

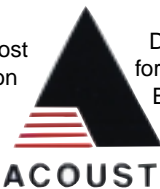
Acousti 60's Team Wins SSUSA 2010 Spring Nationals

Editorial and photos submitted by Don Verner



It all began with a bunch of guys over the age of 60 playing fun, friendly pick-up games off of Post Road in Melbourne, Florida, under the supervision of Domenick Mancusi and J.R. Carmine. There are about sixty men on our player's list and on a normal day, we have about twenty-five to thirty guys show up every Tuesday and Friday morning. No experience is necessary. The only requirement is you must be sixty years old or older. Some guys can still hit, catch, throw and run. Some can still only do two or three of those. However, make no mistake about it, many of the players have dozens of National Champion rings. In fact, one gentleman in particular, John Teter, has fifty World Championship rings and at 70 years old, he is still teaching and taking time to help everyone.

There was already a 65's and 70's tournament team from the Melbourne group. So in January, 2009, Herb Bruno, John Angelillo and Don Verner started talking about forming a 60's tournament team so they could play even more competitive games. They began by recruiting some of the guys from the Post Road game as well as others from other teams in the area. Don Verner



agreed to sponsor the team as well as be one of the players (catcher).

Don had worked with Acousti Engineering Company of Florida for 40 years and had retired in 2007 as Vice-President and Branch Manager of the Brevard County operation. Acousti Engineering Company of Florida was established in 1946 and is one of the largest interior contractors in the Southeast with twelve branches with each based in every major city in Florida. They also have branches in Houston, Nashville, Raleigh, Charlotte and Atlanta. Their scope of work mainly consists of commercial acoustical ceilings, drywall, and all types of flooring. When Don retired, he wasn't really sure how he was going to fill his days. He had played slow pitch softball all the time when he was a younger man. However, in 1985 Don sustained a major shoulder injury that he thought had pretty much ended any serious playing, especially as an outfielder (his specialty). When he discovered the group at Post Road, not only had he found a way to fill his days with the one thing that he loved to do more than anything else, he also made a lot of great friends.

Once they put together a pretty impressive team, Don offered to pay the entry fees and asked Tony Hayes in the Orlando branch of

Acousti to donate the shirts. Although the team has only been together for a little over a year, they have accomplished a lot. The rosters have varied slightly with every tournament but the core of the team has stayed the same. They have won the following Half Century Tournaments: Altamonte Springs (2009 and 2010), Lee County (2009), Tampa (2009), The Villages (2010) and the 2010 AA Spring National Tournament in Polk County and the 2010 Sebring Tournament.

The 2010 SSUSA Spring Nationals were held in Auburndale, Florida, on April 23rd through 25th. The Acousti 60's team went 6-1 to win the championship. This particular tournament team consisted of the following players: John Angelillo (IF), Don Bobish (P), Herb Bruno (IF), Morris (Brownie) Evans (OF), Roger (Pepper) Hale (P), Kenny Kramer (OF),



Don Bobish - Don, at the age of 63 and retired, has been playing Florida Half Century softball for 10 years and has won the State Championships with FHC in '00, '02, '04, '06 and '08. He has also won the '05 Winter Nationals and the '10 Spring Nationals.



John Angelillo - John started playing Senior Softball at the age of 50 and at the age of 66 years young, still enjoys playing competitive ball. Before joining Acousti's 60's team, he played for several tournament teams including sponsoring the J&S Curb team for 12 years.



Herb Bruno - Now retired and 64 years old, Herb was the proud owner of Bruno's Sports Bar in Long Island, New York.



Roger "Pepper" Hale - Originally from Missouri, Pepper retired as Long Shoreman and at 63 years old is now a Maintenance Supervisor in Brevard County.



Kenny Kramer - Currently, at 62 years old, Kenny is a Commercial Real Estate Land Specialist of Vero Beach.



Fred Lohrman - Fred is a member of the Rochester Softball Hall of Fame (Senior Division). He is retired from Xerox and is a snowbird. At the age of 60, he considers himself to be blessed and highly favored.

CHATTER

Acousti 60's Team Wins SSUSA 2010 Spring Nationals

Fred Lohrman (IF), Terry McIlrath (OF), Hugh (Mitch) Mitchell (IF), Mike Rineheart (OF), Ernie Thibodeaux (IF), and Don Verner (C).

Friday, April 23, started with Acousti playing the Silver Hawaiians 55's team. The Silver Hawaiians scored eleven runs in the seventh inning before Acousti's defense stopped them, resulting in a 25-22 victory. Hitting stars for this game were: Terry McIlrath who went 3-3, with one home run; Fred Lohrman, Herb Bruno, Brownie Evans and Ernie Thibodeaux who all went 3-4.

The second game of the day was against another 55 team called the Silverados. The game was close all the way up to the sixth inning when Acousti scored five runs to finish the game with a 12-7 victory. Hitting stars were: Pepper Hale, who went 3-3; Terry McIlrath went 1-1 with 2 sacrifice flies; Don Bobish, Herb Bruno, Brownie Evans and Hugh (Mitch) Mitchell all went 2-3.

The first game on Saturday was a back and forth battle with the Winter Haven All Stars scoring eleven runs in the final inning to win 28-24. Hitting stars for Acousti were: Brownie Evans who went 4-4; Don Bobish and Kenny Kramer went 3-3; Ernie Thibodeaux, John Angelillo, and Don Verner were all 2-2.

The second game of the day was a one-sided game, with Acousti winning 20-8 against Sound Realty. Hitting stars for this game were: Don Bobish went 4-4; Kenny Kramer, Ernie Thibodeaux and Don Verner all were 3-3; Hugh Mitchell went 2-2 and Fred Lohrman went 3-4.

The third game on Saturday was another back and forth battle which was finally won by Acousti after scoring 5 runs in the last inning to beat Sound Realty 20-18. Hitting stars were: Hugh Mitchell, John Angelillo and Don Verner all went 3-3; Brownie Evans went 2-2 and Herb Bruno batted 3-4.

In the semi-finals, Acousti beat the Winter Haven All Stars 20-7. Hitting stars were: Fred Lohrman and Herb Bruno both went 3-4; Pepper Hale, Terry McIlrath and Kenny Kramer were both 2-3.

On Sunday, Acousti faced the All Stars once again, who earlier in the day defeated Sound Realty to advance to the finals. The All Stars took a 5-3 lead in the 1st inning and never surrendered the lead until the bottom of the 7th inning. Acousti scored 2 runs to win 18-17 and became the 60 AA Spring National



Don Verner



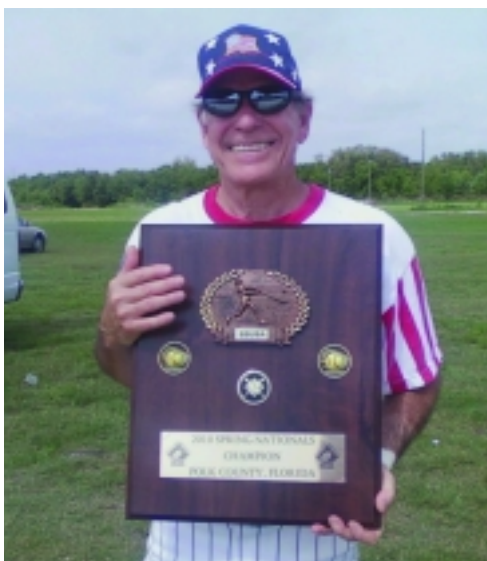
Morris "Brownie" Evans - At 62 years old, Brownie is currently a captain/fishing charter guide from Vero Beach.



Terry McIlrath - Terry is a double retiree with 26 years in the Air Force and 10 years in the U.S. Post Office. He started playing softball in the Air Force in 1968 has been playing ever since. As a Senior softball player, he has won three (3) Winter Nationals, one (1) Tournament of Champions and one (1) Spring Nationals.

Champions. Hitting stars for the final game were: Fred Lohrman and Hugh Mitchell went 4-4; Don Bobish was 3-3; and Brownie Evans, Mike Rineheart, Ernie Thibodeaux and Don Verner were all 2-3.

Making the All Tournament Team were the following along with their batting averages for the tournament: Hugh Mitchell .800, Don Bobish .750, Don Verner .650, Terry McIlrath .590 and Kenny Kramer .588. Other hitting stars for Acousti were: Fred Lohrman .666, Morris "Brownie" Evans .714, Herb Bruno .640, and Mike Rineheart .600. Acousti had a team batting average of .634 for the tournament and they posted a 6-1 record for the 3-day event.



Ernie Thibodeaux - At 62 years old, Ernie is currently a Systems Computer Designer. He was a college professor and designed the first micro processor.