

## Grande Valley Captures Softball Tourney Title By Larry Wolfe

Our end-of-season tournament, awards ceremony and social event were held on April 19. All six teams participated in the single-elimination tournament. In game 1, Desert Cove Rehab Center beat Mutual of Omaha Bank 21-11 with Bill Cheney's five hits pacing the winning effort. In game 2 Brenden Financial Services beat State Farm Insurance 17-7 with Bill Horne, Ken Brenden and Rich Nadler leading the way with three hits each. Grande Valley Golf Cars edged Brenden Financial 12-11 in Game 3 with Larry Wolfe's three hits and Dick Moran's clutch single leading the way to victory. In the semi-finals, Red Waterfield smashed a game-winning single to lead A-1 Golf Carts to a 13-12 win over the Desert Cove Rehab Center club. A-1 then faced Grande Valley Golf Cars in the championship game. This game proved to be another hard-fought thriller with Henry Ellis driving in four runs and Al Grefsheim driving in the winning run in the bottom of the seventh to lead Grande Valley to a 13-12 win. For the Grande Valley squad, this was the culmination of a great year. They also captured the fall and winter regular season championships.

Awards were given to the Sun Lakes Swingers ladies team members who hit over .600. Their top hitters were Terry Finley (.645), Charlene Ellis (.636), Marlene Cameron (.608), Olena Buxton (.608) and Francisca Swist (.606). Awards were also presented to the Top Ten hitters in the men's league (based upon a minimum of 180 plate appearances over the Fall, Winter and Spring Seasons combined). The Top Ten were: Larry Kaufmann (.790), Frank Tanner (.749), Tom Halloran (.742), Al Grefsheim (.732), Billy Kee (.731), Bill Corso (.724), Jack Strauss (.723), Gary Dahlgren (.709), Chuck Myrick (.704) and Rich Nadler (.703). Bill Cheney was named Rookie-of-the-Year and Bob Zawidski won the Most Improved Player Award. Dennis Kennedy was named Sportsman of the Year.

There were approximately 200 players, family members, former players and fans present for the games, awards ceremony and cook-out. Kudos to Dr. Roger Spark, coordinator of the event. He was ably assisted by Bobby Thompson (Executive Chef), Bill Serdar (Sous Chef), Bob Yaryan (Prep Chef), Server/hostesses Teresa Dorman, Debbie Ebel, Terry Finley and Pat Wolfe and Larry Domas (Set-up Coordinator). Mike Core acted as Awards Ceremony Emcee and did a lame David Letterman-like "top ten" list. A great time was had by all!