



The Senior Athlete

Montgomery County
Senior Sports Association

Volume 20, Issue 4
October 3, 2011

It's time to sign up for basketball!

MCSSA together with the Montgomery County Recreation Department will offer both a 65+ and a 70+ basketball league starting the first week of December. The 65+ league will play on Sunday mornings and the 70+ league will play on Friday afternoons. Both leagues will play their games either at the Bauer Drive Community Center, 14625 Bauer Drive, Rockville, MD, or at a nearby facility. Sunday 65+ game times will be 9:30 and 10:45. Friday 70+ game times will be 12:30 and 1:45.

You are eligible to play in the 65+ league if you were born in 1947 or earlier. You are eligible to play in the 70+ league if you were born in 1942 or earlier. Cost is \$115 per player per league. If you want to play, please fill out the registration form located on Page 9 of this edition of *The Senior Athlete*, send it and a check to MCSSA, 14320 Fairdale Road, Silver Spring MD 20905. Registration deadline is November 11. You may play in both leagues if you meet the age criteria.

All senior basketball league games are played with professional officials, a timekeeper, and a scorekeeper. Both the 65+ and the 70+ league will be "draft" leagues with seven or eight players selected for each of four (or five) teams. The season will consist of nine scheduled games plus one or two playoff games. Players will be assigned to teams in late November and the season will start the first week of December.

Spread the word. We need enough players for a minimum of four teams in each league. The leagues will play only if there are enough interested players. Some of you may be asked to coach and help draft or assign players to teams. For more information contact 65+ and 70+ Commissioner, John Medford, jrmedfo@comcast.net, 410-923-6772.

For those playing in the 50+, 55+ and 60+ leagues, team registration with the Montgomery County Recreation Department begins in October and ends in late November, with games starting the first week in December. For the latest information and for a link to the Recreation Department's web page where you can download the team registration form, visit www.mcssa-info.org/basketball.

Individual players who do not have a team should email their contact information, age and position to seniorhoops@yahoo.com. A list of these free-agent players will be sent to team managers before the start of the season.

New Friday Morning League is Launched

A new softball league for men 60 and over has been launched for the Fall 2011 season. This league differs in that teams enter as a group, rather than in the form of a draft. This feature allows the teams to determine their own composition and the strength and weaknesses that result come about as

outcomes from their choices. There are four teams: Montgomery Sages; Maryland Oldliners; Cloverly Cannons; and Hagerstown. The Commissioner is Jacky Loube. Hopefully this will become a very popular league and there is adequate room for expansion in the Spring.

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Dates to Remember

Nov 4 MCSSA Holiday Party. Newbury Award presented

Nov 11 Registration deadline for both 65+ and 70+ Basketball

Dec 2 Basketball season begins

Jan 3 Indoor softball begins (Tuesdays)

Jan 5 Indoor softball begins (Thursdays)



From the Editor's Desk:

On Tuesday, July 12, 2011 the Montgomery County Senior Sports Association (MCSSA) was recognized for twenty years of service to Montgomery County Seniors by the Recreation Department, the County Council and the County Executive. A copy of the Proclamation is contained on Page 8 of *The Senior Athlete* and the framed version will be placed in our trophy case at Bauer Drive Recreation Center.

* * * * *

With the Fall season of the year, we once again get back to some of our favorite winter sports. Bauer Drive Recreation Center is the venue for two of the popular programs. On Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 (most people arrive around 9:00 and play gets underway as soon as the first eight players arrive) it is walk-in basketball. On Monday and Wednesday mornings from 10:30 until 12:30, you will find walk-in volleyball for both men and women. On Fridays from Noon until 2:00 pm, volleyball is played at the Mid County Recreation Center, located just off Layhill Road. And, don't forget-indoor softball begins in January 3, 2011 at Champions Field House, same time, same place as last year.

* * * * *

There was a special Emailing to members to solicit nominations for the Newbury Award this year. However, you still have time to nominate deserving individuals but you must do so quickly. The committee will accept nominations only until Tuesday, October 10, 2011.

* * * * *

Special thanks goes to John Rice for his efforts at running the Maryland Senior Olympics Softball tournament this year. As a result of my recent surgery, my mobility was in doubt, so I asked for some help in running the show. John Rice heroically stepped up to take on this task. Neither of us envisioned what was to take place as a result of the weather. Schedules were drawn for games on Thursday, but they got rained out. Makeup day was Friday and, you guessed it, we got rained out. So the schedule for Saturday (and Sunday if needed) was double stacked with both sets of games to be played on either of these two days. And.....it rained some more. Bottom line of this situation was that it was impossible to coordinate other dates for playing the tournament and thus it was cancelled. There was no harm as this was not a qualifying year for the National Senior Games. I cannot thank John enough for all the time and labor that went into this enterprise but I really appreciate every thing he has done.

The Senior Athlete is a publication of the Montgomery County Senior Sports Association (MCSSA) and is published four times a year, at the beginning of each quarter (January, April, July and October) to members in good standing. MCSSA is a not-profit organization exempt from Federal Income Taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Submit articles and/or changes of address to:

MCSSA
14320 Fairdale Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20905

The Newbury Award

It is time to submit your recommendations for the William E. (Bill) Newbury Memorial Award. The award will be presented at the MCSSA Holiday Dinner, on Friday, November 4, 2011 at the Golden Bull Restaurant in Gaithersburg, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The evening begins with a "No Host" cocktail hour (with a cash bar), followed by dinner at 6:30 and Awards Program at 7:30. The cost will be \$33.00 per person.

The criteria for nominating people for the award is listed below. The award is presented to individuals whose contributions are recognized in one or more of the following areas:

- 1) By outstanding athletic ability and performance which would tend to reflect on MCSSA (such as a league Most Valuable Player, or recognition by a National program or organization, or sustained high level of performance;
- 2) By voluntary service to the organization through sustained involvement in a superior and noteworthy endeavor;
- 3) By virtue of a significant financial contribution or through services in-kind.

The committee that will evaluate nominations and make recommendations for selection consists of Jerry Cohen, Chair; Bill Tait, Bob Gessert and last year's recipient Spike Bauroth. Nominations can be sent directly to any member of the committee, or to MCSSA. A nomination form, for your convenience and for the ease of evaluating the contenders, is available on Page 7 of this edition of *The Senior Athlete*.

In Memoriam

Joe Riccardella

March 1930—August 2011

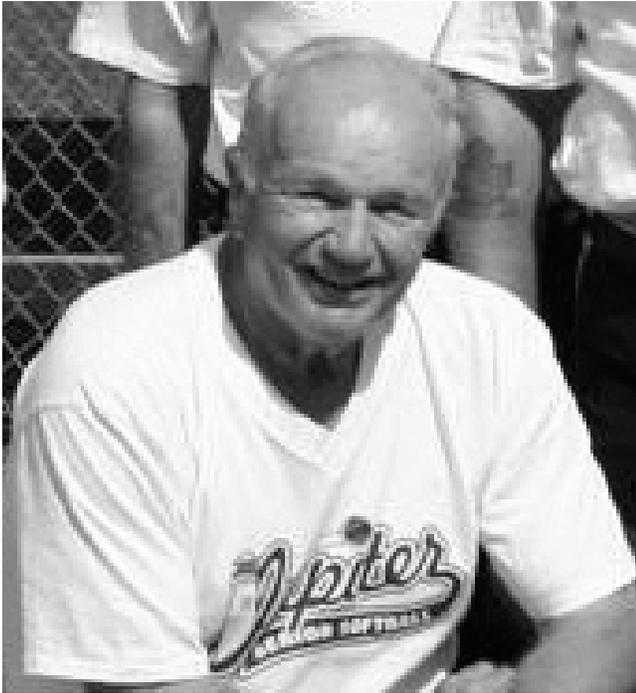
Will Parrish

January 1932—June 2011

Russell Fritz

March 1940— June 2011

MCSSA Personality Profile Al Sparks



Al Sparks was born on April 19, 1935 in Newark, Delaware. He and future wife, Helen (Starkey) Sparks, first met in the sixth grade. They sat beside each other for the next seven years in home room in Newark's public schools. Newark was a small college town in the late 1940's and early 1950's. The University of Delaware's undergraduate enrollment of about 2,500 brought the total population to nearly 10,000 for the nine months of the year when college was in session.

Al and Helen were married in Newark in 1955. In September, 2011 they celebrated their fifty-sixth wedding anniversary. They have two boys born seventeen years apart. Steve, who lives in Fredericksburg, VA. with his wife, Carol, and daughter, Katy, was born in 1958. Jeff, born in 1975, lives in Las Vegas, NV.

Al and Helen were student-athletes at Newark High School. They were voted Outstanding Male and Female Athletes respectively by their classmates in the graduating class of 1953.

Al participated in all four of the interscholastic sports of the time – football, basketball, baseball and track and field and was awarded 15 varsity letters (including one for baseball while in the eighth grade), plus 2 junior high/junior varsity letters. Al was Delaware's 3-time State shot put champion, a 2-time All-State football player at guard, a three year starter at point guard on the basketball team, and named to

numerous All Star baseball teams. He was Captain or Co-Captain of all teams which elected captains.

Academically, Al consistently made Honor Roll grades, and was a member of the National Honor Society in both Junior and Senior High Schools.

Al attended the University of Delaware on a football/academic scholarship. He again played on all four sports teams as a Freshman, although a lower back operation occasioned by a football injury caused him to drop basketball after playing in several games.

Concerned by other potential football injuries, Al signed a minor league contract to play professional baseball in the Philadelphia Phillies farm system. He went to the Phillies' minor league training camp in the Spring of 1955 and played part of that season in Pulaski, VA. before a back/leg injury took him out of the lineup, shortening his season and ending his professional baseball aspirations.

Al returned to Newark; he and Helen were married and he resumed his studies at the University of Delaware, now without a scholarship but with a new focus. Helen worked as a secretary for the next three years to support their marriage, and Al worked part-time as a construction laborer, furniture deliveryman, and usher at Delaware Park Race Track while attending classes full time.

Al was graduated with honors from the University of Delaware in 1958, receiving several awards as the year's outstanding graduate in Accounting and in the School of Business and Economics. Thirty-eight years later, in October, 1996 Al was presented with the Alumni Award of Excellence by the College of Business and Economics Alumni Association. The Sparks family has endowed two scholarships, one for Baseball and one for the College of Business and Economics to show their appreciation for the quality education Al received at the University of Delaware and to ease the path for others seeking the same educational opportunities and growth in teamwork, sportsmanship and leadership qualities that participation in sports can bring.

Upon graduation, Al was employed by Price Waterhouse & Co., one of the then Big Eight accounting firms. He spent nearly nine years with that firm in Baltimore MD. and Washington, D.C., receiving training in auditing, tax, financial reporting and business systems. He became a Certified Public Accountant, passing all parts of the Uniform CPA Examination in May, 1960.

In 1967 Al moved to the corporate world in the Washington, D.C. area to begin applying his accounting training by internalizing accounting functions previously done by the independent accountants. The first three

(Continued on Page 6)

ALL STAR TEAMS



Ross Emerson League All Stars



Wednesday Night 60+ All Stars



Ron Schell League All Stars

TAIT Tournament Champions



75+ Champions Delaware OTS



70+ Champions Brandywine BVA



65+ Champions Bowie Sixties



Spring Softball Final Standings

Friday Night Men's Draft League 50+

<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Tied</u>	<u>Points</u>
Legends	12	7	1	25
Purple Haze	10	9	1	21
Holdems	8	11	1	17
Blue Men Group	8	11	1	17

Commissioner: Jeff Bender

Super Senior League Monday Mornings

<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Tied</u>	<u>Points</u>
Tigers	15	5		30
Bobcats	10	7	3	23
Panthers	10	10		20
Jaguars	7	9	4	18
Cougars	5	9	6	16
Lions	5	12	3	13

Commissioner: Ed Guillette

Tuesday Night Men's 50+ League

Division "A"

<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Tied</u>	<u>Points</u>
Spicer	15	3	2	32
Gaithersburg Rentals	12	7	1	25
Athletic House	11	9		22
Motley Crew	8	10	2	18
Armands	8	12		16

Division "B"

Hamel Commercial	14	5	1	29
Marauders	7	13		14
Raiders	2	18		4

Division "C"

Meyers Meighan	16	4		32
Nats	12	7	1	25
Stylers	12	7	1	25
Blue & Gold	8	10	2	18
Silverado	7	12	1	15
Union Jack	2	17	1	5

Commissioner: Bud Marshall

CoRec Wednesday Morning League

<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Tied</u>	<u>Points</u>
Athletic House	17	3		34
PJ's Sports	16	4		32
Senior Moments	12	8		24
CoStars	11	9		22
Rockers	4	16		8
Eagles	0	20		0

Commissioner: Don Juran

Women's Monday Night League

<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Tied</u>	<u>Points</u>
Pumphreys	17	1		34
Stein, Sperling&Bennett	15	3	2	31
TST	10	7	1	21
Manhattan	6	10		12
Tornados	5	14	1	11
Judy's Hallmark	1	19		2

Commissioner: Carmen Campbell

Ross Emerson Men's 60+ League

<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Tied</u>	<u>Points</u>
Centurions	25	14	1	51
Bird Men	25	15	2	50
Upstarts	23	16	1	47
Good Guys	21	17	2	44
Senators	21	18	1	43
Phoobas	20	18	2	42
Patriots	18	22		36
Nice Dogs	3	36	1	7

Commissioner: Marshall Kramer



2011 Spring Final Standings Continued

Wednesday Night Men's 60+ League

Division "A"

Team	Won	Lost	Tied	Points
Ron's A/C	17	3		34
Hamel	12	8		24
Members Car Stars	9	10	1	19

Division "B"

Blue & Gold	11	8	1	23
Fossils	6	10	3	15
Mustangs	2	17	1	5

Commissioner: Joe Fry

Thursday Night Men's 55+ League

Division "A"

Team	Won	Lost	Tied	Points
Spicer Properties	13	3	2	28
ReMax	8	7	2	18

Division "B"

Hamel	16	2	2	34
Rapid Permit Service	12	5	3	27
Blue & Gold	8	11	1	17
Marauders	6	12	1	13
Sports 2000	5	13	2	12
Meyers Meighan	3	16	1	7

Commissioner: Bud Marshall

(Continued from Page 3)

companies he worked for were bought/merged . In 1978 Al joined GEICO as Vice President for Corporate Financial Reporting, where he worked until his retirement in April 2000.

At the time of his retirement, Al held the title of Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. He was a member of the Board of Directors of all GEICO subsidiaries. He had previously held these same positions for GEICO Corporation, the parent company, prior to its acquisition by Berkshire Hathaway in 1996.

In mid-August, 1949 on his first day as a high school freshman trying out for his first-ever football team, Al met the man who, aside from his father, had the most impact on his life – Coach Ray Ciesinski. Coincidentally Coach was also in his first day of practice as line coach at Newark High School. Less than four weeks later, in the first quarter of the first game of the season, the starting senior left guard suffered a broken ankle and Al was

in his first game as a high school football player.

By necessity, Al was Coach's first project. He was always positive, always reassuring, always coaching. He told Al all he lacked was experience – that he was big enough and smart enough and could block and tackle well enough – and he was about to get the football experience. Al started every game for the next four years of his high school career and, with extra time and encouragement from Coach, he was twice an All State football player and earned a college scholarship.

Coach was also Al's basketball and track coach. In the summer, he hired Al to work at Delaware Park Race Track as an usher in the grandstand and play on his fast-pitch softball team. Coach and Al would later joke that Al spent more time in high school and college with Coach than he did with his own father.

Over the years Coach and Al developed a special relationship, mostly just by keeping in touch. While only sporadically in and out of the other's life, they never missed an important occasion such as Coach's induction into the Delaware Sports Hall of Fame in 2003 or Al and Helen's 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration in 2005.

Coach passed away this June at the age of 89, with a great human interest story. Coach didn't talk much about it, but in WWII he was a German prisoner of war, captured at the Battle of the Bulge in 1944. However, due to records snafus he had never received his medals during the ensuing 67 years. Due to some diligent follow-up by his family and the family of his companion, on Sunday, June 5, 2011 in a hospice bedside ceremony he received his Order of the Purple Heart with Oak Clusters (for shrapnel and gunshot wounds), the Prisoner of War Medal and the Bronze Star. Five days later he died.

In 2001, Al had two fairly serious operations: triple bypass surgery and appendicitis complicated by peritonitis. After a couple of years of recovery and playing golf, Helen found Senior Softball in Jupiter, FL for Al in an article in the Sunday Palm Beach Post heralding the 2005 Winter Season. Al checked it out and began playing after not having played for 46 years.

In Jupiter, Al met the Montgomery County contingent playing in the Jupiter Winter league – among them current MCSSA players Ken Ryland, Vinnie Del Vecchio, Jay Baraff, Ray Miller, Sonny Frownfelter, Ollie Peters and Dave Burton. They convinced him to try the MCSSA summer leagues. Despite the logistical problems – it's a four hour round trip from Al's St Mary's County summer home to Olney – ways have been found to make it work for seven seasons. Al hopes to continue playing for as long as he can contribute to a team's success And hopes for another year at least.



Nomination Form
7th Annual
William E. (Bill) Newbury Memorial Award

I would like to Nominate _____

List in detail why your nominee's contributions should be considered for this award (*The more information you can provide, the better*):

- 1) _____

- 2) _____

- 3) _____

Supporting Narrative: (Use additional pages if necessary)

All nominations must be received by Tuesday, October 10, 2011

To submit a nomination, simply send by e-mail to one (or all) of the following committee members:

Bob Gessert—r.gessert@verizon.net
 Spike Bauroth—ekips3@verizon.net
 Bill Tait—wtait1212@aol.com

Or, send through the U.S. Postal Service to:

Jerry Cohen
 19208 Treadway Road
 Brookeville, MD 20833
susiejer@aol.com

Your name: _____

Signature: _____



Proclamation

Montgomery County Maryland

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Senior Sports Association has been formally recognized for 20 years of outstanding service to Montgomery County, whose membership represents seniors participating in a variety of sports leagues and activities; and

WHEREAS, since its creation in 1991, the Montgomery County Senior Sports Association has improved the health and quality of life of senior citizens through exercise and participation in sports leagues. The positive impact on the lives of seniors is confirmed through the motto "*if you had fun, you won*"; and

WHEREAS, the Association encourages all seniors, regardless of ability, to become involved in organized programs and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow athletes, while participating in competitive sports; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Senior Sports Association is committed to providing a long-term partnership with the Montgomery County Recreation Department by offering quality softball, basketball and volleyball leagues, and support to the Maryland Senior Olympics which provide healthy lifestyle opportunities that serve community seniors;

NOW, THEREFORE, DO WE, Isiah Leggett as County Executive and Valerie Ervin as Council President, hereby congratulate

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SENIOR SPORTS ASSOCIATION

for 20 years of outstanding service. We encourage all residents to recognize the commitment to bring the very best quality programs to the seniors of our community.



Signed this 12th day of July in the year 2011 .

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Valerie Ervin
Council President

Presented to Montgomery County Senior Sports Association (MCSSA) on
Tuesday, July 12, 2011 by County Council member, Nancy Floreen.

2011 Maryland Senior Olympics

Gold Medal Winners

<u>Nancy Callan</u>	<u>Gloria Hong</u>
Javelin	100 Meter Dash
Lawn Bowling Doubles	Javelin
Lawn Bowling Triples	Shuffleboard Singles
Shuffleboard Doubles	Shuffleboard Doubles
Football Throw	Bowling Singles
Softball Throw	Bowling Doubles
Frisbee Throw	Bowling Mixed Doubles
	Bocce Ball

Carmen Campbell

Bowling Doubles

Silver Medal Winners

Nancy Callan Golf

Bronze Medal Winners

Gloria Hong Long Jump

MCSSA Board of Directors

Office

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Incumbents

Jim Ganz
Don Juran
Dick Rothenberg
John Rice

Other Board Members

League Commissioners

Women's Masters (Monday Night)	Carmen Campbell
Super Senior League (Mon a.m.)	Ed Guillette
60+ Ross Emerson League	Marshall Kramer
Co-Rec Wednesday Morning	Don Juran
50+ Tuesday Night	Bud Marshall
60+ Wednesday Night	Joe Fry
55+ Thursday Night	Bud Marshall
50+ Ron Schell League	Jeff Bender
Basketball (50+, 55+ and 60+)	David Schardt
Basketball (65+ and 70)	John Medford

Program Coordinators

Volleyball	Stan Way
Senior Olympics	George Huson
Internet Advisor	Bud Marshall

REGISTRATION FORM FOR MCSSA ACTIVITIES

Please indicate which activity you wish to participate in and enclose the proper amount as indicated below. Make check payable to MCSSA:

I want to play in the 65 and over Basketball League on Sunday Mornings (\$115.00).....\$ _____
(Please include an additional \$5.00 for MCSSA Membership Dues as well)

I want to play in the 70 and over Basketball League on Friday Afternoons (\$125.00).....\$ _____
(Please include an additional \$5.00 for MCSSA Membership Dues as well)

MCSSA Dues.(\$5.00).....\$ _____

Optional: Donation to MCSSA to further the goals of MCSSA.....\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

Name _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____ Date of Birth: _____

E-mail address _____ Emer contact: _____ Phone: _____

The participant assumes all risks associated with participation in the above activities. MCSSA assumes no liability for injury or damages arising from participation in these activities. Due to the strenuous nature of some activities, MCSSA encourages each participant to consult his or her physician concerning fitness to participate in the program. The participant consents to emergency treatment.

Signature _____

Mail this form with a check for the TOTAL AMOUNT DUE made out to MCSSA to:
MCSSA - 14320 Fairdale Road - Silver Spring MD 20905



NATIONAL SENIOR GAMES 2011

Jim Martin, longtime member of MCSSA and stalwart on the basketball court participated in the National Senior Games this year in Houston, Texas. He was featured in an article by Lindsay Wise of the Houston Chronicle on June 24th.

He was recognized as the 75 year old shooting guard on his 3-on-3 team, the Virginia Creepers. He was cited for his making three point baskets that kept his team in the running and he managed to hit the key shot that won the game against an opponent from Tennessee. Overall his team finished fourth in the competition with a 5-2 record.

When Jim is not playing basketball he can be found playing softball, as a pitcher, for the Hamel 75+ tournament team.

In his private life, Jim is the Chairman of the 60 Plus Association, a group that lobbies congress for the elderly. He is the father of seven children and fifteen grandchildren.

On looking back over his career, he observed that if there had been a three point shot during the time he was growing up, he probably would have had a shot at earning a



Jim Martin is looking for a pick so he can fire off another three pointer.

scholarship and maybe even a pro career.

As for the National Senior Games, Jim said, "this is real basketball, it gets rough out there."

Jim hopes he can continue to play until he is 80.

MCSSA

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Silver Spring, Maryland 20905

Phone 301-236-9130
Email: jimganz@verizon.net
www.mxcssa-info.org

