
The Inside Pitch

Vol. 9, No. 4 April 2006 www.asasoftball.com

The Official Newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association



THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY
OF SOFTBALL

Modified player puts his love for softball to music

What the world really needs is a funny rock 'n' roll song about softball.

Well, maybe not. But Boston-area singer-songwriter Howie Newman has recorded a true classic about our favorite sport as part of his upcoming CD, *Trust Me, You'll Like It*.

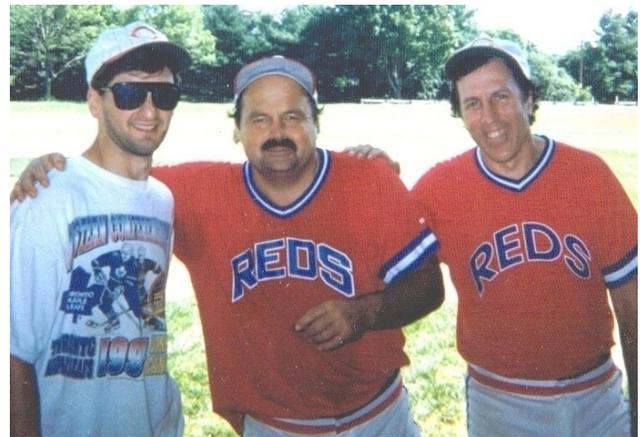
The song is called "Weekend Warrior" and details the trials and tribulations of playing Sunday morning doubleheaders for the past 23 years. Despite two knee surgeries, three torn rotator cuffs and a myriad of pulled muscles, Newman, 55, has not missed a game since 1987. His modified fast pitch team, the Reds, has played in four ASA leagues over the years.

It's hard to say which has become a bigger obsession, softball or music. For nearly four minutes, the two worlds collide in a catchy, hard-rocking ditty. In the chorus, he says (only half joking):

"I don't just play because I look so good in polyester. I do it because it makes me feel alive."

The song features Duke Levine (Mary Chapin Carpenter band) on electric slide guitar, Newman playing acoustic guitar and harmonica while singing lead and backup vocals. He is backed by a full band that includes drums, bass and piano.

"I just love to play softball," says Newman, who coaches and plays first base. "I think I've been able to capture the feeling in song. Two of the most exciting things I can think of are getting a big hit in a game and getting a great response to a song when I perform."



Teammates (from left) Don Cameron, Dan O'Meara and Howie Newman

A former sportswriter who covered two World Series, Newman has a bunch of other sports-related songs. He recently recorded "Why Did You Go, Johnny Damon?" and has released a five-song EP of baseball songs called *Baseball's Greatest Hits*.

In 2001, this album was accepted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame Archive.

His other sports song, "Mustang Mania," was written for the 1978 Southern Methodist University football team.

"I love all sports," Newman says, "but softball is my real passion."

We know. As the song goes: "On Monday morn, I can't run or throw. But six more days and I'll be ready to go."