

Monroe Senior Softballers
Prepare For An Epic 2026 Season
By Bob Zyontz

The month of April represents the big pivot from winter to spring and brings with it the lightheartedness of April Fool's Day, the religious holidays of Easter and Passover, and the deadline for filing your taxes. It also brings renewal. In this case, the renewal of senior softball in Monroe Township.

As we transition from a miserable winter to more temperate weather, 112 players are turning their attention to the 2026 season. Many are performing the annual ritual of oiling their gloves, cleaning their cleats, and stretching their muscles to prepare to play in the Monroe Senior Softball League.

For context, the league was founded in 2023 by Bobby Harris and co-founder George Rothweiler to support the active lifestyles of active seniors. Open to residents age 55+, the league enables them to relive past glories and play softball in an inclusive, competitive, and enjoyable environment. As an approved Township recreation program, the league is committed to building friendships, player safety, and giving back to the community.

With its fourth season scheduled to begin on Tuesday morning, May 5, the league's Board has been working to get things ready for opening day. After player recruiting was completed in mid-winter, adding an eighth team and finding a local business to sponsor it became the next priority. That goal was achieved in February when Paul "Rosey" Rosenheim referred us to Dynasty Advisors, a Freehold-based wealth management firm. They came on board and joined The Ray Catena Auto Group, Princeton Orthopedic Associates, David's Lawn and Landscape Design, Jerry Noonan's Auto Center, The Pickled Herring, The YES Group, and Michael G. Seneca, CPA, in the league's circle of sponsors.

With over 30 new players in the fold for 2026, the league has scheduled evaluations for Tuesday morning, April 14, so that team captains and co-captains can see the new players in action and rate their skills in advance of the league draft to be held on Monday, April 20.

This year's opening day ceremonies will include a moment of silence for Richie Greenberg and Jude Mazziotta. It will be a fitting tribute as they were both extraordinary gentlemen and special friends of the league. If you knew Richie and

Jude, please come down to the Thomas L. Allen softball complex, 76 Gravel Hill-Spotswood Road, at 9:00 AM on May 5, to honor them.

We will take a brief hiatus on June 8 and 9 so that our players who reside in those Township active adult communities that are able to field teams can participate in the second annual Mayor's Cup softball tournament. The goal is to take the Cup from Concordia, the 2025 champion.

Once the regular season and playoffs are over, and a winner emerges from the league championship game, all eyes will turn to Tuesday, August 20. That's the day we hold our flagship event: the end of season, all-star charity game.

Since 2023, our fundraisers have generated over \$72,000 in donations for various not-for-profit organizations that are meaningful to the league's players. This includes \$42,000 raised in 2025 on behalf of Monroe-based Make-A-Wish New Jersey to help them grant life-changing wishes to children with critical illnesses.

The league plans to build on last year's success by once again working with Make-A-Wish New Jersey. Make-A-Wish is the world's leading children's wish-granting organization, and the league believes that each donation it generates makes a difference by bringing every eligible child's wish to life.

The Monroe Senior Softball League has become more than just an outlet for active seniors to play the game they love. It has evolved into a force for good that extends beyond sports. So, please save the date of August 20 on your calendar and ask your family and friends to do the same. That evening, our players will be swinging for the fences and putting on a show that's certain to become a great night of softball, fun, and fundraising.



[Caption]

The David's Red team in victory formation after winning the 2025 league championship. Front row from left to right: Alan Blumenthal, Lew Preschel, Mitch Spiegel, Noel Gluck, and Alan Steinberg. Back row from left to right: Jose Colls, Glenn Tringali, Barry Citron, Glen Schoenig, Pete Balling, John Latzko, Tom Kayhart, Dave Van Wart, captain Mark Goldberg, and Mike Steinbach.

Photo by Tom Cullen.



[Caption]

The Concordia team are all smiles following their win in the first ever 2025 Mayor's Cup senior softball tournament. Front row kneeling: Paul Rosenheim, Gina Branconi, Steve Behrman, Ken Lataweic, and John Gunn. Back row standing: captain Mitch Einstein, Steve Jesselli, Danny Meyer, Joe Lopez, Victor Williams, Grant Elman, John Watts, and super scout Kathy Watts.

Photo by Tom Cullen.