

Game 8

A Nice Win! But, you're not going to believe what Mark did!

Black Jacks 13
C.H. Robinson 9

	<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	3	3	3	2	1	0	1	13
C.H. Robinson	3	0	2	3	0	0	1	9

9:30 start times are tough! We are now 3-0 in games started at 9:30 so I am not complaining, but it gets tougher and tougher as the season goes on. I don't know about anyone else but it's really hard not only staying awake waiting to leave for the game, but getting your body going that late at night after laying around after work for about 3 hours!

Most of CH Robinson's team hung out in the parking lot drinking beers before the game. Not sure if that was supposed to help them or not, or just be used as some kind of excuse, but that's their problem. It just goes to show though, what else are you going to do waiting around all that time.

Getting back to the game. Mike "Scummer" Hanscom, one of our long-standing Super Subs (and my brother-in-law) came out of retirement to pitch his first game of the year. Mike basically hung up his playing spikes for coaching shoes. After last season he decided to dedicate his softball time to coaching his eleven year-old daughter's traveling softball team. But, we decided to keep his name on the roster anyway. I forewarned him that at some point he would be called upon to pitch. With three different pitchers not available, and The God of Softball Lee (pitcher #4) needed in the outfield, Mike got the call. He warned everyone that it has been almost a year since he played. I told him all I need you to do is get the ball over the plate, and we'll take care of the rest. That he did. Along the way Scummer picked up three key strikeouts that killed potential rallies. In the end his "out of retirement call" was a successful one picking up his first win of the season and our seventh. The win kicked off the second half of our season on a positive note, improving our record to 7-1.

At the plate we weren't great, but we were consistent scoring a run in every inning except the sixth. We got off to a good start, with "threes are wild" plating three runs in each of the first three innings. Then we tapered off a bit, managing to get enough insurance runs for the four run difference in the fourth, fifth and seventh innings.

Mr. Softball started off the scoring in the first inning with his second home run of the season, a two-run towering shot to right field. Yours truly added an RBI for the third run.

The God of Softball cracked a long two-run triple to start the scoring in the second. Ebs then knocked Lee in with an RBI single for our sixth run of the night.

In the third, Champ came through with a two-run triple, a long bomb to left center, again forcing me to run home all the way from first. And I wonder why I was so tired again! Marty followed with a hit knocking in Champ.

Lee and Mark added RBI's in the fourth for what turned out to be the winning runs. We finished things off with runs in the fifth, on an error and then in the seventh with Marty knocking in another run. That capped off a four for four night for him!

Overall, a good start to the second half of the season, on what seemed to be a very low energy night.

Finally, getting to what you have all been waiting for: what Mark did. Let me preface this by saying out of the three worst blunders you can pull at the plate, he accomplished number two. The first is striking out looking. The third is what we call a FLOUL OUT, meaning you fouled off a third strike. The second? You guessed it; STRIKE OUT SWINGING!! Yes, Black Jack fans, at approximately 10:22 PM, June 6th, 2007, Mark Hall, our stellar third baseman & one of the very best our team has to offer, STRUCK OUT SWINGING!!

The wind that came from that swing was one thing. The silence that lasted for about 3 seconds was something else. But the laughter and comments that followed were truly classic!!! Most of it came from Mark himself, who thank God has a good sense of humor! Some of the quotes

Joe: OH MY GOD!! That did NOT just happen!!

Pete: WOW!! NO WAY! NO WAY! NO WAY!!
I am not rendered speechless very often, but I am now. But damn that was funny!

Mark: What the hell was I swinging at?

Joe: The wind!?

Lee: What happened?

Pete: Mark struck out swinging

Lee: What? NO WAY! I didn't see it! Damnit!!

Mark: I don't think I have ever even FLOULED OUT, never mind strikeout! I'm just not playing anymore. I'm through!

Pete: I don't care what anyone does at the plate. They never have to feel bad again. Not after that. We have set a new low standard.

Mark: I hopefully don't have the most strikeouts on the team.

Pete: Swinging... yes, you do.

On the Defensive

- Jake is beginning to come into his own by relieving me at first base. He made another real nice play on a tough-hop ground ball to end the game.
- Joe made several great plays up the middle. He also made a real nice leaping catch that killed a potential big rally.
- Our outfield was solid. Well, with the exception of one miscue. Danny? Would you like to explain? Well, maybe I will in the Comic Relief.
- Mark was once again all over the dirt at third making at least two diving stops. Although he found a new curve ball on throws to first.
- We've tried several nicknames for Mark over the years: Hoover & Nips among them. But, I think we finally found one that's going to fit: *Captain K*.

Coach's Corner

- Danny now has the two shortest doubles in the history of softball. The first was a bloop to center and the second was ground ball up the middle. I don't care what anyone says, no one's faster than Chim-Chim.
- Mr. Softball played his fifth position of the year. He continues to live up to his name!
- Champ and Blake are friends with several guys on CH Robinson. Champ took some serious abuse during the game, but he gave it right back not only verbally but also at the plate! Nicely done!

Big Hitters

Marty	4 for 4	2 runs		2 RBI
Danny	3 for 4	2 runs	2 doubles	
Haack	2 for 3	2 runs		
Champ	2 for 4	1 run	Triple	2 RBI

League Standings

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

Comic Relief

More Captain K

Here are more random comments about Mark's already legendary strikeout.

Mark: Not only did I strike out, I sucked at third too especially on the ball hit down the line. I felt like I was rolling around in frickin' quick sand! I retire. I'm done! I'm not coming back. I just sucked today!

Danny: That's gotta be recap material.

Mark: I am not reading your recap. As soon as I get it I'm hitting the delete button.

Pete: Yeah, but count on it being in there. So, everyone else will read it.

Mark: Scummer came out of retirement, and I'm going into retirement. I'm done. FINISHED! I'm not coming back! I have NEVER done that in my whole life

Pete: Until now!

Lee: I'm pretty sure I've never done that.

Italian Sausage from Wisconsin

Someone finally said something about how Haack runs. Leave it to Joe to come out with something like this. The first comment was during the game the exchange came after.

Joe: Haack runs like the Italian Sausage from the Milwaukee sausage race.

Joe: Nice game sausage
Haack: Come on, sausage is kind of cruel.
Joe: Okay, you look like a guy coming down in his parachute trying to adjust the strings as he's landing.
Haack: Well, that's better than a sausage.

Credit Cards

Lee and Joe had this exchange after Joe made a leaping catch at shortstop.

Lee: Great catch
Joe: Yeah did you see me get up there?
Lee: You got up there all right. You could have slipped two credit cards under your feet when you jumped.
Joe: You're giving me too much credit. No pun intended.

No matter what you say...

Mark tried to make fun of my recaps. Needless to say, I got him to stop.

Mark: And this was an impact game too
Joe: No. It's a "statement" game.
Mark: Oh yeah.
Joe: Yeah, we're playing a 1 and 7 team and this is a statement game.
Pete: Oh, here it goes.
Joe: It's pay back time for Pete on the recaps.
Pete: That's fine.
Mark: We're going to prove to this league that we are best team.
Joe: That's right and to everyone else too.
Mark: Maybe I should play these 1 and 7 teams to pad my stats.
Joe: You wanna play against the 1 and 7 teams, and I'm trying to rest so I don't pad mine.
Pete: Keep it up. You just remember Mark, no matter what you say to me or how much you make fun of me.... **I've NEVER struck out swinging!**
Mark: I'm done. I quit.

I'm an idiot

After dropping a fly ball in the outfield, Danny and Lee had this short exchange.

Danny: I'm an idiot
Lee: Usually an idiot is too stupid to realize he's an idiot.
Danny: What?
Lee: See what I mean.

The End....

Next Week

Opponent: The Cannons
Record: 6-2

Last meeting: We won 18-8
Game Time: 6:30 PM

The coach has spoken.....

Pete