

Game 6

Asleep at the Wheel

Black Jacks 4
Squirrel Cagers 16

	<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>
Black Jacks	0	1	1	0	2	X	X	4
Squirrel Cagers	4	3	2	4	3	X	X	16

I guess by the headline and the score you can tell where this recap is headed. Many excuses can be used to try and explain away what could very well be one of our worst performances in several years. Some may even chalk it up as an "off night". Personally, I don't believe in excuses. I also think you create your own "off nights". Besides, there's a big difference between having an off night and being asleep at the wheel.

We never gave ourselves the chance to get the car out of pit road. We got in the car, turned the engine on and then fell asleep. At times it seemed as though we were in a fog, scrambling around trying to find our way. I'm not really sure we were ready to play. I don't know, but maybe subconsciously, we took our opponents for granted.

For sure, the Squirrel Cagers came to play. I arrived at 6:30 before the first game even started. When I got there they had about six guys in the parking lot ready to make their way down to the field and another two guys already at the field warming up. That to me is a huge message. I give them all the credit in the world for their performance and for the way they approached the game, like they had something to prove. For all intents and purposes, they did. They had a record of three and two. Two of their victories were against teams that were winless and the other came via a forfeit. On top of that we beat them last year by scores of 29-7, 16-14 & 18-4.

So, hats off to these guys. They played their Asses off and probably had their best game ever. They got off to a quick start and never let up, scoring in every inning. They didn't take anything for granted and showed respect by never letting their emotions get out of control. They took one inning at a time, capitalizing on our mistakes.

In the end, they were also gentlemen. They did not scream and carry on trying to rub it in our faces. I respect that. They acted like they'd been there before. As a matter of fact before the game started, their captain Steve and I had a long conversation about building a team year by year and gaining confidence with good wins. He must have asked me twenty questions about how our team has evolved, how we keep guys playing, and how we keep getting better. Good for those guys.

Losing is not fun, but it's part of life. I have always said in or to know how to win you need to learn how to lose. There is nothing wrong with it. It humbles you, puts

things in perspective and can create a renewed sense of focus. You win as a team and you lose as a TEAM! This was without a doubt a TEAM loss.

Losing to a team of this caliber is acceptable, if you play well and they just play better. But, last Wednesday's performance was a hard pill to swallow. Quite honestly, based on the caliber of our team, it should be. I know I'm not the only one who thinks that. We flat out did not do anything well. We gave them too many gift runs. We must have handed them at least ten of their runs on a silver platter and the rest on a bronze plate. Sure there were a few nice plays in the field. A few guys had a couple of hits. But that's about it.

Here is an indication of how much we struggled. We were there, but again it just didn't seem like we came "to play".

We had twelve hits, when we have averaged twenty-three per game.

We scored only four runs after averaging sixteen per game.

We struggled in the field.

We struggled on the mound.

We lost by the five run slaughter rule (12 runs).

This game was over in less than a half hour! That is not a lie!

Okay so now what? Well, it's time to put this behind us and move on. It's over and done with. So, let's turn a negative into a positive. Like I said, losing is humbling and can create a renewed sense of focus. I think that's what has now happened. We are better than every team in this league. We know it, and so do the other teams. However, now we have to prove it all over again. And that's just fine with me. Going undefeated is an extremely difficult thing to do. I don't think any of us actually thought about accomplishing that. That's a lot of pressure over a sixteen game schedule.

So, it's time for all of us to "right the ship". We all know what we have to do. We all know what we are capable of. It's time to get back to basics. We made some serious changes to this team specifically to overcome obstacles like this. Let's pull together, stay united and prove once again to everyone, that we are the best team in this league.

Worth Mentioning

- Last year after starting 10-0 we lost to a middle of the road team pretty badly. So, this situation is similar.
- This was the sixth different lineup in six games. Maybe this time the inconsistency caught up to us. Just food for thought.

Big Hitters

Joe P	3 for 3	1 run	double	2 RBI
Marty	2 for 2			1 RBI
Champ	2 for 3	1 run		
Lee	2 for 3	1 run		

League Standings:

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

Comic Relief

No Comic Relief

Needless to say right after the game I was not a happy camper. Lee tried to change that.

Pete: There's not going to be any Comic Relief this week. There just wasn't anything funny about this game.

Lee: What do you mean no comic relief? You have to have comic relief.

Pete: If you can find something funny let me know and I'll put it in, but I don't remember anything that was funny.

Lee: How about this? A bear and a rabbit are taking a crap in the woods. The bear asks the rabbit "do you have a problem with crap sticking to your fur? The rabbit says "no". So, the bear picked up the rabbit and wiped his ass with him! Now that's funny!

I have to admit. I did chuckle. Thanks Lee!

Marty! Can you hear me?

For some reason I keep hearing the song "Tommy" by The Who.

"Tommy, can you hear me?"

Anyway.....

I'm not the only one who was "in a mood" after the game. This exchange took place as we were walking away from the field. Marty was about 20 feet ahead of us.

Marty: Pete, what time is next week's game?

Pete: 8:30

Lee: Practice starts at 6:30! And is MANDATORY!!

Marty continues to walk away ignoring Lee.

Lee: I'll bring the beer! Is that better!?

Still no response from Marty as he keeps walking.

Lee: Marty can you even hear me?

Still no response.

Lee: Marty! Can you hear me!?

Marty glances back while laughing acknowledging that he was completely ignoring Lee.

Lee: See! More comedy. Now put that in the Comic Relief.

The End...

Next Game

Date: Wed. 5/30

Time: 8:30 PM

Opponent: D-Bags

Record: 1-5

The Coach has spoken.....

Pete