

There is a reason they call this league

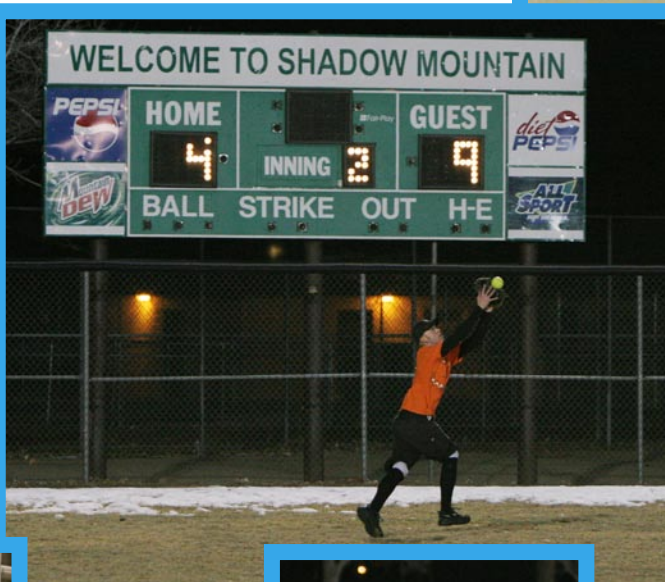
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Deep Freeze

With temperatures in the mid-twenties and a fresh blanket of snow on the fields, 28 co-ed and men's teams file out to the fields every Wednesday night in Sparks, NV for the Deep Freeze League.

The Deep Freeze League started 11 years ago when Operations Superintendent, Brian Bessette and Recreation Supervisor, Tony Pehle randomly came up with the idea under the impression that only around 10 teams would be interested. "We discussed the idea, realized we were crazy to think it may work but thought what the heck let's put it out and see what happens," said Pehle. And amazingly enough, the Deep Freeze League has been full every year since.

"(The league) is different. It's something you can't do in a lot of places," 24-year-old, Jimmy Gleich from team Warm Farm said. A simple necessity in the dug-out during the frigid winter months for Gleich is scotch. "It's a necessity. A little scotch goes a long way." Jimmy and his brother Danny Gleich have been playing in the league since they



Left: Fan Amanda Barnett braves the 20 degree weather. Top: First Interstate Banks Sam Reynolds goes after a fly ball at Shadow Mountain Park during the Deep Freeze League. Top Right: Steve McCoy dresses (kind of) for the weather. Right: Brad Armstrong pitches for First Interstate Bank during Wednesday night action.



started college a few years back. "It's the best season of the year," Jimmy said. The Gleich brothers also have a space heater that keeps them toasty while waiting to hit.

Though players keep warm whether it is with beverages or a heater, their equipment doesn't fare so well. Danny mentioned he snapped his composite bat in half a week earlier.

One advantage to the crisp, cold air is, "The ball flies farther in the winter," Evan Howard said from Howard Tile. He has sponsored the team for the last three seasons and says it's fun. His advice for keeping warm is to, "keep moving," and the familiar words from many Deep Freeze League players, "My team drinks a lot of beer," Howard said.