

Memories! Do You

Scotch Plains Recreation Has a Glorious Past and Looks Toward the Future

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for Our Towns

Enthusiastic, caring citizens have been responsible for the success of the Scotch Plains Recreational programs. From the organization of the Board of Recreation Commissioners in 1946 until the present day, these concerned citizens have successfully turned over responsibility to their sons, daughters and grandchildren.

The Board has consisted of seven members who serve from one to five years without compensation. The Board has recreation programs, operation of Scotch Hills Golf Course and long-range planning for future recreational sites. Presently Town Manager Tom Atkins places the members of the board.

"Tom Atkins has done a very good job in placing people on the commission so that he is sensitive to the feelings of everybody in the community," said Recreation Chairman Ed Zazzali.

Farley Avenue Recreation Park became Scotch Plains' first recreational park in 1947. Located on East Second Street, Front Street and Farley Avenue the five-acre park consists of two baseball diamonds, swings, a basketball court and several additional facilities.

Brookside Park Wildlife Preserve was dedicated in 1976 and is located on Hetfield Avenue. Brookside features a softball field, picnic facilities and facilities

for children.

Located off Plainfield Road near Scotch Hills Golf Course, construction began on Jerseyland Field in 1979. Aside from a softball field, some playground facilities exist.

Three men's softball leagues, The Scotch Plains slo-pitch, the St. Bart's Oldtimers slo-pitch and the Jewish Community Center play the majority of their games at either Brookside, Jerseyland or Farley. Each league has been in existence for more than twenty years.

Proud of the long success of these leagues, Zazzali pointed out that, "These leagues and responsibilities have been handed down over the years to people who are residents. These people take pride in their work."

Zazzali stressed, "It's not just organizing the programs, it's making sure that everything is taken care of."

Prior to Dennis Pedicini was the chairman. Like Zazzali, Pedicini exhibited pride in work. "Dennis was part of the recreation commission for 15 years as well as softballing a player. Dennis still cares."

Zazzali added, "He owned a children's garment store right in the center of town. He was part of the community. He is still involved in recreation. He was the one who got me involved in recreation."

Booth Field which hosts the Scotch Plains Youth Baseball League was developed in 1954 and is owned by the New Jersey Department of Transportation. Greenside Playground and Green Forest Park located off Westfield Road and Evergreen followed suit in 1962. Green Forest features tennis courts and both provide facilities for children and civic groups.

In 1964, the town acquired nine holes of the Shady Rest Country Club which is presently known as the Scotch Hills Golf Course. The clubhouse was originally an old farm house owned by Ephraim Tucker.

Zazzali wanted to be sure that people knew that recreation in Scotch Plains is really for everybody. "We have Dianne Ledder who is serving her fourth five-year term. So you not only have younger people who have younger kids but you also have older people on the commission who keep the seniors in mind. It's that kind of relationship which give you longevity."

Recently, plans have been drawn for the construction of Ash Brook

Park possibly to be located at the section of the Ash Brook Reservation near Martine Avenue and Old Raritan Road. The park could feature two soccer fields, two softball/baseball fields, proposed lighting for the fields, a .75-mile walking path, a concession stand and parking for 110 cars.

The Recreation Commission feels that approval would be good pay back from the county for a tract of land the township gave Union County several decades ago. The Martine Avenue extension was being completed and the town of Scotch Plains sold, for one dollar, 54 acres to the county so that they could complete the deeds.

The deeds were drawn up in 1958 and the project was completed in the mid sixties.

"We were number four on the master plan for the county that they were going to develop a park for us," said Zazzali. "Since then, the county structure had changed and that is why the project never came into being yet."

Presently, there are high hopes of getting an approval for Ash Brook Park.

James "Gang" Rides High; Knocks Off St. Patrick, 9-4

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The St. James "Gang" rode wild and free once again, striking terror and fear, as they snaked first-place St. Patrick, 9-4, and slithered to within one-half a game of first in the Saints Division of the St. Bart's Oldtimers Softball League at Jerseyland Park in Scotch Plains on August 23. Co-"Gang" leader Matt Hoelzel and henchman Joe Dolan both went three-for-three and fellow outlaw Dennis Hercel pitched in with a two-run triple.

Bang! Bang! Bang! The "Gang" burst out of their hideout and seized a 6-1 lead in the bottom of the first. Tom Ulichy hammered a shot to right that was snagged by Pietrucha for the first out. Matt Hoelzel whacked a single to center and Jim Hoelzel hacked a

single over second. Both base-runners tagged up and advanced on Ed Belford's fly out to right, then Terry Gallagher tied the game with an RBI single to left. The seizure continued when Darryl Eaton looped an RBI single to right. Hercel stepped up and thumped his two-run triple to deep left field, then Stan Lesniewski lashed an RBI single past third. Dolan plopped a single over second, then Lesniewski scored when Barattucci's grounder was overthrown.

St. "Pat" Luongo led off the second with a triple to right-center but was later thrown out at home when he tagged up and attempted to score on Jerry Baker's fly out to left. Matt Hoelzel tapped his second single in the bottom of the second but the James "Gang" failed to steal any runs.

St. Patrick 101 001 1 4
St. James 603 000 x 9

John's Meat Market Takes Sr. League Title

John's Meat Market led by their brilliant player-manager Vince Losavio defeated the strong Continentals team by scores of 10-9 and 8-5. John's Market thus becomes the 1970 Senior Softball Champs and will proudly wear their crown so rightfully earned. Both games of the world series saw plenty of hitting, good and daring base running and sparkling defense especially by the meat cutters.

In the first game, the Continentals jumped off to a seven-run lead featuring key doubles by George Kelly, Rich Marks and Gene Szczizana. However, John's bounced back with two runs in the next inning and exploded for six runs in the big fifth inning. In that inning pitcher Dennis Pedicini walked three batters in a row and then the big bats of George Ballow, Hal Wowchuck, Pete Tierney, Leo Coniff and Vinny Losavio exploded

which shocked manager Joe Triano. Vinny Losavio knocked in 6 runs in this big game and great plays by third basemen Leo Coniff and shortstop Pete Tierney helped to stymie the defending champions.

In game two, the Continentals jumped off to a 4-2 lead in the fourth inning before John's again exploded featuring four runs batted in by manager Vinny Losavio. Tom Jackson hit a bases loaded double and Paul Hiltz and George Ballow singled driving in two more runs. The market men turned over four double plays to kill rallies and three in the first game for an unbelievable total of seven in the two games.

John's Meat Market which has gone to the playoffs over the past four years put it all together this year in winning their first world series. Many spectators and veteran baseball mentors stated that this club is one of the best softball teams

Spector Leads Batters In Senior League

By Steve Coleman

At the midpoint of this year's Senior League season, Rick Spector holds a slim lead over a strong field as the league's top batter. Rick is now batting a respectable .500 and has 15 walks to his credit.

Top Ten Batters (based on 20 at bats):

1. R. Spector - Cards: .500
2. B. Ruggiero - Cubs: .462
3. T. Coleman - Twins: .455
4. F. Carlino - Angels: .455
5. C. Fears - Cubs: .429
6. J. Leahy - Pirates: .428
7. J. Sweet - Tigers: .391
8. C. Hermit - Cubs: .364
9. J. Weiss - Cubs: .350
10. J. Nicholson - Astros: .348

Pitching (2 or more decisions)

- F. Carlino - 4-0
- M. Foy - 4-0
- T. Coleman - 3-2
- B. Flag - 2-0
- C. Fears - 2-0

Doubles:

- Coleman, Yessman, Hoffman, Lepinsky, Gordon - 2 each.

Triples:

- Coleman, Weiss - 2 each.

Home Runs:

- Grogg (2)

Walks:

- S. D'Annunzio (20)

Stolen Bases:

- Ruggiero, Laspe, S. D'Annunzio, Parsons, Coleman — 7 each.

Team Batting:

- Cubs .278
- Tigers .268
- Cards .249
- Astros .244
- Pirates .220
- Twins .217
- Angels .216
- Athletics .169

Scotch Plains History Information Wanted:

Anyone who has credible information, pictures, etc. of the early days of the organizations, leagues, activities, etc. which occurred at the various fields and parks of Scotch Plains, please contact Dave Corbin at (908) 232-4407. Pictures, articles, etc. will be scanned and returned.

Marro. D'Annunzio win In Slo-pitch

The Scotch Plains Softball League is getting as predictable as a bleep! with surprises turning up all over. The second week of play ended with four of sixteen teams unbeaten in two in each division.

Jerseyland and Sevell's stayed unmarked as both recorded victories again. They have wasted no time showing people they belong in the league. Jerseyland bombarded Capital Savings 22-12 as Cotton McCoy, Bunny Hearn and Greg Booth all hit round trippers. Coach Pete Osborn of Capital must regroup his troupe soon to stay in the race.

Sevell's took care of Duke's Subs in quick fashion 14-6. It was Lou Arnone and Dan Dunkel belting the homers in this one as Sevell's took control early and Scotchwood Liquors fell victim to Barry's solid hitting and excellent defense. Mike Bauman has now gone 13-14 in the first three outings while Mike Fredericks hit two hits against 209B. Scotchwood was a 18-10 loser and the Post fell 23-3. Post 209B won their other game of the week, coming back from eight run deficit to burn D & Z 14-6.

Over in the A Division, Frank Rossi is a happy man these days as his Marra team won their second straight, a win over Third Colony. Mike Ramer stays on his tear at

the plate. D'Annunzio Bros. beat Jade Isle 11-3 to go 2-0 in the early campaign. For Jade Isle it looks like a long hot summer. Sanguliano evened their record at 1-1 with a close

4-3 victory over a tough 209A team.

Fred Caterers, after an opening day loss, storms back to beat D & R 15-8. Ed Zazzali, L Fusselman and Ken Green combined for 7 hits in the win.

Remember the trade deadline ends midnight tonight as rosters must be turned in.

Stars of the week —
1. Mike Bauman - 13 for 14 at bats - not bad

1. Ed Zazzali - hitting at a .875 clip

- STANDINGS:
- B Division -
 - 1. Jerseyland AC 3-0
 - 2. Sevell's 2-0
 - 3. Barry's 2-1
 - 4. Duke's Subs 1-1
 - 5. Post 209B 1-2
 - 6. Scotchwood Liq. 1-2
 - 7. Capital Savings 0-2
 - 8. D & Z 0-2

- A Division -
- 1. Marra Const. 2-0
- 2. D'Annunzio Bros. 2-0
- 3. Freds Caterers 1-1
- 4. Post 209A 1-1
- 5. Sang's 1-1
- 6. Third Colony 1-1
- 7. Jade Isle 0-2
- 8. D & R 0-2

