

*We won our August 1<sup>st</sup> game (# 13) vs. Shake N' Bake via forfeit. They supposedly did not have enough guys to field a team. Going into this game, our record stood at 10-3, tied for second place.*

## Game 14

### A Long Wait for Redemption

**Black Jacks** 9  
**Squirrel Cagers** 3

	<u>Line Score</u>							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	T
<b>Squirrel Cagers</b>	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
<b>Black Jacks</b>	0	0	4	1	3	1	X	9

This incredible debacle started way back on July 18<sup>th</sup>. For those that do not remember, the game was suspended due to potential lightening storms. Not finishing the game on that day was questionable, as there was no lightening or rain in sight. Little did we know what we'd have to go through in order to finally finish it. Keep in mind we desperately needed and wanted to win this game. It started out as a revenge game after losing to these guys earlier in the year 16-4. But, with becoming the last regular season game, second place was also at stake.

The game was rescheduled for Sunday August 5<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. And guess what? Yep, it got rained out again. The kicker was 30 minutes before game time and only 20 minutes after it was called off, it stopped raining, the clouds parted and the sun came out!! Needless to say, we were NOT happy! This was a BAD decision by the field supervisor. He had no reason to call the game 50 minutes before it started, when the weather was scattered thunderstorms.

The game was then rescheduled for last night. This pushed the season back one week, because the play-off tournament was due to start that night. Anyway, there were three games scheduled. And the ONLY game that meant something was ours, with second place on the line for us. The outcome of the other two games had no bearing on the standings whatsoever.

When most of us got to the field, it was raining yet again. However, the weather report indicated "scattered thunderstorms", meaning it could stop at anytime. This combined with our game being the only one that meant anything; you'd think the field supervisor would take his time before calling off the game. At around 6:30 I yelled to him what was up with our game. He said it was canceled.

I'm not sure why, but all players from both teams decided to stick around. Less than five minutes later the rain stopped and the sun started to come out. The field supervisor was pulling out of the driveway in his car when I stopped him and had a few choice words about his decision to cancel the game too soon, just like they did on

Sunday and the first night we tried to play it. He came back with "I'm going to get some stuff to fix up the field for the other two games, but your game is canceled." He then rolled up his window and took off. It was probably a smart move for him not to stick around at that moment because he would have had about 20 softball players all over his ass!!

After exchanging this information with everyone we decided to go to the field, warm up, start fixing it up ourselves, hoping to force them to let us play the game. We figured if we didn't leave the field they would have to let us play.

In the meantime the captain from Squirrel Cagers made the suggestion that we should call someone and complain. We had the number of the guy who happened to be in charge of all the field supervisors, Matt. So, I made the call. In so many words I said this was not acceptable, we need to play this game, and I don't care what it takes, even if it means getting the league supervisor on the phone. He said he'd call me back.

Within ten minutes he called and asked to speak to the field supervisor. At this point we were on the field getting ready to play. I handed him the phone informing him the call was for him and that it was Matt. His jaw almost hit the ground. I am assuming he had his ass handed to him because he didn't get a word in and just handed the phone back to me. Ten minutes later Matt called me back saying our game was back on, and even if it was the only game played that was fine. This directive came straight from the League Supervisor!

Sometimes it pays to speak up!! Within fifteen minutes, our game started. That was after a bunch of players helped fix up the field!

So, the game picked up from where it left off. We were up no one out in the bottom of the third. We were looking for a quick start, and we got it. With a runner already on first base, Haack walked and Jake singled to knock in the first run. Danny followed with another single. Lee followed with an RBI single. Then Joe singled and Ebs contributed a sacrifice fly, giving us a 4 to 1 lead.

Each team plated one run on the fourth. Brad started things off with a single, I followed suit and Scags knocked in our fifth run with another sacrifice fly.

Scags shut down the Squirrel Cagers in the fifth. We pushed across three important insurance runs giving us some much-needed breathing room. Lee started things off with a single. Joe added a double. Ebs knocked in both runners with a single. Two batters later Danny knocked in Ebs with our eighth run of the game, increasing our lead to 8 – 2.

Scags got through the sixth without giving up a run again. We added one more run on Lee's RBI single. Up 9 to 2 going into the top of the seventh, Scags gave up only one run, ending the game with a final score of 9 to 3.

This was a nice win for us. It not only redeemed us from the previous loss to these guys, it gave us second place, which makes us home team in the first round of the play-offs. Quite honestly, I don't know how we ever lost to these guys. We are so much better than them it's not even funny. I guess they played their perfect game that night and we played our worst.

Anyway, for the third year in a row we take home a piece of hardware, with a second place finish in the regular season. First and second place finishers get a trophy. Nice job everyone. But there is still work to be done. There is a huge prize that has eluded us for two years. That's first place in the Play-off Tournament. Most of us want this REAL BAD!!!!

In order to do that, we have to first beat The Cannons, who we split two games with. We won the first 18 to 8 and they won the second 11 to 9. These guys finished 11 and 3 as well. We finished second because of a run differential tie-breaker.

We need to take this one at a time and not look too far ahead. But, it's time to step up and be the team we were meant to be.

For all of you Black Jack recap readers, we'd love to have some fan support.

### On the Defensive

- Ebs made a great play in throwing out a runner at third on a long throw from right center field. This was while most of us were yelling for him to throw to second. Shows how much we know! Nice play!
- Joe made a real nice running catch on a long fly ball down the left field line. No doubt this saved at least two runs.
- Lee made two nice running catches on pop-flies to short outfield. One was behind third and the other behind second.

### Coach's Corner

- We ended a perfect regular season with 14 different lineups in 14 games. I really don't know what to make of that. I guess finishing 11 – 3 during the regular season wasn't too bad considering. Although I think we would have been better if we had been more consistent.
- Haack became the third Black Jack to swing and miss. This is not included in this week's Comic Relief because the shock of swinging and missing is over. A few guys yelled, but not many. But that doesn't mean I won't mention it. You still got off easy Haack! Anyway, each guy who swung and missed had a different end result. Mark's was on a third strike, so he struck out. Haack fouled off the third strike after swinging and missing, so he officially FLOULED out. The ONLY one to get away with it and survive was Brad. I guess youth was served.
- I feel good about going into the play-offs. There is a real sense of excitement and energy from just about everyone. I am not big on predictions, but I will say this is the most talented team we have ever had, and if we play our game we are going to be very tough to beat.

### Big Hitters

Brad	3 for 3	1 Run		1 RBI
Lee	3 for 4	1 Run		2 RBI
Joe	2 for 3	1 Run	Double, Triple	1 RBI
Jake	2 for 3	1 Run	Double	1 RBI
Pete	2 for 3			

## Final League Standings

The Naturals	13-1
Black Jacks	11-3
The Canners	11-3
Squirrel Cagers	7-7
CH Robinson	5-9
Shake N Bake	4-10
D-Bags	2-12
Risky Business	2-12

---

## Comic Relief

### The Shovel

*In anticipation of the field being in bad shape, I brought a shovel to help with grounds keeping.*

**Joe:** We should start fixing up the field ourselves.

**Pete:** I'm all for that. That's why I brought a shovel.

**Joe:** You really have a shovel in your truck?

**Pete:** You know why don't you?

**Joe:** Yep....."I'll dig the hole. It wouldn't be the first hole I ever dug."

***This is a movie reference gang.***

**Pete:** Took the words right out of my mouth!!

### He can't pass me

*I was coaching first base and Jake was on base, with Danny at the plate.*

**Pete:** Get a good jump on a hit. You'll have Danny on your ass!

**Jake:** What do you mean?

**Pete:** It would be pretty funny if he passed you up.

**Jake:** He can't pass me on the bases. No way!

**Pete:** Yeah, that's what I meant. He can't pass you. Just run like hell anyway!

*Danny did get a hit but stopped at first on a single.*

**Pete:** Careful with Jake in front of you. You don't want to pass him.

**Danny:** Yeah, alright.

**Pete:** Although he just told me you couldn't pass him.

**Danny:** Yeah... OKAY? Right.

### Pull Something

*During one of my at bats I took two short & outside pitches. As the pitch came in I leaned and stretched towards it, but did not swing. The funny thing is I don't think Danny knew I heard him and no one but the catcher and ump heard my reply.*

**Danny:** Oh My God. You keep doing that and your going to pull something!

**Pete:** Smart Ass kids! Don't you worry about what I'm going to pull.

### These are the guys....

*To be a pitcher you need to have a sense of humor about yourself.*

**Pete:** You pitched a good game Scags. Nice job.

**Lee:** Yeah, you really did pitch well.

**Scags:** These are the guys I pitched against that one game and walked just about everyone.

**Lee:** Yeah, and whomever you didn't walk we couldn't catch the ball.

### A Funny Umpire

*Not sure if the umpire knew that I write a comic relief, but he sure did have a sense of humor about the game. He came up with a few good one liners out of no where.*

*This was after we got through one complete inning.*

**Ump:** Okay, the game is called. You only get to play one inning per week on this game.

*Not sure where this came from, but it was some where in the middle of the game.*

**Ump:** For a little entertainment we are going to have the dancers come out between innings and put on a little show.

### The bat

*Lee asked if he could borrow one of our bats for a tournament over the weekend.*

**Lee:** Can I borrow this?

**Pete:** Borrow what?

**Lee:** The Combat.

**Pete:** What for?

**Lee:** A tournament

**Pete:** Oh yeah, the one up in Mountain.

**Lee:** Yes, Mountain

**Pete:** Yeah, but just make sure you keep the thing alive.

**Lee:** Oh I'm sure plenty of guys will use it

**Pete:** No, I mean keep some hits in it.

**Lee:** I'll save some for next week.

**Pete:** That means I won't have it to practice with this week.

**Lee:** I'll get more hits with it in my tournament than you will in practice.

***The End....***

---

### Next Game: "Play-off Tournament"

**Date:** August 15<sup>th</sup>

**Opponent:** The Cannons

**Record:** 11-3

**First meeting:** We won 18-8

**Second meeting:** We lost 11-9

**Game Time:** 7:00 PM

***If we win this game, we go to the championship game against the winner of The Naturals (13 – 1) vs. The Squirrel Cagers (7-7) at 9:00 PM***

*The coach has spoken.....*

*Pete*