

Catino League Headlines – Week 4

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By Jim Avent

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WALLY TOWNE

The BAJA season, in the growing senior softball Mecca of Green Valley, is in its fourth week of play. Over 125 people, on nine teams, play 16 games of softball every week at the beautiful new softball fields at Canoa Preserve County Park.

Monday, January 26

Morning Games – Twist & Shout Diner and Insurance Center of Green Valley

- Game 1 – Insurance Ctr 16, Twist & Shout 15
- Game 2 – Insurance Ctr 23, Twist & Shout 13

Afternoon Games – Jeff LeFave Investments & Quail Creek Country Club

- Game 1 – Jeff LeFave 10, Quail Creek CC 9
- Game 2 – Jeff LeFave 17, Quail Creek CC 5

Wednesday, January 28

Morning Games – Animal Care Center of GV & Quail Creek Country Club

- Game 1 – Animal Care 11, Quail Creek CC 8
- Game 2 – Animal Care 20, Quail Creek CC 9

Afternoon Games – Jeff LeFave Investments & Twist & Shout Diner

- Game 1 – Twist & Shout 19, Jeff LeFave 17
- Game 2 – Jeff LeFave 21, Twist & Shout 12

League Standings

Chuck Catino League							
Team	W	L	RF	RA	PCT	GB	
Insurance Center of GV	10	2	243	189	.833	-	
LeFave Edward Jones	8	4	191	135	.667	2	
Twist & Shout Diner	5	5	175	169	.500	4	
Animal Care Center of GV	3	7	125	173	.300	6	
Quail Creek Country Club	2	10	153	221	.167	8	

The Monday morning game pitted the Twist & Shout Diner against the league leading Insurance Center of Green Valley. Off-and-on rain showers made the field and bases slippery. Umpire John Brassell wisely loosened the rules to make the game safer for everyone. In the first game the teams went toe to toe with the Insurance Center nursing a 16-15 lead into the 7th. In the top of the inning the Agents went down meekly 1-2-3. Twist & Shout came knocking, needing only two runs for the win. However, Insurance Center shortstop Norm Brooks made two great plays and rudely slammed the door preserving the 16-15 win. Both teams deserved to win that one.



Twist & Shout Diner ace Dave Guckenberger faces Insurance Center of Green Valley slugger DeWayne Schmidt

The second game was explosive with the Insurance Center being the more offensive. In the 4th inning, the Agents displayed awesome power and accuracy by carpet bombing right field. The big blow was a 3

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run daisy cutter by Ron Severson. In a later inning, the Agents loaded the bases. The next batter hit a sharp grounder into the gap between short and third. The Twist & Shout defender made a great stop but in the blurring confusion of flying blue jerseys tagged out his own shortstop to end the inning. Forced to play their half inning with only their two remaining outs Twist & Shout Diner came up short. Insurance Center of Green Valley prevailed 25-13 in an abbreviated game.



Twist & Shout's Bob Barry & Chas Palacios talking strategy

For Twist and Shout Doug Arenson, Stan Musial, Chas Palacios, John Robles, and Jerry Sutherland had a big day at the plate. The Insurance Center was powered by Norm Brooks – whose 5 for 5 included 2 doubles, Ron Severson's 5 for 6 with a double and homer, and Mikes Sommer's 5 for 6 with 2 triples.

The afternoon games featured the Jeff LeFave Edward Jones Investments team against Quail Creek Country Club. The first game was a nail biter with the score being

close inning-to-inning. Both teams played hard. The Investors got excellent hitting form Vic Albertini, Jim Meredith, and Gill Moss whose contribution included a triple. Fred Moultrie backed them up with a home run and great defense. For Quail Creek, Bob Royes pitched well enough to win but the Birds came up short. Jeff LeFave Edward Jones Investments 10, Quail Creek Country Club 9.

The second game was all Jeff LeFave. The investors received excellent hitting at the plate from Dave Erickson, John Houghton, Jerry Miller, and Al Mitro. Their defense was led by Bob Kirchberger's great catches in right field. The Investors were dominating, taking the abbreviated game 17-5.



Jack Naughton looks on as his Investor's dominate the game

On the day Quail Creek got 5 hits including a homer from Bob Thorne. Tony Vinent

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added 5 hits of his own to go with 4 hits by Quail Creek manager Jim Reedy (below).



The two game sweep was a great 80th birthday present for Jeff LeFave Edward Jones Investments manager Jim Hill. Salud! Jim and many, many more.

The Wednesday morning contest was a rematch between the Animal Care Center and Quail Creek Country Club. Played under tight security, details are sketchy. Given a promise of anonymity, a source close to one manager was quoted as saying “They lost both games.” Intelligence analysts interpreted this to mean that the Animal Care Center had swept Quail Creek. --- Stay tuned ---

The matinee featured Twist & Shout Diner and Jeff LeFave Edward Jones Investments. Twist & Shout took the first game 19-17 while Jeff LeFave took the nightcap 24-12. The teams agreed on the results of the split but had decidedly different impressions of the games.

On one side of the field, Jeff LeFave Edward Jones Investments manager Jim Hill described the game as follows:

- Game 1 – “The Investors got off to a crawl with a score of 3 to 13 at the 4th inning. The bats finally caught on fire.



2nd baseman Dave Erickson also had a great day at the plate

Thanks to great hitting by Dave Erickson, Jim Hill, Robert Ruble and Jerry Miller – who played a spectacular game in left field making a number of great catches with the sun directly in his eyes – the Investors began to fight back. But it was

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too-little-too-late resulting in a loss of 17 to 19 to the Diners.”

- Game 2 – “The Investors, with their bats still HOT, got off to a fast start leading from the very beginning and never looking back. Great contributions by Vic Albertini, Barbara Maxwell, Al Mitro and Jack Naughton kept them in the lead throughout the game. Superb efforts by Fred Moultrie, who was 7 for 8 in both games with two home runs and a triple, put the icing on the cake with a big WIN of 21 to 12 for the Investors.”

In the parallel universe that was the opposite dugout, Twist & Shout Diner manager Bobby Epstein saw it thusly: “The Miracle of Chanukah is (was) that a small amount of fossil fuel burned for eight days. That was then. Yesterday, fossil fuel burned for most of the first game, then...In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Grateful Dead (no it's not Greatful) ‘We start out runnin’, but we took our time’.”

- Game 1 – “The Twisties broke from the gate in the first game and, like the fictional dish, we almost ran away with the spoon. Unfortunately, toward the end of the first game we had our "Come to Jesus" moment. The pilot light sputtered but we managed to choke a late LeFave rally and eke out a 19-17 victory.”
- Game 2 – “Lightning doesn't strike twice in the same place, and we weren't so fortunate in the second game. LeFave doused our candles, 21-12. We can hit though. Everybody had several hits. We have to give special mention to Dave Guckenberger's three run home run late in the second game to keep his team in the game, but it was too little too late. Also notable was the sparkling play of Donna Harrison who dazzled the defense with several fine catches.”

Were these guys watching the same game?
You make the call!

Articles written by Jim Avent.

Facts and fictions kindly provided by Bob Epstein, Jim Hill, Dick Purdy, and Jim Reedy

Photo's provided by Wally Towne

Compilation & Editing by Jim Brewer



Wendy Towne starts things off for the Twist & Shout Diner's