

Game 5

Sunday Morning Wake-up Call

The Canners **8**
Black Jacks **18**

	<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>
The Canners	0	1	2	0	4	1	x	8
Black Jacks	0	1	4	0	3	10	x	18

When you play in a Wednesday night league, waking up early Sunday morning for a make-up game is bound to be a difficult challenge. I figured guys would be late and we'd probably get off to somewhat of a slow start.

So, the Coach was getting pretty nervous as our 10:00 AM start time drew near. Being the first game of the day, we did have a five-minute grace period to start. You need at least nine players to play. With about four minutes left, we had seven. As the fear of an unnecessary forfeit began to enter my head, Scags showed up with about three minutes left. A minute later Flynn arrived, allowing me to breath a huge sigh of relief. After about the five minutes into the game, Blake showed finally giving us our full compliment of players.

Going in, we all knew we'd have to come through with another incredible display of bench strength. Ralph Beck made his first appearance ever as a Black Jack taking over third base. Mark moved from third to shortstop as Lee took over left field. Phil, one of our longest standing and trustworthy Super Subs, made his first appearance too, leading off and playing left-center.

As expected, the first two innings were quiet. The Canners took a one run lead in the second. Then we tied it up with an RBI single by Jake.

Things started to stir up a bit, when The Canners took a three to one lead in the third. I have to be honest, I really don't remember much. I am not a morning person.

In the bottom of the third we returned the favor, rubbing some of the sleep out of our eyes scoring four runs taking a five to three lead. An error and a walk started the inning. Then Beck, yours truly, Jake and Scags all contributed RBI's.

While taking the field for the top of the fourth, I think we all hit the snooze button and went back to sleep for an inning, as nothing happened through the fourth. In the top of the fifth we were woken up by the sound of four Canner's runs. It was like we lifted our heads off the pillow and suddenly found ourselves down seven to five.

Like an angry sleeper swatting away someone trying to wake them up, we showed more signs of life, taking the lead back. The Mighty Flynn started things off with a walk. Beck then made a huge "here I am" statement with a monstrous two-run homer to left center. To keep things going, I walked, Scags singled and then Blake ripped an RBI double down the left field line for the third run of the inning.

Now up by one, going into the top of the sixth, the clock was running out. The ump said we had seventeen minutes left. This meant we could not start another inning after those seventeen minutes were up, due to the sixty-minute time limit. The Cannons added one run to tie it up again.

Out of nowhere it seemed like someone Woke up a Sleeping Giant! Our half of the inning started with seven minutes on the clock. We needed a long inning and some runs. Here is how it went.

Lee singled. Mark hit a long homerun to right center. Score 10-8.

Flynn walked. Beck singled. Pete doubled. Score 11-8.

Haack walked. Jake hit a sacrifice fly. Score 12-8

Scags tripled. Score 14-8

Blake homered to left. Score 16-8

Phil singled. Lee tripled. Score 17-8

At this point we were wondering about the time. The seven minutes must have been gone, but we didn't want to say anything. Then the ump asked how many runs we scored. We had nine. He informed everyone that one more run and the game is over due to the 10 run sixth inning slaughter rule. Mark proceeded to hit a long double to left center scoring Lee for the tenth and final run.

Final score 18-8.

Our official Sunday morning Wake up call was 10:53 for a 10:00 game!

On the defensive

- Jake started an awesome double play on a shoestring catch in right.
- Mark, playing shortstop, made at least three diving grabs on grounders headed up the middle.
- Flynn started a huge 1 to 6 to 3 double play late in the game to kill a rally.
- Lee, "The God of Softball", played left field like he owned it, including a long running catch to his right down the line and over his head.

Worth Mentioning

- After asking me to trust him, Mark hit lefty for the first time. This was because he hit a homerun batting lefty in his other league. I'd say that's worth his trust. The first time he hit a grounder to first. The second time he ended the game with a double to right center.
- Everyone in the lineup got on base at least twice.
- For the second time this year we hit 3 homeruns in a game.
- After five games we have used 5 different lineups, another testament to our bench strength.
- The ten run sixth inning is the second biggest inning in our history (I think). Two other times we scored eleven.

Big Hitters

Everyone in the entire lineup got on base at least twice. So, I decided to include everyone on this list. The names are listed in batting order.

Phil	2 for 5		1 Run		
Lee	2 for 5		2 Runs	Triple	1 RBI
Mark	3 for 5		2 Runs	Double, HR	3 RBI
Flynn	0 for 1	3 Walks	3 Runs		
Beck	3 for 4		2 Runs	HR	3 RBI
Pete	2 for 3	1 walk	4 Runs	Double	2 RBI
Haack	2 for 3	1 walk	2 Runs		
Jake	2 for 3				4 RBI
Scags	3 for 4		1 Run	Double, Triple	3 RBI
Blake	2 for 4		1 run	Double, HR	2 RBI

League Standings

Black Jacks	5-0	
The Naturals	4-1	
CH Robinson	3-2	(Forfeit loss to The Naturals)
The Cannons	3-2	
Squirrel Cagers	2-3	(Double forfeit loss with Shake N Bake)
Shake n Bake	1-4	(Double forfeit loss with Squirrel Cagers)
D-Bags	1-4	
Risky Business	0-5	

COMIC RELIEF

You Playing Today?

We had the same umpire from last Wednesday. Although he made a huge blunder last week, his is a nice guy and pretty observant.

Ump: You going to have enough players today?

Pete: We have 10 on the board. Hopefully they will all show on time.

Ump: So, you playing today?

Pete: Sure

Ump: The whole game?

Pete: No choice today.

Ump: You going to make it?

Pete: I may be the oldest guy on the team, but I can still play a whole game without a problem when I need to. Besides, I have to set the example.

Ump: No breaks today then for you?

Pete: Nope.

Ump: It gets tougher getting older.

Pete: I do start and play every game. But, I have no problem stepping off the field sliding into a DH role or catching when the time is right. It all depends on how I feel, and how the game is going.

Ump: That's not a bad plan.
Pete: It's called self-preservation!

You gonna pitch?

With all of the late arrivals, I was trying to buy as much time as I could to allow all ten players to show up. I told Flynn to take his time between pitches once the game started. The ump yelled lets go and everyone took the field. Well, except for Flynn. After a few practice throws to the infielders I realized Flynn was not on the field.

Pete: You going to pitch today? Or are you just going to stand there and mind the bench?

Flynn: You told me to take my time.

Pete: Yeah, I guess I did.

Flynn: I'm taking my time.

Pete: Okay then. Take your time.

Motivational Speaker

With every name comes a nickname or a reference. Ralph Beck is no exception.

Lee: Come on Beck! Don't be a loser baby!

Flynn: That's some motivation.

Lee: You know what I'm talking about don't you? The Beck song, "I'm a loser!"
Beck proceeded to hit a long two-run homerun

Lee: See Don, I know how to motivate!

Flynn: I guess so.

Want some help?

With my trusted scorekeeper not at most games, (she is still tending to Matthew) reviewing the scorebook can be a challenge. Lots of stuff how someone got on base, types of hits and RBI's get messed up or forgotten by whoever has the book.

Pete: Man, look at this book!

Lee: Is there stuff missing?

Pete: There always is. It takes me forever to get through the book sometimes.

Lee: Everybody does it different.

Pete: I know, but simple things like RBI or how someone got on base are missing a lot of the time. Joe and I literally spent twenty minutes last week trying to figure it out.

Lee: Do you want me to hang out for a few minutes to help figure it out.

Pete: If you don't mind.

Lee proceeded to take the book and review the RBI's

Lee: Okay, they're all there.

Pete: It all adds up?

Lee: Well yeah. Kind of

Pete: Kind of?

Lee: I added a few.

Pete: So, there's supposed to be 18 RBI, but there are now like 25?

Lee: Yes.
Pete: And you gave them all to yourself?
Lee: Yes I did.

The END.....

Wednesday's Game

Opponent: Squirrel Cagers

Record: 2 – 3

Time: 7:30 PM

The Coach has spoken.....

Pete