer, who is 5-4 with the Saints, pitched the Dolls to fourth place in the ASA nationals last summer.

"A lot of things fell into place for us at nationals last year," Kraemer said. "We got a good draw, and we got some good hitting during the tournament. But I just couldn't see that happening again."

The problem, Kraemer said, was that the Dolls' board of

directors wanted to limit the squad to local players — and still be a national power.

"It's just not possible," Kraemer said. "You just can't do that with only Downers Grove kids."

Kraemer pitched all the games at the national tournament for the Dolls.

"We had a second pitcher, but she was quite a bit weaker," Kraemer said. "By the fourth game, against Raybestos, I didn't have anything left on the ball. Every pitch was coming in there flat."

Pitching every tournament game was nothing new for Kraemer.

"I was the only pitcher for the Windmills for six years," she said. "It's got to have had an effect on my arm. Some weekends you go to a tournament and pitch four games. You wind up blowing your arm out. It feels limp for the next week."

Kraemer, 25, said she feels she's at her peak right now.

"Twenty-seven is usually the prime age for a pitcher. That's what I'm told, anyway," she said. "I think I've reached my peak a couple years early from throwing so much."

With the Saints, Kraemer shares the load with juco star Connie Clark and veteran Michelle Thomas.

"This is the first time I've ever been part of a rotation," she said. "I've always been top dog everywhere I played. I'm a little worried about carrying my weight. So far, I haven't pitched that well."

"Maybe I have more problems adjusting to new situations than other people. . . . Maybe at the end of the year, I'll look back and wonder why I worried about it."



# Sports NEWS-SUN

MONDAY, JULY 9, 1984

## Saints fall in Del Webb

By MIKE GARRETT  
Staff Writer

The Sun City Saints still found themselves in the championship game of the Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament Sunday night after 20 scoreless innings.

But they couldn't overcome six errors and 12 strikeouts against the champion California Renegades, who completed the double-elimination tournament 4-0 with a 7-3 triumph at Sun City Stadium.

The Saints had grabbed a 3-0 first-inning lead on catcher Marilyn Rau's two-run triple to right center and a wild pitch by winning pitcher Susan Le-

febvre.

BUT THE errors, mostly throwing errors on Renegade bunt attempts, began to take their toll.

Two miscues in the third led to two runs that tied the score 3-3 and the eventual winning run scored in the fourth on shortstop Tamara McKinney's bobble and a wild pitch by hard-luck loser Bonnie Kraemer (5-4).

Two more Saints errors and Pam Newton's two-run single helped the Renegades put the game away in the seventh.

MEANWHILE, the Saints could do little against Lefebvre after the first. Singles by Barb Garcia and Karen Fel-

lenz in the fifth were erased when McKinney bounced into a double play.

Helen Andrade, who had two hits in the earlier 1-0 victory over the Fullerton Arrows, fanned with two on in the sixth.

The Renegades handed the Saints their first loss of the tournament Sunday morning, 1-0, despite a five-hitter by Michelle Thomas, who suffered her first loss of the year after nine wins. Lori Stoll hurled a five-hitter for the Renegades.

THE SAINTS had also failed to score the last four innings of their 2-1 triumph Saturday night over the Orange County Bat Busters which Thomas

## finale, 7-3

pitched into the fifth inning for the victory.

The Saints were fortunate to make the championship game. Some gummy pitching by Connie Clark (6-2) gave Sun City a 10-inning, sudden death 1-0 victory over Fullerton.

Carla Stearns' one-out line single to left scored Tamara McKinney from third to end the marathon. After nine scoreless innings, each team started the 10th with a runner on second.

BUT CLARK left Arrows runners on first and third. She also pitched out of an error-induced bases-loaded jam in the seventh when Rau picked off a runner on third and stranded two more Arrows

in the eighth.

Then in the 10th, catcher Marilyn Rau sacrificed McKinney to third and Kathy Escacega walked before Stearns delivered.

The Renegades' tournament triumph was their third championship of the year. They had a 21-2 record through June 25.

The Saints probably lost the services of shortstop-outfielder Suzie Gaw for next weekend's series against the California Silverstreaks. She required seven stitches on a deep spike wound to her knee in the morning game against the Renegades.

### Softball

#### Del Webb Memorial AT SUN CITY STADIUM Final Round

SAINTS 11, CALIFORNIA SILVERSTREAKS 0	
Saints	000 54-11 4 1
Silverstreaks	000 00-0 0 0 3
Kraemer and Rau, Selvy, Apple (3) and Taudov.	
112 W - Kraemer (L-54 7 9)	
CALIF. RENEGADES 7, PHX. ROBERTES 0	
Robertes	000 000 0-0 2 1
Renegades	000 219-7 3 1
Wahrendorf and Stark, Stoll and Reed. W -	
Stoll (L - Wahrendorf)	
FULLERTON ARROWS 1, PHOENIX BLUES 0	
7 Innings	
Blues	000 000 0-0 1 0
Arrows	000 000 001-1 1 0
Castrez and Vackel-Hicks, Doom and Kessling	
(4) and Booth. W - Kessling (L - Castrez)	
OTHER SCORES	
Orange County Bat Busters 7, San Diego	
Flames 0	

#### Great Western

AT PRESCOTT  
San Diego 6, Phoenix Excel 0  
Tucson Masters 3, Phoenix Peppers 2  
Tucson Desertados 3, Tucson Raymeters 1  
Phoenix Outlets 2, Phoenix Apaches 1  
Phoenix Westerners 3, Phoenix Chargers 2  
Phoenix Travelers 1, Phoenix Devils 0

### Softball

#### Del Webb Memorial Championship Game RENEGADES, SAINTS 2

California	011 100 3-2 0 1
Sun City	000 000 0-0 1 0 4
Lefebvre and Moore, McEvan (11) Kraemer,	
Thomas (1) and Rau. W - Lefebvre, L -	
Kraemer.	

#### San Diego

SAINTS 1, ARROWS 0	
Fullerton	000 000 000 0-0 4 1
Sun City	000 000 000 1-1 3 3
Kessling and Booth, Clark and Rau. W -	
Kessling, L - Clark.	



# Sports

NEWS-SUN

SATURDAY, JULY 14, 1984

## Coaching changes hinted as Saints face coast team

By MIKE GARRETT

Financial Editor

Some changes are in the works for the Sun City Saints this weekend as they face the California Silverstreaks, who will be looking for revenge over the Saints in a pair of 7:30 p.m. games tonight and Sunday night at Sun City Stadium.

General Manager Gerald Stapley wouldn't confirm Friday night that he is taking over as coach from Karmen Booth, saying expected changes haven't been finalized and several unanswered questions are still hanging.

But there have been rumors that Stapley, who coached the Saints for six straight years before Booth took over this season, will be in the Saints' dugout this weekend.

THE SAINTS certainly didn't play up to expectations last weekend in 1-0 and 7-3 losses to the California Renegades.

But coach Sam Marcetese's Silverstreaks were the victims of Connie Clark's five-inning

no-hitter in an 11-0 practice game July 6 in the Del Webb Memorial Tournament.

The Saints only managed four hits themselves in the game but took advantage of numerous walks, wild pitches and three California errors.

THE CALIFORNIA team was eliminated in the second round with a 1-2 tournament record.

The Saints (27-7-1) will be without slugging shortstop Suzie Gaw, who suffered a deep spike wound in Sunday's 1-0 loss to the tournament champion Renegades.

Gaw is second on the team in hitting with a .357 average (behind Kathy Escarcega's .361) and leads the Saints in home runs and on-base percentage.

Saints pitchers expected to see action against the Silverstreaks are Clark (6-2), ace Michelle Thomas (9-1), who hasn't yielded an earned run this year, and Bonnie Kraemer (5-4).



## Rau gets off to perfect

By BRENT FINE  
Staff Writer

In 19 years as a player for the Sun City Saints, Marilyn Rau has been involved in almost every aspect of the team's play and achieved many goals. But over the weekend when she was named manager of the club for the remainder of the season due to a serious illness in Karmen Booth's family, it was a first for the 35-year-old catcher.

Like her past performance, however, she came out on top. Miss Rau started her managerial career with a 4-0 record as the Saints swept two double-headers from the California Silverstreaks Saturday and Sunday nights. Pitchers Michelle Thomas and Connie Clark each picked up two victories.

The Saints (29-7-1) travel to Vancouver this week to take part in the Alpha Sports International Invitational tourney Thursday through Sunday. They come home July 25 for a double-header with the Phoenix Stars.

IN SUNDAY'S CONTESTS, the Saints came up with some timely hitting in the bottom of the seventh inning to eke out a 3-2 victory in the first game, then rode the pitching of Thomas and the hitting of Tammy McKinney to win the nightcap, 2-0.

In the first game, trailing 2-1 in the bottom of the seventh with two outs and runners on first and second, Helen Andrade singled up the middle to score a sliding Kathryn Encarcega who barely beat the throw. Then, 15-year-old Suzie Lady hit a liner just in front of Silverstreaks left fielder Cindy Shultz whose throw home was not close to catching Venita Hoaki with the winning run.

The Saints had opened the inning with a walk to new team member Dee Dinota, who was sacrificed to second by Carla Stearns, before Miss Encarcega had an infield hit and Miss Hoaki forced Miss Dinota at third when she hit back to

## start as Saints manager

the pitcher.

**THE ONLY OTHER RUN** for the Saints came in the fifth to tie the game at 1-1, when Miss Encarcega hit an inside-the-park home run between the left and center fielders.

Miss Encarcega scored despite the stop signal put up by third base coach Suzie Gaw, who sat out the game due to a deep spike wound suffered in the Del Webb Memorial Tournament July 8. It turned out to be a good thing Miss Encarcega came home because the next two batters hit back to the pitcher before Miss Lady grounded out to the third baseman.

Miss Clark (8-2) picked up the victory in relief, coming on in the sixth inning with runners on first and third and one out and wiggling out of the jam. Miss Clark extended her string of scoreless innings without giving up an earned run to 22½.

**ALSO KEEPING UP HER** streak was Miss Thomas (11-1) who now has 97½ innings without giving up an earned run after limiting the San Diego club to four hits and striking out eight batters.

The only offense Miss Thomas needed came in the fourth inning when Karen Fellenz got on board on an infield hit, then came home on Miss McKinney's booming triple to left-center. Miss McKinney scored on a wild pitch by Angie Anthrobus.

In Saturday's games, the Saints breezed to 10-0 and 2-0 wins behind Misses Thomas and Clark and the 5-for-5 hitting of Miss Donita.

**THOMAS TOSSED A** one-hitter and struck out eight batters in the opener and Donita went 3-for-3 with two doubles, a triple and three RBI. In the second game, Miss Andrade hit a two-run homer to back the two-hit pitching of Miss Clark.



# Injured Doom sits and waits

By Michael Anderson  
Republic Staff

As returns go, it probably would not have ranked up with McArthur, but Debbie Doom's scheduled return to Sun City Stadium figured to be a little more triumphant.

Doom, a Tempe native and former Saint standout who now pitches for the Fullerton Arrows, came back to Phoenix with the Arrows last weekend for the Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament. It was only the second time in her career she played in Sun City without being in a Saints uniform.

It wasn't hyped much, but women's softball is a sport without much hype. But, it could have been fun. Imagine. Finally, it would be doomsday for the Saints instead of the opponent.

It didn't turn out as hoped, though. Doom, plagued with a neck injury from the College World Series in May, pitched just six innings as the Flames finished third in the eight-team tournament.

Doom played four years with the Saints, including the 1980 national championship team, for which she won nearly 60 games. Included in that record were six wins in the national tournament, one a no-hitter. She was selected the tournament's most valuable player.

She elected to remain in California this summer, partly to play with some of her UCLA teammates and partly to experience California lifestyle without the constraints of school.

She injured her neck pitching UCLA to the national softball title. Tracy Compton, the Bruins other pitcher, was having control problems, and Doom ended up throwing nearly the whole tournament.

It's been a recurring problem for Doom and Compton. Compton gets injured or isn't pitching well as the college season ends, so

Doom gets all the work. Then, Compton has a spectacular summer while Doom recovers from an assortment of injuries stemming from overwork.

The statistics bear this out. In three College World Series, where UCLA has won twice, Doom has pitched all but 2½ games for the Bruins.

Last season, Doom's arm was in such bad shape she didn't make the first cut at the Pan Am Games Trials in Colorado Springs. She pitched sparingly for the Saints until the national tournament.

The neck problem is something that only time and gradual stretching exercises will help. Doom said normal, everyday movement and even sleeping aggravate the condition.

"Of course I'm not satisfied," she said after her three-inning stint Saturday afternoon. "I'm pretty much of a perfectionist. I'm going to do a little at a time and build back up. I want to be ready for the regional tournament."

The Arrows must win their ASA regional tournament in Los Angeles to qualify for the national tournament in Buffalo, N.Y., Aug 17-24.

In the meantime, the pitching load has been handled by Terry Leasing and Dale Mund. The Webb tournament proved more of a problem than normal. Mund was not available because of a family emergency, so Leasing pulled extra duty.

Doom is highly regarded as a tournament pitcher, and the record indicates she might pitch even if the injury is not completely healed.

"I've always been a tournament-type pitcher," she said. "I was hurting during the College World Series, but I threw anyway. I regret it afterward, but it always seems to happen that way."

# Saints prove cure for pitcher's aches

By Tom Gibbons  
Republic staff

Bonnie Kraemer finally tired of the headaches and arm aches.

Kraemer had grown weary of two years of administrative hassles with her former team, the Downers Dolls of Downers Grove, Ill. And eight years of abusing her arm as the primary pitcher with the Dolls and, before that, the Chicago Windmills was starting to take its toll.

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July 18-24, 1984—THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

## Saints return for midweek game

Sun City Saints, currently in Vancouver, B.C. for a tournament, will return home and play a Phoenix Metro League team or an all-star contingent from the league July 25.

The Saints will play either the Phoenix Desert Stars or a team of all-stars in a 7:30 p.m. doubleheader at Sun City Stadium, 111th and Grand Avenues.

Tickets cost \$1.50.

The Saints finished second in their own Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament July 8. California Renegades won the championship with a 7-3 victory over the Saints. The Renegades defeated the Saints, 1-0, earlier in the tournament. The Saints worked their way back to the finals through the loser's bracket.

Pitcher Michelle Thomas suffered her first loss of the season in that 1-0 decision. However, an error made it an unearned run, thus stretching her string of innings without allowing an earned run to 85-2/3.

## Saints Jog-a-Thon rescheduled July 31

The Sun City Saints' Jog-a-Thon, originally scheduled for July 11 has been rescheduled for Tuesday, July 31. Part of the Boosters Club fund-raising program, the event will be held at Sun City Stadium from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and features members of the Saints' team plus any Booster who wishes to participate.

Any fan may sponsor any Saint player and select his or her own financial pledge per lap run around the stadium track. The sponsor can either notify his or her jogger or call Chuck Grim at 974-9738 with the name of the Saint and amount pledged.

# Sports NEWS-SUN

## Home season ends for Saints

Sun City Saints' Aug. 4 game against Phoenix Apaches has been cancelled, thus ending the Saints home softball season at Sun City Stadium.

Also cancelled is the annual Saints Jog-A-Thon, which was slated for July 31.

The Saints' contract for 1984 use of the stadium ended July 31. Bade-Boyes Partnership of Glendale owns the property.

The Saints will compete in the national women's softball tournament later this month in Buffalo, N.Y. Details on the trip will be outlined in future reports.

The Saints ended their regular season by winning two of four games from the California Blazers, the second place finisher in last year's national tournament.

The Blazers won the July 28 opener, 1-0, but the Saints won the nightcap, 3-2. The first game July 29 was called a scoreless tie after 10 innings. Sun City scored the only run in a 1-0 victory in the nightcap.

In the season finale, pitcher Connie Clark walked one batter; otherwise, she would have hurled a perfect game.



# Sports **NEWS-SUN** FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 1984

## Manager declares

By **STEVE HAWLEY**  
Sports Editor

Manager Ralph Raymond says his Stratford (Conn.) Brakettes "are ready to do the job" that awaits them in the women's national fast-pitch softball tournament.

Raymond's words can't be comforting to the other 23 teams entered in the Buffalo, N.Y., tournament, a week-long double-elimination event that begins

this afternoon at Houton Park.

The Brakettes have won three of the last four national tournaments and 18 overall.

**AS IF TO** underline their dominance of women's fast-pitch softball, the Brakettes last year went about winning a national championship the hard way. After losing a second-round game, they caught fire and won nine straight over the next 48 hours to capture another national title.

Their final two victories came today against the California Blazers, who had emerged from the winners' bracket unbeaten.

"We played each game as if it was our last," Raymond said Thursday.

"Each game is as important as the next one in a tournament like this. We try to stress that."

**STRATFORD WILL** take a 60-6 mark into its tournament opener at 4 p.m. (Arizona time)

## Brakettes 'ready'

Raymond said seven newcomers have "blended in very well" with established players on the ball club. And although the Brakettes have hit .310 as a team this season, Raymond feels that hasn't been the key to success.

"We're probably not as potent offensively as last year," he said. **"BUT OUR** pitching and defense have held up very well."

The Brakettes placed eight players on the all-tournament team last year, including pitchers Kathy Arendsen and Barbara Reinalda.

Both hurlers have been outstanding this season, Raymond said.

**THE SUN** City Saints, who finished third last year, 1983 runner-up California and the Downers Grove (Ill.) Dolls figure to challenge Stratford for this

year's national title. But Raymond, alluding to the Brakettes' second-round loss a year ago, isn't discounting any team.

"When you come into a tournament like this everyone is looking to knock you off," Raymond said.

The Saints are scheduled to begin tournament play at 7:30 a.m. (Arizona time) Saturday.

First-round matchups were to be determined at a drawing this morning.



# Sports **NEWS-SUN**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1984

## Defenders claim 13-inning opener

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

BUFFALO, N.Y.—The Stratford (Conn.) Brakettes opened defense of their national women's fast-pitch softball title Friday night with a 1-0, 13-inning victory over the Long Beach (Calif.) Renegades at Houghton Park.

Dot Richardson, who had all three Brakettes hits off losing pitcher Lori Stoll, opened the top of the 13th with a double to left field and was advanced to third on Gina Vecchione's bunt.

Miss Richardson scored when Diane Schumacher followed with a sacrifice fly to right.

THE SUN City Saints, who finished third last year, were scheduled to open tournament play at 7:30 a.m. (Arizona time) today against the Lower Bucks Bandits of Philadel-

phia, Central Atlantic Regional Champs.

Long Beach also had just three hits, but had a chance to win the game in the 8th inning.

The Renegades, 38-6, loaded the bases with two outs, but winning pitcher Kathy Arendsen struck out Pam Newton.

ARENSEN struck out 13 batters while Miss Scoll, 21-3, struck out 6.

The California Blazers, runners-up a year ago, were scheduled to play the Flint (Mich.) All-stars at 7:30 a.m. (Arizona time) today.

If the Saints and the Brakettes both win their first three games they would meet Tuesday evening.

The Brakettes, 61-6, have won three of the last four national tournaments.



## Saints pitching to be tested

The Sun City Saints will be tested where they're strongest—the pitching staff—with the first of at least nine games starting tonight.

The Saints play their first game in the Alpha Sports International Invitational Tourney in Vancouver, B.C. tonight and have games scheduled through Sunday night before coming home for a midweek double-header against the Phoenix Desert Stars Wednesday night at

Sun City Stadium.

The Saints wind up the week with doubleheaders against the powerful California Blazers here July 28-29. The Blazers are also expected to be the Saints' chief competition in the Alpha Sports Invitational.

Pitching carried the Saints through last weekend, when they swept the California Silverstreaks in four games. Michelle Thomas (11-1) extended her

streak of innings to 97½ without allowing an earned run while Connie Clark (8-2) now has a streak of 23½ scoreless innings.

Saints pitchers hurled three shutouts and allowed only two runs in the four-game Silverstreak series. The Saints were coached by catcher Marilyn Rau, who was appointed by general manager Gerald Stapley for the balance of the season. Rau succeeded Karmen Booth, who left coaching duties due to a serious illness in her family.

The Saints received further encouragement from shortstop Dee Dinota, who played for the 1982 team. Filling in for injured Suzie Gaw last week, Dinota cracked two singles, two doubles and a triple in the Saturday double-header while Helen Andrade and Kathy Escarrega each blasted their first home runs of the season.

The Saints take a 31-7-1 record into tonight's Vancouver tournament.

## Sun City cheers on team

Sun City, Ariz., is a retirement community, but a group of women who live there think more about the future than they do the past.

"By the time I'm 70, I'll be doing back-handsprings," said Fofie Harlan, 69, the acrobatic star of the Sun City Pom Poms — women between the ages of 60 and 82 who entertain between the games of the Sun City Saints' Saturday night softball doubleheaders.

"As long as Corinne (Leslie, the 82-year-old leader of the group) holds out and as long as I hold out, we've got plans for next year," said Harlan.

Corinne Leslie and her late husband, Ray, who were professional dancers, began giving dancing lessons to Sun City's senior citizens in 1974. When the late Del Webb, the owner of the stadium where the Saints play, began looking for entertainment for the fast-pitch softball games five



By Don Stevenson

**NO SLOWING DOWN:** I'd rather (lead cheers) than sit here by the stove, says Fofie Harlan, 69.

years ago, the Pom Poms were ready.

"I said to them (her students) that you look better than the Dallas cheerleaders," said Leslie.

The fan response is absolutely terrific. Opponents come out with cameras. When disco came out, I said to them, 'Let's give pom

pom some disco."

The women dance, do pyramids and cartwheels.

"The cheerleaders are excellent," said Saints coach Karmen Booth, 33. "It's amazing to think that women 60-80 are that agile and have that much spunk. I hope I'm that way when I'm in my 80s."





RICK OLIVO/GLENDALE STAR  
Glendale's Connie Clark warms up before taking the mound for the Saints.

## Benefits from experience

# Connie Clark battles

By BILL PARKER  
Sports Editor

For 18-year-old Connie Clark of Glendale, the 1983-84 women's fastpitch softball season has been an unusually long one. But the rewards have been very satisfying.

Clark started the season last September as one of the starting pitchers on the Central Arizona College women's team. Clark led the squad to the National Junior College Championship.

After the season ended at Central, Clark returned to Glendale and immediately began play with the Sun City Saints, who currently stand at 31-7-1.

Presently one of the three rotating starters on the Saints' team, Clark posts an 8-2 personal record. She has pitched 67 innings, while allowing just 26 hits and four earned runs. Clark has struck out 83 batters while allowing just 10 walks. Her ERA stands at an impressive 0.42.

Clark does admit, however, that the year has been a long one.

"I'm kind of burned out from the school year," admitted Clark, during an interview prior to the team's competing in a July 20-22, invitational in Vancouver.

"We started practice at Central all the way back in September and we practiced

every day," Clark explained. "I probably should have taken a break at the beginning of the (Saints) season, but I didn't," she said.

"I'm not really that pleased with how I'm doing this year with the Saints, but that's probably because I am burned out," Clark continued. "Physically I feel OK, but mentally sometimes I'm just not really into it," she admitted.

Clark did take a short break from action at the beginning of the month and feels the vacation did her a lot of good.

"I finally took a weekend off and that really helped," she said. "I felt pretty good in the tournament (Del E Webb Memorial, July 6-8). We played an 11 inning game against the Arrows and I felt real good," Clark added. "I was throwing hard and missing it up a little bit. The weekend off really seemed to help."

In comparing the team at Central with the Saints, Clark finds many differences between the two powerhouse squads.

"At Central the team seemed closer on a personal basis," Clark said. "Of course at school we all play together, live together, and go to school together. With the Saints we just don't see each other, other than on the field," she said.

The training attitude of the two teams is another change

Clark has had to adjust to.

"With the Saints, we're expected to train on our own," said Clark. "You're not coached as much. Karmen (Booth, the Saints coach) helps us a lot, but if you want to go run or something you're expected to do it on your own. It's not like at Central where we would all meet at a certain time and run as a team," Clark explained. "For myself, the situation at Central was better. I'm kind of lazy. I don't really like to run. I'm the type of person that needs someone behind me to push me."

As far as the competition goes, the Saints definitely play the cream-of-the-crop. Playing these top caliber teams also adds pressure. But Clark feels that this added pressure has made her a better pitcher.

"The thing that has helped me most is playing against some of the more experienced players on the other teams," Clark explained. "Most of the batters I face now (with Sun City) are more experienced and smarter. They make me work a lot harder."

Clark is also quick to point out that she has benefited from the experienced pitchers on the Sun City team.

"Being around and playing with some of the older players, you just tend to pick things up," explained Clark. "We all

GLENDALE STAR  
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## through extra long season

throw each pitch different. Whenever I get into a slump I try to throw a little different and sometimes I'll try something I have picked up from Michelle (Thomas) or Bonnie (Kraemar)."

Clark hopes to accomplish two more things before she even thinks about ending her softball career. The first is for the Saints to capture a National title and the second is to win a National title with a team from a four-year college.

"I definitely want to be pitching with the Saints when they win Nationals," said Clark. "I don't know about this year. We don't seem to be

playing with the same intensity that we did last year. But time will tell. We seem to play better against the better teams. That's when we really pull together," she said. "We seem like a different team against better competition."

A National Championship at a four-year college seems to be a year or two down the road.

"I'm going to play one more year at Central, then hopefully transfer to a bigger, four-year school," Clark explained. "I've had some offers but I don't want to play where it's cold. That's mainly why I went to Central. After next year (at

Central) I'd like to transfer to a four-year school, but I want to stay here in Arizona or maybe California," she added.

As Clark said, only time will tell, but the Saints will have the first shot at a National title. Last year the Sun City team finished third at Nationals. This year the tournament will be held Aug. 17-24, in Buffalo, New York.

If the Saints pull together against the tougher competition, as Clark claims they do, the first of her final two goals may be accomplished sooner than expected.



## Saints set to battle champion Brakettes

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

BUFFALO, N.Y.—The Sun City Saints and Stratford (Conn.) Brakettes were to clash at 4:30 p.m. (Arizona time) today in a battle of unbeatens in the national women's fast-pitch softball tournament.

Player-coach Marilyn Rau of the Saints, whose three hits led her team to a 3-2 victory Sunday over La Palma Restaurant of Flint, Mich., said she wouldn't decide on a starting pitcher until shortly before game time at Houghton Park.

The task of stopping the defending champions will go either to Connie Clark (2-0 in tournament play) or Michelle Thomas (1-0).

**BRACKETTES COACH** Ralph Raymond also has not named a starter. Kathy Arendsen was the winning pitcher in Stratford's last victory, a 4-1 triumph Sunday over Bettencourt Blast of Fremont, Calif. She is 2-0 in tournament play while teammate Barbara Reinalda is 1-0. Miss Reinalda was voted the national tournament's outstanding pitcher last year after posting a 6-0 mark.

The Brakettes have just 12 hits in three games. "Our kids still aren't hitting the way they have been," said Raymond, whose team batted .321 during regular season. "Hopefully, we'll break out of it."

**THE SAINTS, WHO** batted just .234 during regular season, have 14 hits in three games, but only six over the last two outings.

Meanwhile, Lady Luck has not shadowed the Long Beach, Calif., Renegades this month during their quest for the national championship.

In the Pacific South Regional, the Renegades drew into a tough bracket and lost their second

game. Relegated to the loser's bracket, Long Beach reeled off seven straight victories to win the regional and earn a trip to the national tournament.

**THE RENEGADES**, winners of the July Del E. Webb Memorial Tournament in Sun City, have charted a similar course at the national tournament.

The draw paired them with the defending champion Brakettes in a first-round game Friday. Long Beach failed to capitalize on several scoring opportunities and dropped a 1-0, 13-inning decision.

"It was kind of hard on the players," said Long Beach coach Nancy Elder Monday after watching her squad stay alive in the double-elimination event with a 4-0 victory over La Palma. "They knew they had it won."

**"WE FEEL WE'RE** the best team here. We really do."

Long Beach has won three straight since the loss to Stratford. The Renegades will take on Bettencourt and the host Buffalo Shamrocks will meet the Hayward, Calif., Computerland Hustle today in losers' bracket games.

In tonight's other battle of unbeaten teams, the California Blazers will meet the Orange (Calif.) Majestics.

**FOLLOWING TODAY'S** action, only six of 24 teams that began tournament play Friday will remain in the chase for a national title.

A victory by the Saints would match them against the Blazers-Majestics winner in a 6 p.m. game Wednesday. If the Saints lose, they would play the Shamrocks-Computerland winner at 3 p.m. Wednesday.



# Sports NEWS-SUN

MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1984

## Saints win 3, face Brakettes

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

BUFFALO, N.Y.—The Sun City Saints had their hopes for a national women's fast-pitch softball title dashed last year by the Stratford, Conn., Brakettes in a losers' bracket game.

At Houghton Park on Wednesday, the Saints will get a chance to avenge that loss when they meet the defending national champion in a winners' bracket game at 4:30 p.m. (Arizona time).

The Saints rode the bat of player-coach Marilyn Rau to a 3-2 victory Sunday over La Palma Restaurant of Flint, Mich. It was the Saints' third straight win. They opened national tournament play Saturday with a 5-1 victory over Philadelphia's Lower Bucks Bandits and a 1-0 triumph over Out Bound Travel of Minneapolis.

"I WAS READY for a few," said Marilyn, who had all three Saints hits, including a game-winning double in the sixth.

Miss Rau, a nine-time All-American catcher, also doubled to open the top of the second inning. She moved to third base on a passed ball and scored on a two-out wild pitch by La Palma's Linda Pagett to put the Saints on top, 1-0.

In the fourth, Suzie Gaw reached first on a one-out throwing error by La Palma shortstop Carla Cray. Marilyn followed with a single and Suzie raced toward third. Left fielder Kelly



MARILYN RAU

VanderMolen, who had fielded Marilyn's base hit, threw the ball past third baseman Pamela Lee, allowing Suzie to score and giving the Saints a 2-0 lead.

LA PALMA, which had threatened in the second, third and fourth innings, tied the game, 2-2, in the fifth with the aid of two Saint errors.

Mary Jelfch reached base when Mary Faure dropped a throw at first and Tracy Beadlescomb followed with a single, the fifth hit off Saints starter Michele Thomas. On the play, center fielder Barb Garcia booted the ball, allowing Miss Jelfch to reach third and Miss Beadlescomb to take second.

Michele then got Miss VanderMolen to hit a routine fly ball for

the first out, but Miss Lee doubled to right-center to drive in both base runners and tie the game.

"THAT WAS OUR first let-down on defense," said Marilyn, whose team played errorless softball the first two games. "It was just a bad inning."

Brenda Thaler's one-out single advanced Miss Lee to third and Marilyn summoned Connie Clark, who had hurled a one-hitter in Saturday's victory over Out Bound Travel.

Connie quelled the threat when she got Linda Thaler to hit a pop-up and struck out Mary Haslinger.

CONNIE RETIRED the final six La Palma batters in order, four of them on strikes, to earn the victory.

Miss Pagett, who suffered the loss, uncorked three wild pitches over the first five innings, but her fourth proved the most costly.

It moved Miss Gaw to second base with one out in the top of the sixth and Marilyn followed with her game-winning double to right.

STRATFORD remained unbeaten with a 4-2 win in 11 innings over the Bettencourt Blast of Fremont, Calif. The Brakettes, who have won three of the last four national championships, began tournament play Friday with a 13-inning, 1-0 victory over the Long Beach (Calif.) Renegades. They also blanked the Tuscon Playmakers, 1-0, on Saturday.

The California Blazers and Orange, Calif., Majestics also remained unbeaten following victories Sunday and will meet in Tuesday's other winners' bracket game.

The Blazers edged the Computerland Hustle of Hayward, Calif., 2-1, while the Majestics blanked the host Buffalo Shamrock, 4-0.



## Saint leads double life, plays three positions

For Carla Stearns, softball was simply the natural thing to do.

Stearns, sister of New York Mets catcher John Stearns, was introduced to baseball at an early age. As Carla — the youngest of four children and the only girl — grew older, it was an obvious choice to switch to fast-pitch softball.

"That's all we did around the house," said Stearns, 23. "I played softball because all three of my brothers played baseball."

Stearns, the utility player for the Sun City Saints, comes to Phoenix in the summer just to play softball. When the season ends, she returns to her home near Denver to teach and coach. A double life for the sake of softball.

"It's two different lives," she said. "It's an escapist thing. You really have to be into softball to come down here."

She pointed out the large temperature difference between Denver and Phoenix, the financial hardships and just being away from home as obstacles. But, she's done it three consecutive years and says she will continue as long as it's fun.

Stearns has been bothered by tendinitis in her right (throwing) shoulder this season, and has been playing as a designated hitter until the problem is corrected. She said she hoped to be ready to return defensively for this past weekend's Alpha Sports International Invitational Tournament in Vancouver, B.C.

Things have been a little tougher for John. He was placed on the disabled list for an elbow problem in his throwing arm on Aug. 20, 1982, and was not reactivated until July 12 of this year. He was to be used strictly as a

pinch hitter and pinch runner.

The Mets recalled outfielder Jerry Martin from Class AAA affiliate Tidewater Wednesday, and and Stearns was put back on the DL.

"We felt that Jerry needed to play some at Tidewater to get his timing down again," General Manager Frank Cashen said. "John, meanwhile, is still experiencing some discomfort in the elbow, so that is why we have decided to make this move."

Carla played four years of softball at University of Northern Colorado and played for Law Equipment during the summers. Law Equipment was a frequent visitor to the Amateur Softball Association national tournament, and it was there Stearns came in contact with the Saints.

She came to Saints with college teammate Mary Faure, another UNC alum, to find a higher level of competition.

Last season, when the Saints finished third in the National Sports Festival and third in the ASA national tournament, she was the only player to play in every game, playing the outfield, catcher and designated hitter.

This season the Saints have more depth, Stearns has in about half the Saints' games, hitting .222.

Now, everyone's attention begins to turn toward the National tournament in Buffalo, N.Y. Aug. 17-24.

"It's really fun to play in a tournament like that," she said. "The intensity there's incredible. Mentally, everybody's ready."

"We have the potential as far as hitting," she said. "I think it's possible to do it."

— Michael Anderson

NW Wednesday, August 1, 1984



## Bad hop puts Saints into losers' bracket

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

BUFFALO, N.Y.—An unfortunate bounce may have cost the Sun City Saints a second national women's fast-pitch softball title.

The Saints, who won their only national championship in 1979, dropped a 2-1, nine-inning decision to the defending champions, Stratford (Conn.) Brakettes, Tuesday night at Houghton Park.

It was the Saints' first loss after three wins in the double-elimination tournament.

**SUN CITY WILL** play the Computerland Hustle of Hayward, Calif., at 3 p.m. (Arizona time) today in a losers' bracket game.

A victory over the Hustle would assure the Saints of at least fourth place and a berth in next year's national tournament.

Stratford, which has won three of the last four national championships, grabbed a 2-0 lead in the top of the ninth on Diane Schumacher's two-run single before Sun City rallied in its half of the inning.

**PLAYER-COACH** Marilyn Rau lined a two-out shot to left-center field off winning pitcher Barbara Reinalda to score Karen Fellenz from second and cut the Brakettes' lead to 2-1.

Suzie Gaw had scampered from first and was nearing third base on the play when the ball bounced over the fence. The ground-rule double kept Suzie from scoring and the Saints from tying the game.

Mary Faure then hit a game-ending groundout.

Both teams threatened to score twice during the seven innings of regulation play.

**IN THE SECOND** inning, Miss Fellenz looped a one-out single to left and advanced to second on a bunt by Kathy Escarcega. Miss Gaw, who has just one hit in four tournament games, grounded out to leave Miss Fellenz stranded at second.

The Brakettes, who will meet the California Blazers tonight in a battle of the tournament's only two unbeaten teams, were denied a run in the second by a base-running mistake.

Gina Vecchione reached first base to open the inning on an error by Miss Gaw as shortstop, and moved to third when Miss Schumacher followed with a double off losing pitcher Michelle Thomas.

**AFTER MICHELLE** struck out Deanne Moore, Chris Dinoto bunted and was thrown out by third baseman Helen Andrade. Miss Vecchione, after hesitating at third, raced home on the play and was tagged out after Miss Rau fielded a perfect throw from Miss Faure at first.

The Saints and Brakettes both got runners as far as second base once after that, but neither team could score until the ninth inning.

Michelle, 1-1 in the tournament, retired 10 straight Brakettes before Allyson Rioux doubled with one out in the top of the ninth. Dot Richardson followed with a single that advanced Miss Rioux to third and Miss Vecchione then drew a walk to load the bases.

**MICHELLE GOT** two quick strikes on Miss Schumacher, but the Brakettes' first baseman slapped the third pitch into right field scoring Miss Rioux and Miss Richardson.

The Saints managed just two hits off Miss Reinalda over the first eight innings and it appeared their bats would remain cold when Barb Garcia hit into a groundout to open the bottom of the ninth.

Miss Fellenz then reached on an infield hit and Miss Escarcega followed with another single. After Miss Gaw hit into a fielders' choice that retired Miss Escarcega at second, Marilyn lined a pitch from Miss Reinalda into the gap in left-center field.

**MISS FELLEZN** scored easily from second as the ball bounced over the temporary fence that had been set up for the tournament. Miss Gaw, who had raced all the way home from first base, was ordered back to third when umpires ruled Marilyn's hit a double. Miss Faure was then retired on a routine grounder to shortstop to end the threat and the game.

A two-run homer by Sue Lewis gave the Blazers a 2-0 win Tuesday over the Orange, Calif., Majestics.

The Blazers, runners-up last year, and the Brakettes are 4-0 in tournament play.

**THE MAJESTICS** and Long Beach (Calif.) Renegades will also meet today in a losers' bracket game.

The Renegades have won four straight following a 1-0 loss to the Brakettes in the tournament's opening game.

If the Saints win today, they will play the Majestics-Renegades winner at 4 p.m. Thursday. The tournament, which began with a field of 24 teams, will end Friday with the championship game.

Saints Boosters and fans who want to greet players upon their return to Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport may travel by special bus arranged by Thunderbird Travel. A nominal fee will be charged.

Departure time from Sun City will be determined when it becomes known when the Saints will return. For information or reservations, contact Thunderbird Travel, 972-1191.



## Saints compete in tourney

It's halos all the way for the Sun City Saints, competing in the women's ASA national fast-pitch tournament in Buffalo, N.Y.

The Sun City team was scheduled to meet defending champions Raybestos Brakettes, from Stamford, Conn. at 4:30 p.m. (Arizona time) Aug. 21.

The Saints won two games on Saturday. In the first confrontation, the local team claimed a 5 to 1 victory over the Lower Bucks Bandits, and the winning pitcher, Michelle Thomas pushed her season record to 14-2.

The game results were 5-8-0 for the Saints and 1-4-2 for the Bandits.

In the second game, the Saints outlasted the Outbound Travel organization from Minneapolis. The final score was 1 to 0; game results were 1-3-0 for the Saints and 0-1-0 for the Outbounders.

Winning pitcher was Connie Clark, with a season record of 11-3.

On a roll, the Saints captured their third straight win in Sunday's game, which turned out to be a 3-2 meeting with La Palma Restaurant of Flint, Mich.

Clark, again the winning pitcher, claimed a season record of 12-3. The game results were 3-3-2 for the Saints; 2-7-3 for La Palma.

NEWS-SUN THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1984

## Saints take day off due to rainy skies

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

BUFFALO, N.Y.—Rain gave way to partly cloudy skies over western New York today and play was expected to resume in the national women's fast-pitch softball tournament.

Tournament officials postponed Wednesday's three scheduled games after determining the Houghton Park field unplayable a few minutes before the Sun City Saints and Computerland Hustle of Hayward, Calif., were to begin a 3 p.m. (Arizona time) contest.

The Saints and Hustle, both 3-1 in the double-elimination event, were to meet in today's first game at 1 p.m.

Another losers' bracket game matched the Long Beach Renegades against the Orange Majestics in a battle of California teams.

The winners of those two games will meet at 5:30 p.m. today. The losers will be eliminated. In today's other game,

a battle of unbeaten teams, the defending champion Stratford, Conn., Brakettes will take on the California Blazers. Both teams are 4-0.

Play will continue Friday with the championship game set for 4 p.m. A second game, if necessary, would be played at 5:30.

The top four teams will earn a berth in next year's national tournament.

Sun City, which finished third in the 1983 tournament, Tuesday lost a 2-1, nine-inning decision to Stratford, which has won three of the last four national championships.

Sue Lewis' two-run homer carried the Blazers to a 2-0 victory Tuesday over the Majestics.

This year's national champion will represent the United States in the World Games in London next August.

Teams finishing second through fifth will earn a trip to the 1985 National Sports Festival in Baton Rouge, La.



# Saints get 4th place

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor  
BUFFALO, N.Y.—There will be no national softball title for the Sun City Saints again this year.

Sun City has finished fourth or better in the national women's fast-pitch tournament each of the past six years, but only in 1979 was it able to claim the coveted championship.

The Orange (Calif.) Majestics were spoilers this time, defeating the Saints, 3-1, Thursday night at Houghton Park.

ORANGE WAS scheduled to take on the defending champions, Stratford (Conn.) Brakettes today in a morning losers' bracket game.

The winner was to meet the undefeated California Blazers in a championship game at 4 p.m. today. A second game, if necessary, will be played at 5:30.

Although the defeat meant a fourth-place finish for the Saints, who finished third in 1983, they have earned a berth in next year's national tournament. They also have qualified for the 1985 National Sports Festival in Baton Rouge, La.

THE SAINTS took a 1-0 lead against the Majestics in the fourth inning when Suzie Gaw, who had just one hit in 19 previous at-bats, lined a triple a few feet inside the left-field line to score Kathy Escarcega.

The Majestics grabbed a 3-1 lead in the bottom of the fourth inning with three hits and the aid of two walks and a Saints' error.

Michelle Thomas, winning pitcher in the Saints' 2-1, 13-inning, victory earlier Thursday against the Computerland Hustle of Hayward, Calif., gave up a leadoff single to Jenny Moore, who advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt.

MISS MOORE moved to third when Miss Gaw booted Terry Keasling's grounder and scored to tie the game, 1-1, when Stephanie Tanaka lined a single to right. Maridee Richards' double chased Miss Keasling home with the Majestics' second run and advanced Miss Tanaka to third base.

Connie Clark then relieved Michelle and Kim Nutter greeted the right hander with a bunt. Third baseman Helen Andrade

pounced on the ball and threw to catcher Marilyn Rau, who tagged out a sliding Miss Tanaka.

Connie then issued consecutive two-out walks to force in a run and give the Majestics a 3-1 advantage.

WINNING pitcher Tammy Delp retired the Saints in order in the fifth and sixth innings and got the first two batters she faced in the seventh. Tammy McKinney lined a two-out single to left field, the Saints' second hit before Miss Delp got Mary Faure to hit into a game-ending groundout.

Miss Thomas, 2-2 in tournament play, suffered the loss. Miss Clark was 2-0 in the tournament.

Bonnie Kraemer, who pitched in 14 games for the Saints during the regular season, appeared only briefly in one game and did not have a decision.

THE MAJESTICS got a shot at Sun City by beating the Long Beach (Calif.) Renegades 1-0 in Thursday's first game.

Kathy Van Wyck hurled a 3-hitter as the Blazers (5-0) edged Stratford, 1-0, in the other Thursday game.

NEWS-SUN

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 1984

THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT—August 29-Sept. 4, 1984.

## SPORTS

### Saints take 4th in nationals

The Sun City Saints finished fourth in the national women's softball tournament, ending with a record of 4-2.

By finishing fourth, the team automatically qualifies for the 1985 National Tournament and the 1985 National Sports Festival in Baton Rouge, La.

In their first game of the double-elimination tournament, the Saints beat the Lower Buck Bandits from Philadelphia, 5-1. From there they proceeded to victories over Outbound Travel from Minneapolis, 1-0; and

LaPalma Restaurant from Flint, Mich., 3-2.

In their fourth outing, the Saints suffered their first loss to defending national champions Raybestos Brakettes from Stratford, Conn. Although both teams managed five hits, the Brakettes emerged victorious 2-1.

The Saints came back with a narrow 1-0 victory over Computerland Hustle, a game which took 13 innings to complete.

The Saints drive for the national championship ended in a battle against the Orange County Majestics. The Saints only managed two hits and lost the game 3-1.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1984 NEWS-SUN

## 10 YEARS AGO

Aug. 26-Sept. 1, 1974

Working their way up through seven games, the Sun City Page's Softball team earned the world softball championship.

☆☆☆  
Sun Citian Jack Harris is starting a Sun City Booster Club to help the softball team raise traveling funds for its playing tour of South Africa and Rhodesia early next year. Lifetime membership fees are \$10.

☆☆☆  
With a prediction that it would be the last bond request for many years, the Peoria School District board of trustees approved a call for a \$13,250,000 school bond issue election to be in October.

☆☆☆  
A longtime critic of the Sun City Volunteer Fire District board of directors has accused the board of voting illegally to purchase another fire truck and said the district can reduce considerably the district tax levied on residents.



## Booster club

By STEVE HAWLEY  
Sports Editor

The Sun City Saints apparently will have to find a new home for 1985.

The Saints Booster Club Monday night announced it will not sign a lease with Bade Boyes Partnership to use Sun City Stadium next year.

Bade Boyes, owner of the 4,000-seat stadium, is asking that a new lease include a "facilities use payment" of \$6,000 per month, said booster club President Joe Davisson.

**A FACILITIES USE** payment was not part of this year's one-year lease which expired July 31. Davisson said that lease called for rent of \$1 and assumption of liabilities, which included utility bills and maintenance expenses.

That lease was the same as one provided by the Del E. Webb Development Co. in 1983, Davisson said. Webb sold the stadium to Bade Boyes in September 1983. A condition of the sale was that Bade Boyes maintain the property as a stadium until Jan. 1, 1988.

The facilities use payment would increase booster club expenses by \$20,000 next season and would make it difficult to operate without a deficit, Davisson said.

**"AS FAR AS** the current board is concerned, we're saying no," Davisson told about 100 booster club members Monday night in the Suntowner. "There's no way we can assume a liability such as this.

"Realistically, we cannot come out in the black using those kind of figures."

Helen Marie Stobar Flory, booster club finance director, said the Saints' operating budget this season was more than \$61,000.

**THE BOOSTER** club has more than \$25,000 in checking and savings accounts, she said. About \$19,000 of that, Davisson said, is money contributed by investors in 1981 "which guaranteed Webb that they would be paid back if there was a deficit."

The money will be returned to investors, Davisson said.

Davisson, vice president and manager of a Sun City West bank branch, said Bade Boyes also is asking that the boosters pay to repair a lawn mower and replace a golf car stolen from the stadium this summer. Repairs to the mower, used at the stadium, have been put at \$500, Davisson said. Value of the stolen golf car, he said, has been estimated at \$1,000. Davisson said those and additional expenses of \$850 for stadium repairs or maintenance probably would be made by the booster club to Bade Boyes, although he feels they "might be a little excessive."

**NO ONE** in attendance voiced disapproval at the board's decision to not sign a lease.

Long-time booster and board member Paul Morrill, citing a decrease in game attendance and club membership over the last few years, said, "Obviously softball is not as popular in Sun City as it used to be."

The cost of fielding a team has increased steadily, he said, and would continue upward.

## shuns stadium lease in '85

**"WE HAVE** reached the point of diminishing return and it's time to get out," Morrill said. "Next year it's going to cost \$80,000 to put a team on the field. I hate to see this day happen, but I think you ought to go into it with your eyes wide open."

There also were problems for the women's fast-pitch softball team on the field this season, but Davisson said they had no bearing on Monday's announcement.

Former Saints General Manager Gerald Stapley received board approval to replace Karmen Booth as coach following the team's second-place finish in the July 6-8 Del E. Webb Memorial

Tournament.

**WHEN HE** announced on July 12 that he was replacing Karmen, several players, including veteran Marilyn Rau, threatened to leave the team.

In a compromise move made to keep the team intact and assure that it would compete at the national tournament in August, Miss Rau, not Stapley, was named interim coach.

The Saints went on to finish fourth in the national tournament at Buffalo, N.Y.

**DAVISSON SAID** he is attempting to find a sponsor and playing site for the Saints next year.

The Saints played their first game in Sun City in 1965. Stapley was their coach when they won their only national championship in 1979.



# Editorials

## Saints' long march ends

A long, loving relationship is about to end.

The Sun City Saints, the women's softball team that marched into Sun City hearts in 1965, will play no more games in Sun City Stadium.

The team's Booster Club, after several years of valiant efforts to keep the Saints playing in Sun City, has decided not to sign a 1985 lease with Bade Boyes Partnership, owners of the Sun City Stadium since September 1983.

Boyes' request for a \$6,000-per-month facilities use payment was the determining factor; it would have made it impossible to operate in the black.

Joe Davisson, Saints Booster Club president, said regretfully that a \$20,000 increase in expenses facing the organization next year was just too much.

The \$61,000 budget this year leaves the operation slightly in the black, but that's possible only because of a lease that calls for a \$1 payment for the stadium plus utilities and maintenance costs.

There have been many good years for the Saints and loyal support from fans; there were the years when the name of Sun City went with the Saints to Europe, to New Zealand and to Hawaii; there was a national championship in 1979 and many times when the Saints were close.

But in the last few years, attendance has declined, and the Boosters have struggled with the financing of the club since Del E. Webb Development Co. turned that phase of the operation over to them.

Seasons have been underwritten with the help of \$19,000 contributed by investors who have supplied the funds as a guarantee to Webb that any operating deficits would be made up. These investors will recover their money, Davisson promised.

So it's the end for the Sun City Saints here. Their manager, Gerald Stapley, says he'll try to find another place for them to play—but they won't be the "Sun City"

team anymore.

Perhaps Peoria might want to have the Saints playing in their new sports complex; at least that would be in the neighborhood and some of their most loyal fans could still follow them.

The Booster Club decision to call it quits and the Sun City Recreation Centers board decision not to become involved in any purchase of the Sun City Stadium makes the prospect of keeping that facility dim.

The Milwaukee Brewers will play another winter schedule in the stadium; they've signed a one-year lease. But after that there's no telling what will happen.

When the Boyes firm bought the facility, the agreement with Devco stipulated that it would be maintained as a stadium until Jan. 1, 1988. There has been hope that a way could be found to purchase the stadium and keep it as a facility for Saints and Brewers games.

But there isn't much else it could be used for, apparently, and it seems likely that the sentiment for keeping the facility will die out, now that the Saints will leave their Sun City home.

For Sun Citians and Sun City Westers who have been deeply involved in the struggle to keep the Saints playing here, this is a sorrowful time. There has been great pride in the Saints' achievements and their fans have had a grandparent's fondness for their "adopted" team as they shared in the many fund-raising events over the years—Sinnerama, the Walk-a-thon, Jog-a-thon and others. And, just like major football teams, the Saints had their own dance line, the Pom Poms, who too have become nationally famous.

There appears to be no way now to stop the Saints' march out of Sun City. The only thing left to do is to give them a rousing farewell party and celebrate the old times, the good times. And to accept the fact that time has brought one more change to Sun City's way of life.



# Sun City Saints may have made final softball out

Dissension, whopping rent hike  
wrack fourth-best team in U.S.

By JIM WALSH  
Northwest Valley Bureau

SUN CITY — After a strife-filled season culminated by a huge rent increase — to \$6,000 a month from \$1 a year at Sun City Stadium — the Sun City Saints may have played their last softball game.

Although it appears to be a long shot, Saints General Manager Gerald Stapley — a focus of internal dissension on the team — is planning a fund-raising drive in an attempt to save the team.

One of the nation's top women's amateur teams, the Saints have been an institution since Del E. Webb, Sun City's founder, brought the team to the retirement community in 1966.

But after a national championship and years of excellence, the Saints may have to fold because of the rent increase, a loss of interest among aging boosters and squabbling between a group of players and Stapley.

The Sun City Saints Boosters Club, which had raised \$40,000 a year to field the team, voted to disband this fall after the stadium's rent was raised to more than \$6,000 a month from \$1 a year, club President Joe Davison said.

The rent increase was a decision of the Bade Boyes Partnership of Glendale, which bought the stadium in 1983 from the Del E. Webb Development Co.

"The current board does not feel we could assume the current liability," said Davison, club president for nine years and a vice president of United Bank.

In addition, he said, the burden of running the team — raising money, scheduling, taking tickets and other

— Saints, A7

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Monday, December 3, 1984

## Saints

Continued from A1

responsibilities — grew too heavy for the few boosters who did most of the work.

"It wasn't just being burned out — a few of our key people passed away," Davison said.

Internal dissension between the players and Stapley also made working for the Saints less enjoyable, said Helen Marie Flory, the club's director of finance for four years.

At one point in midseason, five Saints refused to play for Stapley after he fired coach Karmen Booth because the team was playing poorly, Stapley said.

The players agreed to play again only after Stapley appointed Marilyn Rau, the team's catcher for 18 years, as coach.

Stapley also said he was forced to miss the National Sports Festival Tournament and the Amateur Softball Association National Tournament because the players threatened another walkout.

The dissenters even forced him to sit in the press box at the stadium during games, refusing to play if he was in their dugout, Stapley said.

"He didn't deserve the treatment they gave him," Flory said. "When you listen to a lot of gripes, it's no longer fun anymore. I've just had it."

The rent hike and the club's dissolution leave the team with almost no money to pay expenses and no place to play.

Despite the obstacles and controversy, Stapley said he hopes to resurrect the Saints by finding a new field, kicking the dissenters off the team and organizing a fund-raising drive and a new boosters organization.

Despite the turmoil off the field, the Saints posted a 40-12-2 record and were the fourth-best team in the country. By finishing fourth in the Amateur Softball Association's national tournament in Buffalo, N.Y., the Saints earned a berth in the 1985 competition.

Davison said the boosters have turned over the Saints' uniforms and equipment to Stapley, who must solve the financing and field problems if the team is to continue.

He said a decision must be reached on the team's future in January, when games have to be scheduled.

Helen Garcia of Glendale, the Saints' third baseman, said, "I'm very disappointed. It's kind of upsetting to think the team has folded since the team has been together for so many years."

Playing for the Saints is part of a family tradition for Garcia. Her mother, Rosie Andrade, played third base well enough for the Saints in the late 1960s to be

inducted into the Arizona Softball Foundation Hall of Fame in 1978.

If the Saints folded, Garcia said, it would end her softball career, even though she loves playing the game taught her as a child by Andrade. Garcia was a bat girl for the Saints when she was 12 years old.

Garcia said five Saints who refused to play under Stapley last year apparently had a "personal reason" for turning against the longtime team official and felt they were rallying behind Booth, their friend.

However, most of the other women were like Garcia. "We just wanted to play," she said.

Stapley said his ideas for rejuvenating the team include a fund-raising drive that would ask 1,000 fans to donate \$10 each in order to collect \$10,000.

The remaining \$30,000 for running the Saints would come from ticket sales, concessions and community events such as car washes and the annual "Sinmerama."

The Sinmerama's most popular event is a Kiss-a-thon, at which Sun City residents make donations for the privilege of kissing the players.

But Stapley acknowledged that it would be almost impossible to collect gate receipts at ballfields in nearby Sun City West and Surprise because they have no gate to control admissions.

Davison said another possibility is the Peoria Sports Complex, less than a mile from Sun City's eastern limit, which does have a field encircled by a fence.

However, the Peoria field also has bleachers with a seating capacity of not more than 100 people.

The stadium problem can be traced, at least in part, to the Del E. Webb Development Co.'s decision to pull out of Sun City and invest its resource into construction of Sun City West.

Webb sold the stadium to Bade Boyes Partnership of Glendale in 1983 for \$400,000 — a price below its value — after insisting on a proviso that the property would remain a ballpark through 1987.

The goal was to ensure that the stadium, which, ironically, was built to give the Saints a home and to attract a major-league baseball team for spring training, would remain available to the Saints and the Milwaukee Brewers.

But Davison said that there was no provision to bar Bade Boyes from raising the rent and that he does not fault their decision.

Jerry Bade, one of the stadium's owners, could not be reached for comment on the rent increase.

"The Bades are fine people, and they're business people," Davison said.

But Flory chided the Glendale developers for "asking an exorbitant price" that the volunteer group cannot possibly pay.



## Saints preserve 'em:

By JIM WALSH  
Northwest Valley Bureau

SUN CITY — The Sun City Saints plan a resurrection this summer somewhere in the Valley, but the team apparently has been excommunicated from this retirement community.

After the dissolution of the Sun City Saints Boosters Club last fall, residents have shown little interest in sponsoring the women's amateur softball team, General Man-

ager Gerald Stapley said.

"I talked to some people in the area, and told them to spread it around," Stapley said.

Although a few Sun City residents have offered donations on the condition that the team remains in Sun City, "the phone hasn't been ringing off the hook, let's put it that way," he said.

After a rent increase from \$1 a year to \$6,000 a month made Sun City Stadium's

friendly confines far less heavenly, "there's no place to play out there," Stapley said.

Because of scheduling requirements, Stapley has to find a sponsor and a place to play by the end of this month. He said the team will move to a location chosen by the sponsors.

Among the possibilities is joining a league in Phoenix, but the Saints always have been an independent team, scheduling games with the

Monday, January 28, 1985

## Team looking for a home

best competition they could find.

A Phoenix business has agreed to be a partial sponsor, but more money must be raised to put the Saints back on the field, Stapley said. Last year the team spent about \$40,000.

The Boosters Club used to raise money for the team through community events.

The club disbanded, however, after several key members died, and the remaining

members decided there was no way to raise enough money to pay the increased rent at Sun City Stadium.

The Saints had been charged the nominal rental fees when the Del E. Webb Development Co. owned the stadium. The company sold the ballpark in 1983 to Bade Boyes Partnership as part of its divestiture of Sun City properties.

The team also was split through much of 1984 by

internal dissension over Stapley's firing in midyear of Coach Karmen Booth, which made working for the Saints far less pleasant, club members said.

The lack of Sun City interest appears to spell an end to the Saints' 18-year history here and the close relationship between the team and the community.

Del E. Webb, the multimillionaire builder and sports-

— Saints, Extra D

## Saints

Continued from Extra A

man who founded Sun City, brought the team here in 1966.

Since then, the Saints have been among the nation's best amateur women's teams, winning one national championship and placing in the top five on numerous occasions.

Despite the team's problems, Stapley said nine players from last year's squad have agreed to return, enough to entitle the Saints to entry into the Amateur Softball Association National Tournament.

But Suzie Gaw, Marilyn Rau — who replaced Booth as coach last year — and several other players will not



# Sports NEWS-SUN FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1985

## Saints need backing

By STEVEN SEXTON  
Sports Editor

In 1966, the Phoenix Ramblers, a women's fast-pitch softball team, was searching for a new home and with the help of the Daily News-Sun, Del E. Webb Development Co. and overwhelming support from the community the Ramblers became the Saints and moved to Sun City.

During their stay in the community, the Saints achieved notoriety by capturing a national championship in 1979 under the direction of Gerald Stapley.

Over the years, the Saints made repeated trips to the nationals and came home with two runnerup trophies, four thirds and one fourth.

**NOT BAD** for a team that was almost without a home.

Now, it seems times have changed and matters have worsened for the Saints. A once-thriving organization appears to be ready to go under.

Internal dissension, problems with a rent increase at Sun City Stadium and the loss of support by the Sun City Saints Boosters Club has made the club's future dim and bleak.

The team's only hope of survival in the past few months has been left up to Stapley.

**STAPLEY WAS** trying to find a new home and raise funds for the Saints, but has decided to call it quits.

"I am dropping out as of now," Stapley said this week. "There is no place to play, the booster club has disbanded and without help of Sun City people I can't see raising funds and putting the

team together."

Stapley's frustrations are understandable.

Last season he had to deal with strife among the Saints. The stadium's rent was raised to \$6,000 a month from \$1 a year, a decision made by Bade Boyes Partnership of Glendale which bought the stadium from Webb in 1983.

**EVEN THOUGH** there are a few players who say they won't play for Stapley, the Saints general manager believes he wouldn't have any difficulty forming a team.

"I would have little problem raising a team," he said. "Getting money is the main problem.

Supporting a team like the Saints can be an expensive proposition.

"If we can get nine people, we

could go to the Sports Festival," Stapley said. "But that costs money."

**BY PLACING** fourth in the 1984 national tournament, the Saints qualified for the 1985 Sports Festival in Baton Rouge, La., starting July 26. In August, the national tournament will be held.

Stapley said it costs between \$6,000 and \$9,000 to send the team to the national tournament.

Last year the tourney was in Buffalo, N.Y.

Stapley's recent decision to bow out as general manager and coach could be reversed. It all hinges on financial backing and a place to play.

"**I WOULD** be willing to come (to coach) but we have just been

## to survive

pried out of a stadium," Stapley explained. "The faithful fans wouldn't be able to go to Peoria or Sun City West. We wouldn't have a following. I have enjoyed working with the Saints immensely," Stapley continued. "I have been with the Saints a total of eight years and the lowest place we got in nationals was fourth place."

Stapley, who lives in Mesa, says he wants to watch his daughter play softball on the eastside. Also, the time spent attempting to revive the team has been an emotional drain, says Stapley.

"I have tried quite hard," Stapley said. "It is just too much of a chore for one person to run the whole job. I am going to spend time with my daughter. She wants to play in a 15-and-under fast-pitch league."

Stapley says if residents are interested in keeping the Saints as a team something will have to be done within the next month or it will be too late.

"**IT WOULD** have to be accomplished in one month," Stapley said. "We got to let them (national office) know very shortly whether we will be defending champions or not."



## Former Saints start

By STEVEN SEXTON  
Sports Editor

PHOENIX—Starting in June, nine former members of the Sun City Saints will be playing against fast-pitch softball teams in the Copperstate League in Phoenix.

"We have a team and we are going to be playing," said Marilyn Rau, a veteran player from the once-thriving Saints' organization.

Rau says the team will assume a new name and play its games at Papago Park, Van Buren street and Galvin Parkway (off 56th street), in east Phoenix.

Besides Rau, one of the origi-



MARILYN RAU

nal Saints when the team was formed in 1966. Suzie Gaw is expected to play, with Karmen Booth assuming the coaching responsibilities. Rau declined to state the other players or the team's new name.

Rau's statement ends speculation regarding the status of some of the Saints' players and

the future of the team.

The Saints qualified for the 1985 Sports Festival in Baton Rouge, La., starting July 26 by placing fourth in the national tournament last year. The team was also eligible to compete in the national tournament in August.

Rau says the new team hopes to play in the national tournament and indicated the former Saints are excited about competition among Copperstate squads this summer.

Late last year and as recent as January, it appeared a trip to the 1985 national tournament would not materialize. The Saints had been priced out of

## new softball team

Sun City Stadium, forcing the Saints Booster Club to disband last fall.

In 1984 the Booster club had raised \$40,000 to field the team, but decided to end its support after the stadium's rent was increased from \$1 a year to \$6,000 a month. The rent increase was made by Bade Boyes Partnership of Glendale which bought the stadium from Del E. Webb Development Co. in 1983.

Without financial backing and a home, the Saints were in the process of regrouping.

Gerald Stapley, former Saints general manager and coach, had tried to find a new home and raise funds for the Saints,

but called it quits in late January.

Meanwhile, Booth and some other Saints were working on forming their own team. That effort was culminated this month with the announcement the former Saints would play in the Copperstate League.

During the time Stapley was trying to rebuild the Saints, he said he would have "little problem raising a team" but discovered difficulties in obtaining financial support and a place to play.

Consequently, Stapley resigned as general manager, adding that he wanted to spend time watching his daughter

play softball on the eastside of the Valley.

Under Stapley's leadership, the Saints had captured a national championship in 1979 and also claimed two runnerup trophies, four thirds and one fourth.

Now, after 18 years in Sun City, the Saints, a team created from the old Phoenix Ramblers, will not be back for another season at Sun City Stadium. A remnant of last year's team has returned to the big city which served as the Ramblers' home for 25 years.

Left behind for residents of the Sun Cities are memories of the past.