

## Welcome to Black Jacks Softball 2007 Season 5, Game 1

*I thought they were going to kill us?*

C.H. Robinson                    6  
Black Jacks                        16

		<b>Line Score</b>							
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>C.H. Robinson</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Black Jacks</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>16</b>	

Our goal this year is to improve on last year's Regular Season Championship, the first in our history. In order to do that, some changes had to be made. So, with the help of my Board of Directors (you know who you are) we tweaked the roster a little bit adding what we think is more talent. We also hope these minor changes will improve our overall attitude and teamwork. No one can ever accuse us of not being competitive or not wanting to win. Being complacent is not in our make-up.

With that said we started off our season last Wednesday at 9:30 PM in thirty-five degree weather. Smoke came out from every breath taken. It seemed more like football weather. Regardless, we came ready to play, with some new faces in tow, which will hopefully turn into new heroes. And of course new teammates to make fun of! What? Did you really think we'd stop doing that? You're kidding right? NOT on my watch baby!

Our first game was against a new team called C.H. Robinson. The only thing any of us knew going into the game was that Blake told us that this team was comprised of all young, fast studs. And I believe his quote to me was, "they're going to kill us!" To Blake, my young friend..."Oh yee of little faith!" Do you not have confidence in The Coach, and your fellow Black Jacks Teammates?

On the mound making his Black Jacks debut was Don Flynn, or as I have started to call him, "The Mighty Flynn". CH Robinson's lead off hitter proceeded to launch a BOMB of a Homerun to dead center to start the game! Not even Danny Chim-Chim O'Hara had a chance to catch up to this rocket. The expression on Don's face as he looked over to me was priceless. He didn't say anything, but he didn't have to. I know he was in shock. I just said, "No biggie". He hit it. What can you do?" The first few batters got hits, but then things settled down a bit, as we got out of the top of the first giving up only two runs.

In our half of the first, Mark Hall forced in a run with a walk. Joe Perrelli drove in another with a sacrifice fly and then Brad Mullen doubled in two more runs. From there

it was "game on", as we steamed ahead scoring three more runs in the second and six in the fourth, to walk away with a 16 – 6 victory.... even though they were supposed to kill us! ☺

In the second, Joe Scaglione (nice to have another fellow Italian on the team alongside Cimino and Perrelli.. sounds like a law firm.. or mafia family...fugghetaboutit) made his Black Jacks debut knocking in the first run of the inning. Danny followed by knocking in one run with a single, and Mark added another RBI with a double.

The big third inning was highlighted by two long homeruns. The first came off the bat of the Mighty Flynn, helping his own cause with a long moon-shoot to dead center field, his first hit as a Black Jack. Danny added his own two-run shot, another long blast to center field. Joe Scags (that's short for Scaglione) knocked in two more runs, adding to his very effective debut.

Up by a score of 13 – 4 after three innings the game calmed down a bit. We relied on the solid pitching of Don (although he did give up a second homerun to the guy who led off the game) and some decent defensive play to coast to solid season opening win.

### Stuff On The Side:

- Danny started off the year with another typical performance: four for four, two runs scored, two doubles a homerun and four RBI.
- Credit has to be given to go to the bottom of the order, going a combined six for nine, with six runs scored and four RBI. Who comprised the bottom of the order? That would be yours truly, Jake and Scags.
- Amazingly, Danny actually dropped a long fly ball that was in his glove. That just doesn't happen! And Brad CAUGHT and easy pop fly to second base, something he struggled with last year. No Bradley, we will not ever forget that!
- Mark could not go without sliding headfirst into home plate, once again putting his nipples in jeopardy. That was the game-ending run by the way, so nice job on finishing in style. Last year Mark's habit of doing that almost cost him a nipple. If he keeps this up again we may need to buy him some nipple guards!
- Marty Graham made his Black Jack regular roster return. Marty was with us from the inception of the team five years ago. Actually Joe P, Marty and myself put the original team together. Once he moved into the city he became a "Super Sub" making a few appearances a year. He decided to tough-out the commute, give up the mangled hands of 16-inch softball and get back to the real thing. Of course, he couldn't go without ending up on the ground at least once while making a catch in right center... You see he seems to do that regularly, something I call his "flip, flop and fly routine". Nice to have you back.
- Another first year player made his return as well. Mike Ebner (Ebs) played with us our very first year. But we sucked so bad he didn't want any part of us.... And I couldn't blame him. Ebs helped out in the fall and discovered we actually do have a good team, so he offered his services in somewhat of a sub role. He even said, "I like playing with you guys." Awwwww... shucks. Gee thanks Ebs! We actually like having you! All right, the love-fest is making me nauseous!

- Waiting in the wings, we have few other newcomers waiting to make their debut. There's Blake Troutman, who will now never live down the fact that he told us CH Robinson would kill us! Just kidding. Or am I? There's also Brian Champion & Gary Moore. Hope to see you both out there at some point.

### Big Hitters

Danny	4 for 4	2 Runs	2 Doubles	HR	4 RBI
Brad	3 for 3	1 Run	Double		3 RBI
Mark	2 for 3	2 Runs	Double		2 RBI
Scags	2 for 3	2 Runs			3 RBI
Pete	2 for 3	2 Runs			
Jake	2 for 3	2 Runs			

## COMIC RELIEF

### A True Cimino

As most of you know, my wife Wendy and I welcomed our new son Matthew into the world on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The following conversation took place between Lee and myself about Matthew:

**Lee:** How's Matthew doing?

**Pete:** He's doing good.

**Lee:** Smelling any stinky diapers lately?

**Pete:** Oh yeah. He's a true Cimino. He doesn't have any problems in that area.

**Lee:** Yep, he sure is a True Cimino..... Full of Shit.

### Being from Wisconsin

During the night Lee and Don discovered they are both from Wisconsin. I believe they grew up not too far from each other.

**Lee:** Yeah, Don's from Wisconsin

**Pete:** I know

**Lee:** He grew up like thirty miles from me

**Pete:** He's probably related then

**Lee:** That could be

**Mark:** Are you kidding me? Of course they're related. We're talking about Wisconsin. It's like Kentucky.

**Lee:** Yeah, I think he's my brother's, wife's, aunt's, brother's first son... or something like that.

**Pete:** See....I knew it!!

### Being a Dad

Another topic that never gets old, my blazing speed... or lack thereof.

**Danny:** So did becoming a dad make you slower or faster?

**Pete:** I'm sure it made me slower...If that's possible.  
**Danny:** Because it seems like either everyone is getting slower, or I just keep getting faster.  
**Pete:** Uh uh... whatever.  
**Danny:** No really.  
**Pete:** Shut up!

### I have to throw it TO you

Lee struggled with a few throws to first base, an unfortunate habit of his over the years. I try to be nice about it, but I seem to pay for it in the end.

**Lee:** Nice throws huh?  
**Pete:** I should have had that first one  
**Lee:** No, but I need to throw it TO you.  
**Pete:** I know, but I should have scooped that first one easily  
**Lee:** (Grinning)... no I should have thrown it TO you.  
**Pete:** *(Now realizing I'm going down a path of no return....I just looked up to see Lee laughing. What usually transpires during this conversation is)*  
**Pete:** I still should have had it.  
**Lee:** Okay, you're right. You should have had it.  
Instead, we both starting laughing and could not finish the conversation.

*The End.....*

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#### **Next Week's Game:**

**Game Time:** 6:30 PM  
**Opponent:** The Cannors  
**History:** They beat us once last year and we beat them twice  
**Availability:** I'll be back on Monday and everyone can let me know who is available

*The Coach has spoken.....*

*Pete*