

Dear Teammates and Fellow Soft Ballers,

I want to wish you well this evening and express my appreciation for the opportunity to have played softball with you these past several years. It has indeed been a wonderful experience.

Why? Because you do it right.... with the right mix of competitiveness and comradeship that makes the play intense yet keeps the friendships intact regardless of the outcome of any given game. And, where players respect and applaud effort and performance regardless of what uniform you are wearing. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time playing in the league.

Unfortunately, this past year may likely be my last season. As some of you may know, I have been diagnosed with stage four cancer and my prognosis is quite poor though my spirits are good. I still continue to work despite starting chemo but next year is really a toss up.

I also don't know how I might feel coming back to play next year. As you also may know, I'm a "dead pull hitter" ...pun intended...with less then warning track power.... and thought of seeing ten of you lined up as fielders between shortstop and third base may be too much to bear.

Seriously, what I wish to convey is my appreciation. To the terrific managers I had played for in Don and Bill who bring such great knowledge of the game....and most recently to Jerry who has an astute awareness of the way the game should be played in any given situation and both pushes and supports his players in his own unique way . And to the other many terrific leaders of this league who run it with class and character... to the many friends I've made, and to all of you who make every game a fun and challenging step back in timewhich is why sports is such a great life long gift. To lose oneself on a field for a few hours , and push all of life's other worries and realities away for a few hours I believe is a form of bliss. I suspect it may be for some as you as well.

So, thanks for making these past seasons such a great experience.... and especially for this particular season.... for your encouragement and support especially down the stretch when things got tough for me...starting first and foremost with Jerry who you should know supported and assisted me to complete the season . Finishing this season in a competitive and dignified manner was very important to me and my family.

I hope you have a great evening and event tonight ...that you have countless more seasons in the sun ahead of youand thanks again for your friendship.

Sincerely,

Elliot Pagliaccio

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