

Game Dates: Wed. 6/4/08
Written: Tues. 6/10/08

Enough Players, But Not Enough Hits

For the first time all season, we actually had eleven players. Needless to say that was a huge relief to me. So, let's welcome three new team members: Dave, Mike (his nickname is Bones), and George.

Facing the first place team, Economos & Associates, whose record was eleven and three, it was imperative that we not only have enough guys, but that we have a good mix. We needed good pitching, good hitting and good defense. I wasn't too worried about the hitting or the pitching, because it's usually defense that hurts us. I should have switched those worries around a bit.

Game 1

Economos	14
Black Jacks	10

Line Score

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>T</u>
Economos	2	4	5	0	3	0	0	14
Black Jacks	3	2	1	3	1	0	0	10

About ten minutes before game time, I was trying to make a lineup and find positions for everyone. After a while, it became quite comical because I kept losing track of who I had. Having three new players made it really difficult, because they just were not in the forefront of my brain. After a few positions and a few places in the lineup I just started shouting out, asking who wanted to play where. Then I just started writing down the first names I could think of after the first five positions in the lineup. I think I finished after the ump yelled for the second time..."let's go, take the field!"

Like I said, we knew we had our work cut out for us. We know from the first time we faced them that they can hit like crazy. They don't have much power, but they are a solid line drive, one base at a time offensive team. We needed to be solid on defense and we needed keep up with them at the plate. Honestly, I think they're good, but not that good.

We had Scags on the mound for second time this year. Economos got off to a quick but manageable start with two runs in the first. In our half of the inning, Marty singled with one out to get things going. With two outs, Franchi reached base on an error and Chris singled to bring in the first run. Bones, (we have way too many Mikes on the team, so we will stick with Bones), made is first at bat as a Black Jack a good one, by knocking in two more runs with hit. After one, we were up three to two.

Economos came right back with four runs in the top of the second, to take a six to two lead. For us, Canale started things off with a single, but was forced out at second on the next batter. Scags singled to keep things going. Then Dave had a successful first at bat as well, bringing in the first fun of the inning. Steve followed with a sacrifice fly, giving us two runs for the inning. After two we were down six to five.

Economos answered again with five runs in the top of the third. I told you they could hit. So, we were now down eleven to five. We only managed to scrape out one run in the third on my RBI single. After three we were down eleven to six.

We finally held Economos scoreless in the top of the fourth. This was the break we were looking for. We needed runs badly in order to get back in the game. George, Scags, Dave and Steve singled consecutively to start the inning. Dave and Steve both brought in runs. Marty added another run on a sacrifice fly to end the scoring at three. At this point I became a little concerned because time was running out and I did not know if we could hold Economos to any more blank innings. But we were only down eleven to nine.

As expected Economos came back with three runs in the fifth, increasing their lead to fourteen to nine. It could have been worse as our defense was pretty solid. Only down by five with three at-bats remaining is not a bad position to be in. And we really had not had a huge inning yet. Unfortunately, we could only cut the lead by one on a Canale RBI. After five we were down fourteen to ten.

If someone would have asked me what were the chances of both teams not scoring any more runs for the rest of the game, I would have said slim to none. And if I were a betting man I would have put a ton of money on runs. Well, this is why I am not a betting man, because neither team scored a single run for the rest of the game. As a matter of fact, we could only muster up two hits over the last two innings.

Final score: Economos 14, Black Jacks 10.

This was not a bad performance by us. We just did not hit enough. Everything else was fine.

Box Score

		<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>
Steve	RF	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Marty	LF	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	1
Lee	3B	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Franchi	SS	4	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
Chris	LC	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	1
Bones	1B	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	2
Pete	C	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Canale	DH	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
George	2B	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Scags	P	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	0
Dave	RC	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	2

Big Hitters: Bones, Scags, Marty, Franchi, Chris, Dave

Game 2

Black Jacks 5
Economos 17

Line Score

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>I</u>
Black Jacks	2	1	2	0	0	X	X	5
Economos	8	0	3	2	4	X	X	17

I tried to jump start us by changing the lineup around a little. My hope was that the guys that were hot would stay hot and that others would follow suit. What I was trying to avoid was a carry over from the last two-innings of the first game. We flat out needed to hit and score runs. Quite honestly, what happened I really did not see coming. Even though we lost the first game I felt confident that we would come back.

We started out okay. Dave, who I moved to the lead-off spot, started things off with a walk. Marty reached based on an error. Then Lee singled in a run. Bones, who I moved to the clean-up spot followed with another RBI single. Although I would have liked more runs to start the game, two runs were better than the last two innings of the first game.

Unfortunately, the game was pretty much over after the Economos half of the first inning. They banged out eight runs taking a commanding eight to two lead. We handed them quite a few runs on some fielding miscues, but they took advantage of everyone with hit after hit. There was plenty of time left, but as we knew all night long we needed to start hitting.

Chris led off the top of the second with his first home run of the year, a long shot to left. But unfortunately, that was it. We could only manage one more hit the entire inning. Going into the bottom of the second we were down eight to three.

I'm not sure if Economos was just tired after a long first inning or what, but we managed to hold them to no runs. Again, this was a huge break, and one we desperately needed.

We managed to scrap for two runs in the top of the third. Dave singled to start the inning. Then with two outs Bones tripled and scored on an error. Going into the bottom of the third we were down eight to five, which was respectable.

Economos came back with three runs of their own to increase their lead to eleven to five. So, going into the top of the fourth we were down thirteen to five.

Just like hitting is contagious, a lack of hitting is just a contagious. Guys start pressing and the hits stop coming. We could not score in the fourth. We did manage two hits, but nothing came of it. Economos increased their lead with two more runs. After four the score was thirteen to five.

Going into the fifth, the five run slaughter rule was looming. The rule is twelve after five. Again we could not push any runs across, managing only two hits for the second consecutive inning. So, Economos needed four runs to end the game on the slaughter rule. And that's just what they got. Final score after five, Economos 17, Black Jacks 5.

Box Score

	AB	R	H	BB	2B	3B	HR	RBI
Dave RC	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	1
Marty RC	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lee SS	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Bones 1B	3	1	3	0	0	1	0	1
Franchi SS	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Steve RF	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chris LC	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Canale DH	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pete C	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Scags P	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

George 2B 2 0 0 0 0 0 0
Big Hitters: **Bones, Dave, Pete**

Coach's Corner

Thanks

We greatly appreciate all of the new guys who have stepped up and helped us out. Hopefully we will be able to put together a full and solid team every game night from here on out. So thanks guys!

Silver Lining

With every negative there are positives, you just have to find them. Even though we lost, we found a few new very good players. This makes the rest of the season look better and better. So, don't give up on us yet.

Prediction

As I said, I am not a betting man, but I am going out on a limb here with this prediction. We WILL win both games each of the next two weeks. You heard it here first folks!

Comic Relief

Move over

Pete: Franchi! Move over to your left a bit.
The next ball was hit exactly where I told Franchi to go.
Ump: Hey, that was pretty good.
Pete: You liked that huh?
Ump: Not bad.
Pete: I know what I'm doing back here!

Bernie

Lee: Come on Steve! Oh wait, I guess it's Bernie. Come on Bernie!
Steve: *(Pointing to his shirt)* Actually it's Murphy this week.
Lee: I read the recap from last week. It said Bernie. So, I'm going with Bernie.
Pete: It could be Bernie Murphy if he wants. But it's definitely Bernie

Need a Step Stool

There had to be a half a dozen line drives hit right back at Scags just over his head.
Lee: Scags, you need to be taller.
Pete: How about we get you a little step stool or something?
No answer
Pete: No huh? How about a small ladder?
No answer
Pete: All right fine. I'm just trying to help.

I didn't need to see that

I was standing on third base and the captain of Economos was playing third. His name is Pete Economos.
Pete: How many games have you guys won?

Pete E: Ummm...I really don't know.
Pete: How many have you lost?
Pete E: We only lost one.
Pete: What about the forfeits?
Pete E: Oh yeah, that makes three.
Pete: So, you're eleven and three then?
Pete E: That makes sense.

At this moment, for some strange reason he lifted up his shirt and starting scratching his stomach exposing his entire gut, which unfortunately was quite flabby. I have NO idea why. But let me tell you this.... **I REALLY DID NOT NEED TO SEE THAT!!!** It was kind of gross!!

Johnny Bench

Pete: Hey John, do you want to go out and catch this inning
Canale: No. I'm fine.
Pete: You sure?
Canale: Yeah, I'm good. You go ahead.
Pete: I could use a break.
Canale: No. It's fine.
Pete: What the hell do you think I'm Johnny Bench or something?
Lee: You are Johnny Bench!
Pete: Oh, that's right. I am. Well, even Johnny Bench needs a break every now and then.

A humidor

Franchi: Man, what the hell was it with this game? Did they have our balls in a humidor or something?
Pete: Is that a personal question. Cause if it is, I'm not answering it.
Lee: Actually, it sounds kind of interesting.
Pete: What?
Lee: Well not with HIM of course.

The End.....

Next Week's Games

Opponent: Papa O's
Record: 9 - 7
Times: 6:30 & 9:30

Your G.M., and acting coach Has Spoken.....

Pete