

## Game 11

# The Quick and the Painful

**Black Jacks** 3  
**The Naturals** 15

	<u>Line Score</u>							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	T
<b>Black Jacks</b>	3	0	0	0	0	X	X	3
<b>The Naturals</b>	0	1	4	8	2	X	X	15

No, the score you just read is NOT a misprint. It was for all intents and purposes a real nightmare!! Not in anyone's wildest dreams did we think we'd be that bad. Quite honestly, it is totally unexplainable.

What makes it even more difficult to comprehend is we got off to decent start. With two outs in the top of the first Lee drew one of his patented walks. Joe followed with a double to center driving in Lee. Then Ebs followed with a long home run to right center, putting us up three to nothing.

Scags got through the top of the Natural's order with no runs in the first. So, it looked like we were on our way. Even though we did not score anything in the second, the game still seemed under control. We gave up only one run in the second, and headed into the third with a 3 to 1 lead. Unfortunately, our ineptitude at the plate caught up to us. You cannot go several innings without scoring and expect a team like the Naturals to not take advantage.

They started to put things together in the fourth with four runs, taking a 5 to 3 lead. At that point, I don't think any of us were worried. We figured being only down by two we had plenty of time to come back. To start things off in our half of the fourth, Ebs came through again with a long triple to right center. This gave us a runner on third with no outs. Anyone in their right mind would have banked on us scoring at least one run. Right? Not so fast. Unfortunately, three consecutive batters could not bring Ebs in leaving him stranded at third. The inability to bring in that one run was demoralizing. Not only that it put more wind in the sails of the Naturals.

In the bottom of the fourth the wheels fell off. We made too many errors and the Naturals capitalized getting one key hit after another. By the time it was all said and done, they scored eight runs, and we found ourselves down 13 to 3.

A groundout, a single and two fly-outs sent us down quickly in our half of the fifth. The nightmare continued and could not end fast enough. The Naturals did not prolong the inevitable, as they scored two quick runs in the bottom of the fifth to get to the five-inning, 12-run slaughter rule, mercifully ending the nightmare.

One positive sign was Scags pitching performance. The fifteen runs are in no way indicative of how well he pitched. Our errors gave them at the very least six or seven runs. Nice job Scags. You deserved a much better fate.

So, with the second big disaster of the year behind us, the question is do we have what it takes to get this thing back on track? Although we have not been mathematically eliminated, repeating as Regular Season Champions is not really a possibility. However, all is

not lost. The one championship that has eluded us is the Play-off Tournament Championship. I know most of us want this one more than anything.

We definitely have the team to do it. The question is can we? We've already beaten everyone in this league. Now we just have to get that confidence and swagger back. We have three regular season games left to right this ship. It all starts next week with a HUGE "pay back game"! We face the Squirrel Cagers who beat us up 16 – 4 the last time we faced them. We all know what we have to do. Now, let's get our heads out of our asses and get it done!

### On the Defensive

- Marty made a real nice sliding catch on a short fly ball to right center. Did anyone say "Flip, Flop and Fly"?
- Other than that, our defensive play was pretty offensive. And that's all I have to say about that.

### Coach's Corner

- This lineup was version 11! Quite honestly, this is taking a serious toll on us. In the coach's opinion, this is one of the main reasons we are not playing well. It's not only the batting order it's guys playing in different positions all the time. You cannot gain consistency when you are in a constant state of flux. It just doesn't work. There are very few guys that can play anywhere and bat anywhere in a line up with success. These gifted players are not the norm. Players, like people are creatures of habit. Watch any good team out there and most players play the same position and hit in the same spot in the order just about all the time. Consistency breeds confidence and confidence breeds success.
- We have more talent on paper this year than any year. But we just cannot put it all together... simply because we cannot get the same guys on the field all the time. If we want to win consistently, then we have to play that way.
- Marty's Flip, Flop and Fly routine made three appearances last night. They are always entertaining. One was very successful, and the other two.... well, let's just say, they were good efforts. Even our opponents were impressed.
- Nine of our 15 outs were ground balls to the infield. I don't think one of them was even a tough play.

### Big Hitters

Ebs	2 for 2	1 Run	HR, Triple	2 RBI
-----	---------	-------	------------	-------

### League Standings

The Naturals	10-1
Black Jacks	8-3
The Cannons	8-3
Squirrel Cagers	7-4
CH Robinson	5-6
Shake N Bake	3-8
D-Bags	2-9
Risky Business	1-10

---

## Comic Relief

Sorry folks! There really wasn't much comedy on Wednesday night. Usually, no matter what the result, a few comedic episodes unfold. But, this is the first time that I can ever remember that there was only one

### **It's a good thing...**

*After the game Marty was commenting to Joe and Lee about how he was glad he played right center instead of left.*

**Marty:** I'm glad you played left instead of me.

**Lee:** Why's that?

**Marty:** With those lights I wouldn't have been able to see a damned thing in left.

**Joe:** What are you talking about? You couldn't see anything in right either?

*The End....*

---

### **Next Game**

**Date:** July 18th  
**Opponent:** Squirrel Cagers  
**Record:** 7 - 4  
**Last meeting:** We LOST 16 - 4  
**Game Time:** 7:30 PM

*The coach has spoken.....*

*Pete*