

2023 SPECIAL POST-SEASON PRESS RELEASE

The **RASSA post-season playoff games** began on Tuesday, October 17 for the Tuesday League, and Thursday, October 19 for the Thursday League. All participating teams gathered for opening ceremonies for each league. **Green, Sky Blue, Red, Gold, Orange and Blue** represented the **Tuesday League**, and **Gold, Blue, Sky Blue, Red, and Green** represented the **Thursday League**. **The Managers and teams were all recognized.**

For the Tuesday League opening ceremony, we were honored by having former RASSA star player, **John LaBue**, throw the first pitch. It was noted that he also was known as “**Shoeless John**” because he once played an entire game at SS in his sock feet because he left his shoes at home. Then **Jon Remley**, one of our Tuesday players as well as a professional musician, sang a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem.

For the Thursday League opening ceremony, we were honored by having **Lisa Rutherford, Bob Hunter’s daughter**, throw the first pitch. She represented her Dad very well by throwing a perfect strike! We honor and remember **Bob** by presenting the annual **Gentleman Bob Hunter Sportsmanship Award** as voted by RASSA players. It was noted that the 2023 award winner is **Ron Oliver**. Then **Jeff Tyler**, one of our Tuesday/Thursday players as well as a professional musician, sang another wonderful rendition of the National Anthem.

The games played on October 17 resulted in **Tuesday Red** and **Tuesday Green** playing for the **Tuesday League Championship**; and the games played on October 19 resulted in **Thursday Red** and **Thursday Blue** playing for the **Thursday League Championship**.

These games were played on October 24 and resulted in two **League Championship teams: Tuesday Red and Thursday Red**. The ensuing **World Series** was set between two teams who finished in third and fourth place respectively in their regular season leagues, was **based on the best 2 out of 3 games**. **Both wild-card teams** have enjoyed competing in an unexpected **Red versus Red World Series**. The **first two games** were played on Thursday, October 26 and it was a **competitive Red-Red split** with **Tuesday Red winning the first game 17 – 14** and **Thursday Red winning the second game, 16 – 12**.

The third and deciding game was held on Tuesday, October 31. It was the first chilly fall day in 2023 with a game time temperature of 50 degrees, a mixed cloudy – sunshiny sky and an intermittent 10-11 mph wind at Liberty Park Field #5. It was not necessarily an ideal setting for **the final game of the 2023 RASSA World Series**, but at least there was no rain.

The fans’ expectations of “barnburner” final game were thwarted early on with the **Tuesday Red** whose strong hitters came out swinging and airtight almost flawless defense was present from the very beginning. The tide turned to a “trick” on Halloween for the **Thursday Red**, and it simply wasn’t their day with bats as chilly as the weather. One Red team could do no wrong and the other could do no right. The resulting **final score** was **Tuesday Red 18 and Thursday Red 6**.

Congratulations to the RASSA 2023 Tuesday Red League Champions and the RASSA 2023 World Series Champions! The team was led by veteran **Manager, Wayne Sheets**, who has decided to take a year off from managing and will have knee replacement surgery during the 2024 season. We look forward to his managerial return in 2025. The **Tuesday Red team roster** included **David Ferguson, Harold Fincher, Ed Girard, Jim Hill, Alecia Johnson, Bill Laskowski, Ron Lentz, Mike Madden, Dale McWhorter, Bob Newton and Mark Tankersley**.



CONGRATULATIONS!
RASSA



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TUESDAY RED
WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS!

Also, congratulations to the RASSA 2023 Thursday Red League Champions! The team was led by **Manager, Pete Manown**, who decided he really liked competing in the World Series and hopes to be there again next year. The **Thursday Red team roster** included **Jim Anderson, Gene Garcia, John Kuklinski, Cecil Kwong, Frankie Lathem, Skeet Mitchell, Ken Ray, Henry Rumble, Bob Slanovits and Jeff Tyler**.

Thank you as well to all the players who substituted for either of the Red Teams in the League Championship or World Series games! These included **David Taylor and Ronnie Muro** for the Tuesday Red and **Stan Craft, Tom Kilgore, Bill Lovell and Holly Whitmire**, for the Thursday Red.

The **RASSA 2023 Season** went quite well, and it was capped off by a **fun and successful Post Season**. Thanks to all participating players and great and loyal quality, if not quantity, fans! Look forward to seeing you in 2024!

Note: See 2023 Post Season pictures on the RASSA web site: bamaseniorsoftball.com