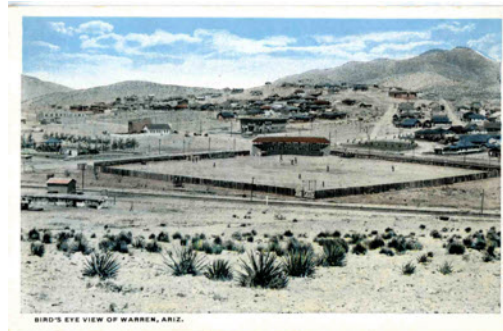


The Dugout

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Prospectors win Vintage tournament, Friends raise \$5,400 for ballpark projects

The players and fans - or ballists and cranks as they were called in the good old days - had a bully time and the Friends of Warren Ballpark raised a pile of cash for their first project at the Copper City Classic Vintage Base Ball Tournament held April 10 and 11 in Bisbee. More than 400 fans attended the two-day event that featured four teams from the Arizona Territories Vintage Baseball League. When the dust settled, the Northwest



Nathan Busch, ballist for the Glendale Gophers, streaks for first sack during the second game played on opening day of the Copper Cities Classic Vintage Base Ball Tournament held April 10 and 11 at Warren Ballpark. (Photos above and below left by Larry Elkins)

Northwest Valley Prospectors were the tourney champions, defeating the Bisbee Bees in the final game by a score of 29-11. Also participating in the tournament were the Glendale Gophers and the Phoenix Senators. Entertainment at the tournament was provided by the Arthritis Brothers and The Desert Sons. The \$5,400 raised during the tournament will be used to help pay for The Friends' first project - the replacement of the grandstands screening.



John "Angel" Everhart served as the tournament tally master, keeping score for all four games.



The Bisbee Black Sox vintage team played their first-ever game Sunday, losing to a Fort Huachuca Army team 18-14.



BHS alum donates \$10,000 to Friends

A Bisbee High school graduate who started his mining career underground and rose to run the company has donated \$10,000 to the Friends of Warren Ballpark.

Tim Snider, who began working underground as a laborer at the Copper Queen Branch of the Phelps Dodge Corporation in 1970, ended his active employment in the mining industry in 2008 as Chief Operating Officer and President of Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc.

The Friends thank Tim for his generous contribution.

Getting out the message about the Friends' mission to restore Warren Ballpark were board of directors chairman Judy Anderson, founding member Mike Anderson and board secretary Dan Frey. Also riding with the Friends in John Rabey's truck during Bisbee's Fourth of July Parade were Serena Butler and Pam Nelson. (photo by Pat Fleming.)

Copper Kings clinch regular season title!

Bisbee's Boys of Summer fulfilled their manager's expectations by clinching the regular season Pacific Southwest Baseball League championship.

The Copper Kings, under the direction of manager Bill Moore, ended their 2010 season by sweeping the Tucson Outlaws in a four-game series held July 16 & 17 at Warren Ballpark.

Bisbee, tied with the Casa Grande Cotton Kings as they entered their final weekend of regular season play, were aided by the Tucson Nationals, who upset the Cotton Kings by beating them twice in their July 17 double header.

Finishing the season with a 14-4 league record and 30-6 overall, the Copper Kings were seeded number 1 as they prepare for the PSWBL Tournament scheduled to get underway July 22.

The six-team tournament - originally set for Tucson Electric Park- was moved to the Kino Sports Complex on the south side of Tucson.

The Cotton Kings, winners of the league tournament, qualified to attend the National Baseball Congress tournament set to take place in Wichita, KS this August.

The Cotton Kings were last year's league champs.

Bisbee ended the regular season on

note, sweeping the Outlaws 18-9 and 6-3 in Friday's games, and defeating them 13-7 and 14-2 in the Saturday doubleheader.

The Copper Kings were not able to maintain their regular season momentum as they headed into the PSWBL tournament in Tucson. Bisbee won its opening game 5-3 against the Tucson Yard Dawgs at a field next to Hi Corbett Park Friday but fell to the Cotton Kings 13-7 Saturday evening at the Kino Sports Complex. The Copper Kings lost to the Yard Dawgs 9-3 on Sunday.

Bisbee plays its final games July 31 against the El Paso Sun Kings and Aug. 1 against the Tucson Toros. Both games are at Warren Ballpark. (Call (520) 732-7325 for more information)

Herald sportswriter wins award for ballpark series

Sierra Vista Herald sportswriter Liz Manring won first place for her series on the 2009 Warren Ballpark Centennial at the Arizona Press Club Awards banquet held in Phoenix May 15 at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism. Liz's series beat out 19 other entries in the Non-Metro Best Sports Writing category. Her series included interviews with 91-year-old Charlie Metro, manager of the 1947 Bisbee Yanks, 1948 Copper Kings pitcher Russ Kusmertz and others. Liz also covered the controversy



Liz Manring, award winning writer and star center fielder for the Bisbee Black Sox.

regarding which ballpark - Warren or Rickwood Field in Birmingham, AL - was the oldest in the nation. She wrote extensively about the preparations for the centennial and included a story about the first football game played there in 1909.

“Thorough reporting and deft writing on Warren Ballpark, including an interview with a 91-year-old former baseball great, a trip back in time to the beginnings of local football and what is clearly the best column on superlatives ever written. Manring knows her topic well and picks all the right details to keep her stories fun, which is what good sports writing is all about,” the contest judge said in his writing.

The Black Sox return to Warren Ballpark

In the 1920s and after, the term “Black Sox” referred to the disgraced members of the 1919 Chicago White Sox team who “threw” the World Series after being bribed by gamblers.

Banned by baseball commissioner Kennesaw Mountain Landis from playing in “organized” (i.e., major and minor league) baseball, the Black Sox found themselves playing wherever they could - including the “Twilight Zone” that existed in Arizona and New Mexico where organized baseball had yet to reach.

Players such as Hal Chase, Buck Weaver, Chick Gandil, Happy Felsch, Swede Risberg and Jimmy O’Connell took up positions on mining company teams in Hurley, Fort Bayard, Santa Rita, Douglas, El Paso and Bisbee.

The outlaw Frontier and Copper Leagues lasted only a short time and were replaced by “legitimate” minor league teams in the Arizona Texas League.

Today the Black Sox live again, in a form

that recalls the talented, but flawed players who spent some of their best years playing in exile in the southwest and also pays tribute to the game that existed more than a century ago.

The modern-day Bisbee-Douglas Black Sox are a team of men and women who play vintage base ball - spelled with two words - in a form that would have been familiar to soldiers, settlers and miners in the old Arizona Territory of the 1800s.

The rules are archaic, the gloves tiny or non-existent and the ball softer and of a lemon-peel design, but the fervor and passion by which the game is played is very much contemporary.

The Black Sox have played two games to date: one on April 10 when they lost 18-14 to the “Blazing Saddles” of Fort Huachuca at Warren Ballpark and May 31 at Tucson Electric Park, when they defeated a traveling team (See **Vintage** page 4).

Who we are: The Friends of Warren Ballpark has been sponsored by the Bisbee Council on the Arts and Humanities, a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization since May 2009. The Mission of the Friends is:

- To seek historic designation and to restore and preserve the historic Warren Ballpark. The Friends will pursue historic designation for Warren Ballpark and preserve the park through member donations, product sales, grants and fund-raising activities.
- To research and share the rich history of the ballpark through the creation of baseball cards of players who who played at the park, a written history of the park, museum displays, the Web Page and other community events.
- To support the continuation of Bisbee’s baseball traditions into the future. The Friends will support the local semi-pro baseball team, Bisbee High School baseball and will sponsor on-going vintage baseball games.

Friends score big in rookie year, says chair

By Judy Anderson, Chairman of the Friends Board of Directors

A rookie year can be difficult, but the Friends of Warren Ballpark ended its first year as a success!

While planning Warren Ballpark's 100th birthday celebration in 2009, some fans recognized that this beloved old friend deserved to be pampered and not just on its birthday. So baseball enthusiasts joined together to assist the Bisbee Unified School District which is strapped for cash like most districts, to raise funds to maintain, restore and promote Bisbee's baseball jewel in the Mule Mountains. As a first step, the *Bisbee Council on the Arts and Humanities* in June 2009 voted to sponsor the *Friends* allowing us to accept donations as a non-profit organization. The Council said "Go forth and make us proud." And we have...

We started with a donation from our friend Russ Kusmertz, who played at the park and was a generous supporter of Bisbee High School programs. With these funds Mike Anderson, the Friend's historian and driving force behind the organization, researched and created three sets of baseball cards honoring notable Bisbee players

who went on to manage and/or play on minor or major league teams. These cards are a fund raiser and also help to spread the word about the ballpark's fascinating history. In conjunction with the Bisbee Alumni Association and the Copper Kings Semi-pro baseball team, the Friends provided funds to repaint the grandstands for the August 2009 Centennial celebration.

Due a generous donation noted in a previous story, the Friends, working with the School District, will soon replace the worn and patched grandstand screening. With new screening, the view of the field will be clearer and the fans protected from hard hit foul balls.

We also hit a home run with our first Vintage Base Ball tournament which will be an annual event. We will also continue sponsorship of a local vintage team to participate in the *Arizona Territories Vintage Base Ball League*. The Friends were also vendors at the Bisbee Blues Festival and had an entry in the 4th of July parade.

Plans for next year are ambitious. We will seek donors and grants to embark on our next project and

will also continue to raise funds through the vintage tournament, memberships and card sales. Our grand old park needs some tender loving care. The bathrooms, fences, and disabled access, dugout and grandstand improvements to name a few are all worthy projects that require substantial funding. Our goal is to complete a project a year. We also want to promote the history of the park through additional baseball cards, giving tours of the club house, publishing a park history, and articles that inform visitors and locals of the fascinating role this venerable old baseball park played (and still plays) in Bisbee's history. Please join us in this effort by becoming an active member and/or donor.

(Vintage) from the AZ Territories Vintage Base Ball League by a score of 11-8. Black Sox players to date are Charlie Rule, Dan Frey, Liz Manring, Matt Hickman, Mike Anderson, Hector Leon, Shorty Fimbres, Levi Saucedo, Kim Rogalski, Bob Mantz, Federico Corral, Al Coons, Dave Cory, Russell Dunn, Adam Bednortz, Ricky Ramirez. For information on joining the team, and games contact Mike Anderson at (520) 432-3813.

New card set honors Betty, Buster, Red, Jim and Roy

A fourth set of baseball cards honoring some of the finest of Bisbee's players will be out in time for the Bisbee Blues Fest.

Set four of "Bisbee's

Boys and Girls of Summer" will feature four major league players and an outstanding minor league pitcher who, like Ted Williams, interrupted his baseball career to serve in the Marines.

One of the big leaguers is Bisbee native Betty Bays, who played in the All-American Girls Baseball League in 1950 and 1951. Other cards will feature Bisbee High School Grad "Buster" Adams,

Roy Partee. (Bisbee Bees and Boston Red Sox catcher,) "Red" Adams (Bees pitcher and L.A. Dodgers pitching coach) and Jim Propst, ace left hander of the 1947 Bisbee Yanks staff.