

The History of Softball at Viewpoint

Softball became a reality at Viewpoint in 1987 with the formation of our first team, the Amigos.

Since that time the Viewpoint Senior Softball Association (VPSSA) has grown to twelve competitive teams. This includes an age 70 and over team (Bandidos) and women's team (Gems). In addition, there are two In-Park teams: one each for men and women. The In-Park teams are for those wishing to get back into shape or just play occasionally and not commit to a firm schedule.

On February 25, 1992, President Carl Krause presented a proposal for the construction of a softball facility to Tony Ash, part owner of Viewpoint.

In October of 1992, construction started with an army of enthusiastic ball players providing most of the labour and a lot of the capital, and Tony providing the land.

VPSSA became official on March 23, 1993, when our Constitution and By-laws were presented and approved.

On December 8, 1993, the softball field was ready for play and Tony threw out the first pitch.

On March 5, 1995, we lost our leader, friend, and visionary when Tony passed away following a lengthy battle with cancer. His younger brother Ed took over management of the park and carried on the vision.

By the end of 1999 North Point sprung up just east of the ball field and our temporary concession stand began to look a little shabby. Using a computer program from the Activity office, the beautiful building you see today began to take shape and became a reality.

After ten years of dedication by all involved, on January 9, 2004, the Desert Jewel softball facility as it appears today was dedicated in memory of Tony Ash. Following the ceremony, the Amigos and Gems played the first tournament of the year.

Ten team tournaments are now held every Friday, Saturday and Sunday beginning the first weekend in January and continuing throughout the winter season.

In 2018 the World Series was added the middle of March as the final season tournament.

In addition, the first weekend December sees the TAFT fundraiser tournament. The purpose of this tournament is to raise funds for the TAFT School. In addition, toys are collected and donated to the school's children and families. TAFT is a Title One School that receives Federal Funding for students that are "at risk of failure and living at or near poverty". The school is within our Mesa district.