

Game 3

You Guys Suck at Baseball!

Black Jacks 17
Shake N Bake 11

	Line Score							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	T
Black Jacks	3	6	0	0	1	3	4	17
Shake N Bake	2	4	0	2	2	0	1	11

One thing we brought to this team with all of the changes this year is major bench strength, which is something we really have not had over the past four seasons. Last night proved that we have the depth to win, even without some of our big guns. Missing in action were: Mark, Ebs, Joe P & Blake who was supposed to make his debut.

As a result, Brian Champion played his first game as a Black Jack and a few guys played out of position for what can be considered a makeshift lineup. Playing different positions were: Flynn at third, and Lee in right center. Scags also stepped up taking the starting pitching slot. Anyway, this makeshift lineup turned out to be a winning combination in a real battle through the first five innings. That is until we came through with some big-time clutch hits in the sixth and seventh innings to put the game away.

First, let me tell you a little bit about Brian. When I asked him what positions he plays, he was the *first* guy to ever answer that he's a catcher! I have to respect his honesty. So, I put him where he's comfortable, behind the plate. And Good God did it pay dividends! He proceeded to go 4 for 5, with two triples, 3 runs scored and 5 RBI. Now that's a debut if I ever saw one! Nice way to impress the coach and your teammates! Have I ever told you how much I love it when someone makes the coach look good! ☺

Scags making his first start on the mound pitched a real solid game. His night included two huge strikeouts, one swinging and one looking! Each of these strikeouts came a critical times killing rallies. With that aside, based on the eleven runs that were scored, you might think Scags had a rough night, but I assure you our defense did not help him at all. We probably cost him at least seven runs with unthinkable errors, the likes I have not seen in a long time. It got to the point where it almost became contagious. Let's just say the infielders had a tough night. So, no worries Scags....Nice job! And all of this came after he thought I was joking when I told him he was pitching.

Unlike the infielders, our outfield was flawless. Every catchable fly ball was caught. There were no wild throws or bad decisions. They all did a nice job: Marty in left, Danny in left center, Lee in right center and Jake in right. Everyone had at least one fly ball put out! Well-done guys!

On offense, we managed to get off to a quick start in the first inning with three runs. Flynn had a sacrifice fly to drive in one run. Haack had an RBI single and so did I. We opened things up a bit in the second with six more runs. Bradley started things off with an RBI double. Shake N Bake gave us two runs on an awful throwing error. Flynn added another sacrifice fly. Then Haack, Brian and yours truly again added RBI singles.

We have to give credit to our opponents. They did not go away. They kept coming at us inning after inning eventually tying the score in the bottom of the fifth at 10 a piece. Granted, we gave them quite a few runs, but they made us pay for just about every one.

After the bottom of the fifth, with the score now tied, Danny asked me to give a pep talk. I paused for a moment and said, "I have nothing to say. We are better than this. We know how to win."

Hmmm... I guess that was some kind of pep talk for whoever was listening, because in the sixth we finally broke the game open.

Lee the *God of Softball* and the newly crowned *King of Walks*, (man it must be an awesome feeling to be a God and a King) led things off in the sixth with ... you guessed it.... a walk. That was followed by: a single by Flynn, and another error by Shake N Bake. Then, Brian came through again with a huge two-run triple. By the way, we have to decide on a nickname for him, either Champs or BC or B... something.

In the seventh we finally put the game away. With one out and a runner on first Lee hit into what should have been an inning ending unassisted double play by the shortstop. But the first baseman dropped the throw! Suddenly we had new life! Flynn was intentionally walked. Haack followed with a clutch RBI single. Brian again came through with another RBI single of his own. Then yours truly contributed with a two-run single, increasing our lead to seven, finally putting the game out of reach for our opponents. All of this occurred with two outs. As I stood on first base Joe P (they don't call him Mr. Softball for nothing) said, "You see what errors do? If that first baseman doesn't blow that double play, we don't score any runs." He was absolutely right. The great thing was we capitalized on it, like good teams should.

So, what's the message that came out of this game? Let the Coach tell you. Great teams are sometimes defined by the strength of their bench. I'd say our bench strength is as good as I have seen on any team in a long time.

Oh yeah, I bet you're wondering where I got this week's head line from? Well, you'll just have to read on to find out.

Big Hitters

Brian	4 for 5	3 Runs	2 Triples	5 RBI
Pete	4 for 5	1 Run	Double	5 RBI
Haack	3 for 5	3 Runs		1 RBI
Brad	3 for 5	2 Runs	Double	1 RBI
Marty	3 for 4			

Stuff On The Side

- After one of Scags' strikeouts, the one where the guy got called out looking, the batter glared at the ump with a dumbfounded look. The ump glared back with the same look and just shrugged his shoulders. The batter proceeded to kick dirt on the umps shoes! He was just joking around, but it was pretty damned funny to watch.
- Marty had at least 8 fly ball putouts in left. A few of those were nice running catches. No Flip, Flop and Fly routine.... But, nice job.
- All together, the outfield has at least 14 of the 21 putouts.

- Someone played a joke and sewed Haack's glove shut before the game! That's why he messed up those two easy tosses while covering second. ***Just kidding***....sorry I just couldn't resist.
- The Mighty Flynn felt like he needed to walk a mile in Mark's shoes at third, so he made sure he left banged up with a few bruises, taking at least two hard ground balls to the arms and chest. I'm not really sure that is a requirement to playing third... but nice job anyway.
- Joe P, our Mr. Softball, and my *Brotha from Anotha Motha*, is unfortunately on the DL for a while. We all feel for you Joe. You're with us in spirit even if you cannot make to the game. However, this week he did show albeit it in street clothes. He knew that if he came in uniform either he'd play or I'd ask him to play. Instead he took over the coaching reigns at first base. It's always better to have him there, whether he's playing or not. After all there is only one Mr. Softball! By the way, Joe's message to everyone is this. "Do NOT count me out. I WILL be back!"
- Wendy my wonderful wife and our dedicated scorekeeper (and ball-buster) made her return with Matthew in tow (it was his one month birthday)!! She managed to keep one eye on Matthew and the other on the game! By the way, he slept the whole time and missed his dad's four hits and 5 RBI! Where was the camera when I needed it?
- Cherie, Lee's wife also came with their two kids Jacob and Jessica. On top of that, The Mighty Flynn's family showed up as well. Thanks for coming! We really love the fans support!
- I don't think I have ever seen that many people at one of our softball games. Granted, most of them were for the other team, but there had to be about a hundred people out there.

League Standings

Last week's standings were incorrect. Shake N Bake did have one win beating the D-Bags. Hey I just write what the league posts on the web site.

Black Jacks	3-0
The Naturals	3-0
CH Robinson	2-1
The Cannors	2-1
Squirrel Cagers	1-2
Shake N Bake	1-2
Risky Business	0-3
D-Bags	0-3

Comic Relief

Kicking Dirt

Jacob is Lee's 3 year-old son.

Jacob: Dad, I want to go out there (pointing to the infield).

Lee: No, wait a little while.

Pete: Hi Jacob. How are you buddy?

Jacob: *Jacob looked up at me, and did not reply. However he did proceed to kick dirt on my feet.*

Pete: Did you see that? He just kicked dirt on my feet.

Lee: Jacob. Don't kick dirt on people.

Pete: Who's he trying to be Billy Martin or something?

Jacob: I like it.

Jacob proceeded to run off and kick dirt at someone else's feet. JUST KIDDING!!

You're pitching

Pete: You might want to warm up. You're pitching
(I just walked away)

Scags: I thought Pete was joking when he said I was pitching

Jake: Nah, Pete likes to move guys around. You'll get your chances.

Scags: I figured he was just trying to set me up for the comic relief.

Jake: Why? You're a good pitcher.

Scags: I thought I was going to walk out to the mound, start warming up and then everybody was going to say, "What the hell are you doing? You're the DH!"

Jake: That would have been hilarious.

Scags: I was waiting for Ashton Kucher to come out of the trees and tell me I was punked.

As the saying goes... be careful what you wish for! Scags, you officially made the comic relief without even trying. That's why this stuff is so funny!

You Guys Suck at Baseball

After the game ended a little boy, no older than five, whose dad played for Shake N Bake was hanging out right by our bench when his dad came over.

Little Boy: Dad? Did you win?

Dad: No.

Little Boy: You didn't?

Dad: No. The Black Jacks beat us.

The little boy stuck his face to the fence that separated our bench from the stands and started yelling at us. Needless to say, he got our attention.

Little Boy: YOU GUYS SUCK AT BASEBALL! YOU GUYS SUCK AT BASEBALL!

Pete: What?

Little Boy: YOU GUYS SUCK AT BASEBALL!

Pete: Lee, did you hear what that little kid said?

Lee: No, what?

Pete: That little guy right there.

Little Boy: YOU GUYS SUCK AT BASEBALL!!

Pete: Wow! Can you believe that? Maybe he's right.

Lee: He probably is being we played softball.

Little Boy: YOU GUYS SUCK AT BASEBALL!!

Pete: Man, it's getting hostile near the bench. I need to get out of here.

Lee: That is pretty funny though.

Chris Chelios?

Joe P: Did you hear what one of the guys from the other team said after the game?

Pete: No?

Joe P: He said, that's what happens when Chris Chelios coaches first base.

Wendy: Chris Chelios?
Pete: Huh?
Joe P: Yeah, Chris Chelios?
Pete: Where?
Wendy: Who you?
Joe P: Do you know how many times people have told me that over the years? It's unbelievable how often I get that.
Wendy: Really?
Joe P: Oh yeah, all the time.
Pete: If you say so.
Wendy: Ohhh yeah... maybe a little bit. I guess so.
Joe P: No. A lot.
Pete: So much that I had no idea they were referring to you, and I've known you for almost ten years.

I feel like I have to tell you guys what to do

Joe P: It's tough coming here and not playing.
Pete: I know brother. It happened to me a few years ago, remember.
Joe P: It's so hard. It's in my blood.
Pete: I hear ya.
Joe P: I have to come in my street clothes. Cause if I don't I'm going to some how get in the game.
Pete: And I'll be tempted to put you in... so please don't come in uniform.
Joe P: I don't know how many games I can come to like this.
Pete: Well, I want you here. I'm glad you came. You are a major part of this team. It's not the same for me when you aren't here. So, please come if you can.
Joe P: Yeah, but then I feel like I have to tell guys what to do.
Pete: Then do it. I don't care.
(At this point Lee happened to be walking by)
Lee: Don't tell ME what to do!
Joe P: What's the point? You don't listen anyway.
Lee: Just don't tell me what to do.
Joe P: I can talk until I'm blue in the face and you still won't listen.
Lee: You know what? You can tell me all you want. But, I'm NOT going to listen.
Joe P: See what I mean.

The End...

Next Week's game

Opponent: The Naturals
Record: 3-0
This year: Beat: Shake N Bake, The Cannors & Squirrel Cagers
History: None
Game Time: 8:30 PM

This is the third consecutive year we will be playing a game early in the year as one of two undefeated teams. This is a big "statement" game!

Make-up Game

Opponent: The Cannors
Record as of today: 2-1
Date: Sunday May 20th
Game Time: 10:00 AM

We now have 10 confirmed players for this game. We had nine, and then Phil found one guy. Scummer may now make it 11. He is trying to pull some strings to get there by 10 AM. You know me. I always feel safer with 11. But no matter what we have ten. So, we are good to go.

Players: Jake, Pete, Flynn, Mark, Haack, Lee, Phil, Scags, Blake, Ralph Beck and possibly Scummer

History: Last year in the summer league their name was Swing Crew. They beat us pretty bad in one game. Then in the fall league we split a double header with them. So, they do have a decent team.

The coach has spoken.....

Pete