

Game 10:

Ball Four. Take Your Base.

Black Jacks **16**
Swing Crew **13**

	<u>Line Score</u>							
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>T</u>
Black Jacks	2	0	5	3	2	4	0	16
Swing Crew	1	1	3	6	1	1	0	13

Welcome back!!

It's pretty strange when you look at the scorebook of a softball game and the statistic that stands out is "walks"!! An old-time major leaguer by the name of Frankie Frisch (some of you may have to ask your parents and grandparents about him) made a simple observation years ago about "walks" that become very famous. **"OH THOSE BASES ON BALLS!"** What he meant was, every time a guy gets on via a walk (or bases on balls) he seems to score. That couldn't have been more true Wednesday night when the opposing pitcher walked eight guys. Six of them scored! Ask him how many of those walks he wishes he had back.

Guess who led the team in walks this game? And, guess how many walks he had? For those that have been with us since the beginning of the season you will remember the abuse I gave our "God of Softball" Lee for walking so much. So, if you guessed Lee, you were correct. And if you guessed three walks you are correct. That's' right!! He walked three friggin times!!!! Yes, I gave him a hard time a while back, first off because I can. Second, because he deserved it, for many reasons. But, this time I will give him his due (just don't get used to it). The walks were huge!

Wednesday night saw the return of Danny "Chim-Chim" O'Hara, who did make it to the game *on time!* After taking some serious abuse before the game for making himself scarce recently, (he missed three of the past four games), he went out and led off the game with his second home run of the year, a long line drive over the left fielder's head. Well, I guess you shut us up didn't you Danny? Mmmmm.... NOPE...NOT REALLY!!

Mike "Scummer" Hanscom, one of our famous "Super Subs" filled in at pitcher again picking up his second win of the season, holding a good hitting team to only ten runs. For the second time this year Mike helped his own cause with an incredible night at the plate, going three for three with a walk, a double and four RBI! This was pretty much a repeat performance of the last game he appeared in. Scummer has played in only two games this year and he already has twelve RBI!! That's just NUTS!! All of this with a bad leg!! Way to go Mike!!! Heal up! We're going to need you again soon!!

Defensively we were very sound. There were a few miscues here and there, but overall we had a good game in the field. Joe and I were talking about defensive plays in this game. After reminding me, he offered to write this.

In the sixth inning with runners on first and second and their clean-up hitter up, Pete made a great play on a rope one-hopper to his left at first base that he snagged. He stepped on first getting the hitter out and then fired to Lee who was covering second who tagged the runner out for a double play. This was huge because two runs would have probably scored on that play and there would have been a runner on second. The next guy got a hit, which would

have scored the guy on second tying the game. This was a big play late in the game and kept us in the lead. Great play my brother!

Thanks "My Brotha from anotha Mother!! I had a tear in my eye after reading that!! You're hired as a back-up writer... and the check is in the mail!!

Big Hitters:

Scummer	3 for 3	walk, double		4 RBI
Haack	3 for 3	walk, double	1Run	2 RBI
Joe P	3 for 5	2 doubles	1 Run	2 RBI
Phil	2 for 2	walk	1 Run	2 RBI
Brad	2 for 3	walk	2 Runs	
Danny	2 for 5	HR	1 Run	2 RBI

Big Walkers List:

Lee	1 for 2	3 WALKS	3 RUNS	1 RBI
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Now that's funny!!

Game 11:

Too Big of a Hole....

Swing Crew **24**
Black Jacks **10**

Line Score

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>T</u>
Swing Crew	2	8	5	9	0	x	x	24
Black Jacks	0	0	4	5	1	x	x	10

The second game of the night was the continuation of a rain-delayed game that we started on May 24th. Going into the game we knew we had our work cut out for us. The game was in the top of the third. We were down 14 – 0, with one out, and a runner on third. We pretty much conceded that the runner on third would score, which he did, so we were looking at trying to climb out of a HUGE 15-0 hole. With slaughter rules of 25 after 4 innings and 12 after 5 innings, staring us in the face, we could not afford to give up a big inning. Our goal was to hold them and score 5 to 6 runs every time up.

We started out okay with four in the third, but the bottom fell out when we gave up nine runs in the top of the 4th. We came back with 5 more runs in the bottom half of the inning. We even shut them down in the fifth. At that point we needed 9 runs in the fifth to keep the game going, but we only plated one. Slaughter rule number two set in and the game was over.

Give credit where credit is due. Swing Crew did not get psyched out and they kept on coming. Although a few miscues cost us, when they needed hits they got them.

This is our first loss of the year ending a ten game winning streak. Some see it as pressure being taken off of going undefeated. Others see it as a positive because it shows we

still have work to do and that we are still human. There's nothing wrong with putting a positive spin on something negative. I'm all for that. However, I'm old school; there's no such thing as a good loss.

With that said, we are still in first place with four regular season games to play. We have beaten the second place team twice. Every other team has six losses or more. So, it's a two-team race for the regular season championship and the number one seed in the Play-off Tournament. You do the math. It's our championship to win.

Big Hitters:

Danny	3 for 3		1 HR	2 Runs	3 RBI
Lee	2 for 2	1 Walk	Triple	2 Runs	
Haack	2 for 3			1 Run	

COMIC RELIEF

There wasn't as much comedy as usual on Wednesday night. We had a late start and were coming off a long lay-off. On top of that we had two games to deal with, including one where we were in a huge hole. Have no fear however. There were still a few hysterical moments.

Many times during the week there is banter back and forth that no one knows about. A lot of that leads to comedy come game day. Two examples of that led to the first two very funny exchanges.

Why must I surround myself with a bunch of idiots?

After several e-mail exchanges, I sent a note to both Lee and Brian saying something like: "To Idiot number one and Idiot # 2. You can fight amongst yourselves as to which one you are."

Pete: Hey look who it is. Idiot number 2, I presume.

Brian: That would be correct.

Pete: Glad I got the number right. I wouldn't want to mix you guys up.

Brian: Where is idiot number one by the way?

Pete: Well, actually idiot 1A is Jake and he's right over there.

Brian: Oh yeah, that's right. He's the original idiot.

Jake: Who's idiot number one then?

Pete: That would be Lee

Jake: Really?

Pete: Yeah, you missed the whole e-mail exchange during the week. But I didn't forget about you though!

Jake: Hey, I'm 1A, so if anything happens to one of you guys, I can step right in!

A True Lumberjack

The e-mails between Brian, Lee and myself included discussions of coming to the game in True Lumberjack fashion in honor of Brian's Wood-Chopper nickname and unique swing. That fashion includes a flannel shirt and full beard. Lee arrived and walked straight up to Brian.

Brian: Is that Lee? No Way!! Look at him!!

Everyone starts cracking up!! I was off to the side so I didn't see him.

Lee: Where's Pete?

Pete: I'm right here! What the f____?! No way!!

Lee has on a flannel shirt and full beard!!

Lee: This is what a lumberjack looks like.
Pete: I want you to tear off the sleeves and where that shirt up at the plate
Brian: Look at his beard. I thought it was fake. It's REAL!
Lee: Of course it's real. I'm a true lumberjack!

Courtesy Runner

The opportunities to discuss my blazing speed, or lack there of, never gets old. I even have to laugh. In this case, Scummer was hurting so whenever he got on base we put in a courtesy runner for him. In this instance based on the rule, the runner had to be me.

Scummer: I need a runner
Pete: Ump! Courtesy runner please?
Ump: You got it.
Pete: Who is it?
Scummer: I think it's you.
Pete: Oh yeah.
Lee: Ump, can we have a courtesy runner for the courtesy runner?

Ninja

During the course of the game I kept hearing one of Swing Crew's players calling someone a Ninja. I finally caught on that he was talking about Lee. After the game the same guy told Lee "you're like a Ninja".

Swing Crew Guy: You're like a ninja!
Lee: What?
Lee came into the bench totally confused.
Lee: Did you hear that?
Pete: What?
Lee: That guy just called me a ninja?
Pete: Oh yeah. I heard him say that a few times during the game.
Lee: Why would he call me that?
Pete: I don't know. I was trying to figure that out for myself.
Lee: Ninja? I don't get it.
Pete: I don't either. Why don't you go ask him?
Lee: A Ninja? Of all things?
Pete: I guess it's a compliment.
Lee: I guess so.
Pete: You really don't look like one though.
Lee: But I am.
Pete: You're what?
Lee: I really am a Ninja

The End....

Next Week:

Opponent: City Gold Gloves
Record: 4 – 7
First game: We Won 29-7

Last game: We Won 16-14
Time: 7 PM

- I think it's video time!!

The coach has spoken.....

Pete