

Game Dates: Wed. 6/18/08
Written: Tues. 6/25/08

Long Time Coming.....

I think we all could sense that good things were about to happen. We worked through that real bad stretch of not hitting and felt things could only get better. There is a lot of talent on this team. So, it was only a matter of time before we put it all together. The time had come.....

Game 1

Squirrel Cage **6**
Black Jacks **19**

Line Score

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	T
Squirrel Cage	4	0	2	0	0	x	x	6
Black Jacks	4	4	3	8	x	x	x	19

We have quite a bit of history against this team over the past three seasons. I've said it many times that they're all good guys and fun to play against. But we all know that when we are both at our best, they are nowhere near as good as we are.

Just before the game started there was a lot of joking around between myself, their captain Steve and their pitcher. I kept making fun of them because they didn't have their usual lead off man. I even told them to take it easy on us this week, which is something they've said to me a few times. It seemed that whenever they'd say that to me we'd wind up losing. So, I figured I'd turn the tables on them. It might have worked.

They got off to a real quick start with four runs. With the way things have gone for us most of this season I probably should have been worried. But truthfully, I thought it gave them a false sense of security. I felt pretty confident that things were going to turn around for us. I don't think they had any idea what they were about to come up against.

With one out Marty walked to get things going. Lee moved him along by reaching base on an error. Bones then brought in both runners with a double. Ebs followed by bringing Bones home with a hit. Franchi and Trice loaded the bases with singles. I followed with a sacrifice fly to bring in the fourth run. After one the score was tied four to four.

Trice did a nice job shutting down Squirrel Cage with no runs in the second. You could just sense that whatever wind they had in their sail was dying out. In our half of the second, with one out Dave, Marty, Lee, Bones, and Ebs hit five consecutive singles. Lee's and Bone's brought in one run each and Ebs brought in two. With four runs we took the lead eight to four.

Squirrel Cage managed to scrape up two runs in the third to cut the lead to eight to six. But we were just beginning to gain some momentum. I led off the inning with a walk. Haack moved me a long with a single. Then we witnessed one of the most unlikely events possibly in Black Jacks history. Jake, a proud new father stepped up to the plate and proceeded to crush a low sinking line drive into the left field gap. The left center fielder made a valiant effort with a dive, but he missed. The ball got by him. Jake charged around the bases and made it home with what goes down as a homerun!! Yes,

if a defender dives for a ball and misses, it is not an error. This was very similar to my triple in the beginning of the year. So, congrats to Jake for his first ever homerun, a three run shot to put us up eleven to eight! Now that's one way to celebrate becoming a father for the first time.

Once again Trice stepped up and shut down the Cagers with no runs in the fourth. We had a golden opportunity to put the game away. Ebs, Franchi, Trice and me started the inning with four consecutive singles. Trice drove in one run and I drove in two. Two batters later Jake brought in another run with a single. Then Dave drove in a run with a single, followed by Marty. Lee added a run with a sacrifice fly. Bones knocked in yet another with a single, followed by Ebs who ended the scoring with a long RBI triple to right. When it was all said and done we scored eight runs and had a commanding nineteen to six lead.

As the saying goes, there was nothing left but the crying. Trice shut them down for the third time in the game with no runs. The final score held at nineteen to six, via the five-inning twelve run slaughter rule.

This kind of performance was a long time coming. But, we weren't done yet.

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>
Dave LC	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Marty LF	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	1
Lee 2B	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	2
Bones 1B	4	3	3	0	0	0	0	4
Ebs SS	4	2	4	0	0	1	0	4
Franchi RC	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Trice P	4	1	2	0	1	0	0	1
Pete C	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	3
Haack	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Jake RF	3	2	2	0	0	0	1	3

Big Hitters: Ebs, Bones, Dave, Marty, Lee, Franchi, Trice, Jake (HR)

Game 2

Black Jacks **20**
Squirrel Cage **6**

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>
Black Jacks	5	6	0	4	5	x	x	20
Squirrel Cage	0	2	0	0	4	x	x	6

Our opponents seemed pretty demoralized by the way we beat them in the first game. I know they were hoping to keep up with us this year, and after our poor start they probably had every right to think that. Going into this night they were one game ahead of us in the standings. But that to me that was misleading when four of our losses were via forfeit, two of those were to them. The fact of the matter is, we are getting better and better, and the reality of how much better we are than them once again began to set in after the first game.

Dave led off the game with a single. Two batters later Lee singled to put two runners on. Bones, Ebs and Franchi followed with three consecutive RBI singles. Two

batters later me and Haack followed suit knocking in a run apiece with singles. After our first at bat, we were up five to nothing. That score held through the bottom of the inning as Trice, or T Rice as I call him, shut them down again.

In second, we just kept pounding out the hits. Dave and Marty hit consecutive singles to start it. Three batters later with two outs, we did some serious damage. Ebs singled in a run, and Franchi walked. Trice, me, Haack and Jake all followed with singles. Everyone knocked in one run and Haack brought in two. By the time the dust settled we pushed six runs across for an eleven to nothing lead.

Squirrel Cage managed to put some hits together in their half of the second scoring two runs. This cut the lead to nine.

I'm not sure if we were tired, or just needed a break but we did not score any runs in the third. But then again neither did the Cagers. However, it was right around this time that I picked up on the Squirrel Cager's pitcher starting to complain about taking pitches and walking. At one point he yelled, "Don't swing! They're not! Take pitches and walk, cause that's what they're doing!" I really had no idea what the hell he was talking about. I assure you, with the way we were hitting, no one was looking to take good pitches and no one was looking to walk. We all wanted to keep hitting. The bottom line here is if he would have consistently put the ball over the plate when he was pitching, he wouldn't have had anything to complain about. I walked once and all three pitches were nowhere near the plate. Franchi's two walks were the same. I just hate whiners like that. Just face it, we were beating the crap out of them and he was looking for an excuse. For the next three innings, this babble was all I heard from their bench.

In the fourth, we went right back to work looking to end this thing. I got things going with a single. Haack followed with another. Jake reached base on an error that brought me in. Then Dave cleared the bases with a double. Marty finished the scoring with a sacrifice fly. We were now up fifteen to two.

With all of their whining, I really had had enough, and wanted this thing to end quickly. So, I started yelling, "Let's end this thing! No more runs! That's it! They don't score anymore!" Well it worked for that inning because T Rice did it again. That's right no runs. After four the score was fifteen to two.

The four run slaughter rule is twenty, so we had to play at least one more inning. So, we just kept hitting. I led off again with single. Haack and Jake each got one of their own with Jake's driving in a run. Then Dave blasted his first home run of the year clearing the bases with three runs. We added one more on a few hits and an error to end with five runs. We were now up twenty to two.

They needed seven runs to keep the game going. Some how, some way, they managed to score four. The final score: twenty to six for a very nice double header sweep. Combined we out scored them 39 to 12.

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>
Dave	RC	4	4	4	0	1	0	1	5
Marty	LF	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
Lee	3B	5	2	3	0	0	0	0	0
Bones	1B	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	1
Ebs	SS	5	1	3	0	0	0	0	2
Franchi	RC	3	2	2	2	0	0	0	1
Trice	P	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	1

Pete C	4	3	4	0	0	0	0	2
Haack 3B	4	2	4	0	0	0	0	3
Jake RF	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	2

Big Hitters: Dave (HR), Pete, Haack, Lee, Ebs, Marty, Bones, Franchi, Jake

Coach's Corner

Home Runs

We have six different players with 1 Home Run each. So who's going to win the Home Run crown?

Defense

- Lee making his first start at second base, made an awesome unassisted double play. The ball was hit up the middle; he fielded it, stepped on second and threw to first. Nicely done.
- Ebs made quite a few nice plays at short
- Haack was solid at third.
- Bones made two nice plays at first. He snagged a line drive headed over his head. He jumped to grab a high throw and landed on the bag for the out.
- The outfield was solid all the way around: Marty, Dave, Franchi & Jake.
- We had a nice tag out at the plate. Yes, that would be me on a perfect throw from Bones at first.
- Marty put it all in perspective at the end of the night when he came across with this gem. "Man, the infield really sucked this game!"

Flip Flop and Fly

Someone tried to steal Marty's famous, or infamous depending on how you look at it, Flip Flop and Fly routine. Jake in a near collision with Franchi slid and almost made a play on a short fly ball that looked like it landed in his lap. According to him it hit his toe. What? Unfortunately, he did not make the play. I think the rule is if you don't make the catch, you have to at least come up in pain. Obviously, Jake doesn't know the rules yet.

The News

The news of the week (if it really is true) is that Economos, the first place team, actually lost both games to Papa O's. This could very well be bad karma. During the week their captain Pete, made a snide remark about the lack of competition in this league. That kind of shit comes back to haunt you, and it sure did. Hopefully we can really make him eat his words when we play them this week.

That's not the first time I've heard teams complain about the lack of competition in this league. And each team that has done that wound up losing right after. The moral of the story....keep your mouth shut about competition.

One thing for sure, we may not catch them in the standings, but things could get interesting, especially come play-off time.

My prediction

A few weeks ago I predicted four straight wins. Well, three straight isn't too bad. No more predictions....well, other than don't take us for granted and don't count us out of anything just yet. So, who's next?

Don't Forget about the Bottom of the Lineup

The bottom of our order started with me in the 8-hole, followed by Haack and Jake. For the night we went a combined 15 for 22, with 12 runs scored and 13 RBI, and of course Jake's homerun. In the second game alone we were ten for twelve with 7 runs scored and 7 RBI. Most of the glory goes to the top of the order, but sometimes you have to give a little credit to us guys at the bottom. We do all right for ourselves.

Comic Relief

Not listening

I was on second with one out and Lee was coaching third.

Lee: On a ground ball to this side, wait for the throw until going.

Pete: Got it.

Sure enough a ground ball was hit in the hole between short and third, and I took off. Why? I have no idea. Instinct I guess. It looked like the ball might go through for a hit. There was no play at third, so I was safe.

Lee: What did I tell you?

Pete: I know, I know!

Lee: What did I tell you?

Pete: I don't listen to you anyway.

Lee: Didn't I tell you to hold?

Pete: I got here didn't I?

Lee: Yeah, and it had nothing to do with your speed!!

I've done that already

I was on first and there was a single to right. I had every intention of going to third, but I held up because it looked like the runner in front of me was stopping. Of course he did not stop and I held up at second. My bad. But there's always a method to my madness.

Lee: What happened to going from first to third on a single?

Pete: I know. I thought he was holding

Lee: So what happened to going to first to third? He didn't stop!

Pete: I did that last week!

Lee: Oh, I see. You did that last week. So you did that once already?

Pete: Yeah, I want to do something new, score from second on a base hit.

Sure as hell, the next batter hit single to left center and I scored from second.

Pete: I told you! I know what I'm doing

Big On Big

This time I was on second with two outs. On a ground ball the play went to third to force me out. I took off running hard...I said HARD not FAST....and I could NOT stop my momentum. The guy playing third was huge. He had at least two inches in height over me and outweighed me by at least a hundred pounds. It's a good thing too because I crashed into him and grabbed him to stop my momentum. He did not budge. But he for sure stopped me from crashing into the fence. And if he were any smaller he would have wound up in the fence because he would have went flying. So, I just grabbed him and held on for dear life.

Pete: Sorry dude. I could not stop.

Player: No problem
Pete: Wow, that was wild. I didn't meant to bang into you like that. I couldn't slide and couldn't stop if I wanted to.
Player: You're cool. **Now he starts laughing**
Pete: It's a good thing you're bigger than me or someone was going down.
Now this next line is classic. I did not know he said this until after I returned to the bench.
Franchi: "Now that's Big On Big Crime right there! "

Fag Bag

Some how we got into a conversation about fanny packs.

Franchi: Hey, what are those things called?
Pete: Fanny packs
Franchi: Oh yeah. We call them Fag Bags
Pete: Hey those things work man.
Franchi: No they don't
Pete: Oh yeah, they're great for walking around Disney Land to hold money and cameras and stuff.
Franchi: If I ever see you wearing one while walking around Disney you know what I'm going to call you right?
Pete: The sad thing is I always forget it.
Franchi: Good thing.
Lee: Hey do they make those with waste bands big enough for you?

Dive?

The infield had a good night.

Pete: Nice job by the infield tonight
Marty: You know, I would have really like to see someone dive for a ball.

Dave's Nickname

Marty: Come on Disco Dave!!
Pete: Disco Dave? Ahahaha!! Who said that?
Marty: I did.
Pete: I kind of like that. That just might stick.
After the game at the bar.
Franchi: Hey Diamond Dave
Dave: I like that much better
Pete: Better than Disco Dave?
Dave: Yes, much better.
Pete: I don't know. Disco is pretty damned funny.
Dave: No it's not.

The End.....

Next Week's Games

Opponent: Economos
Record: 15 - 5
Times: 8:30 & 9:30

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

Pete