

**Games:** 29 & 30  
**Date:** Wed. 8/6/08  
**Written:** Wed. 8/13/08

### Now I Can Talk About It!

Going into this week I really thought our struggles with fielding a team were over. With the game being early and playing against the first place team, getting guys to play should not have been a problem. Man, was I wrong! For a while I was having flashbacks to the beginning of the year trying to track guys down.

Thank GOD Trice stepped in and recruited a few of his co-workers or we really would have been in trouble. He brought in Ken and Dave to help out. Welcome guys. Officially, they are the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> guys to step on the field for us this year. Thanks to you both for playing, especially on such short notice! We all really appreciate it! Also, Dan Bradley made his second appearance of the year. Thanks Dan!

In addition to Ken, Dave and Dan, our top two all-time Super Subs, Phil and Scummer, stepped in to help out. As always, it's when we need it most! They are not called Super Subs for nothing! It's not only because they are there when we need it the most, it's because how well they constantly perform.

So, all totaled we had five non-regulars playing; two who had never played with us before and one who was making his second appearance of the year. That gives you a good idea of how difficult it was to field a team, and that's with a roster that is well over thirty players long.

When you are facing the so-called best team in the league, winning can be a tall order to begin with. Needless to say, our expectations were not as high because half of us had never played together before. We also had to get creative with the defense, trying to make everyone feel comfortable. Lee, who has taken over as defensive coach this year deserves a lot of credit for several successful moves. He and Franchi, who usually play infield, both moved to the outfield. I stepped out from behind the plate, for the first time since last year to play first base. Scummer who is one of our best pitchers, played third. Bones who usually plays first for us, moved to short. And Joe who usually plays left center moved to left.

When it was all said and done, something that I had stopped talking about for a few weeks, how I thought we could beat this team, I can now talk about again. In other words, we can now talk the talk, because we finally walked the walk!!

#### Game 1

**Economos** 2  
**Black Jacks** 3

#### Line Score

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	T
<b>Economos</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Black Jacks</b>	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	3

In the six previous games we played these guys there were an average of 24 total runs scored each game. If there is one thing they are good at is hitting in bunches. They really do not have much power, but they have a knack of catching fire and bunching hit after hit together. We figured it would probably take at least fourteen runs to win the game. The bottom line is we knew we had to hit because we figured they would too. Boy, were we wrong!!

Economos went down quietly in the first, with not runs. We came up and Phil got us going quickly with a single. Lee then walked to put two runners on base. Phil and Lee both moved up on



Economos went down again with no runs. They really seemed to have a case of the hitting blues because they could not buy a hit. Continued good pitching and solid defense on our part helped that cause.

In the second we came up empty, holding our four run. Economos then finally broke through, but with only one run, cutting our lead to four to one.

In the third we seemed to be losing some steam, as again we could not push a run across. Economos took advantage finally putting some hits and runs together tying up the game at four with three runs. This was more like what we all expected.

We caught a second wind in the fourth. With one out Scummer and Phil got things going with consecutive singles. The Lee continued to stay hot booming a long triple to dead center bringing in two runs. Joe then brought in Lee with a single giving us three runs in the inning and a seven to four lead.

We kept things tight in the field again shutting down Economos with no runs in the fourth. So, after four our three run lead held.

In the fifth we pushed another run across. I reached base on a very strange play by the second baseman and the first baseman. On a ground ball headed up the middle the second baseman made knocked the ball down and grabbed it throwing to first. The first baseman completely pulled off the bag because the sinking sun was blinding him. I told him he was afraid of my blazing speed, but he did not buy it. I have no idea why. Anyway, Ken stepped up and hit a long double over the left center fielder's head, scoring me all the way from first. Yes of course I was tired. I was so tired Joe had to hold me up, and Matthew, my sixteen-month-old son, held on to my leg to make sure I was okay.

Going into the bottom of the fifth we held an eight to four lead. One more time we shut them down with no runs.

Going into the sixth, we were looking to add some insurance runs, trying to lock up the win. One more time, Phil got things going with a single. Lee, who is absolutely on fire, cracked another long triple to center bringing home Phil. Joe followed suit smashing his own triple to right center bringing in Lee. Bones then doubled to bring in Joe. Trice then made it three of a kind with yet another triple to left center bringing in Trice. Franchi then followed with a single knocking in the fifth and final run of the inning, to give us a commanding thirteen to four lead.

One more time T Rice and the defense stepped up and kept the door shut on Economos, not allowing any runs to hold the lead.

In the seventh we went down quietly with no runs. Taking the field for the bottom of the seventh we all knew we could not let up at all. Everyone was shouting, "Dee it up!" I kept yelling, "It's not over yet!"

We held check giving up one run and taking an awesome thirteen to five win!

NOW I CAN TALK THE TALK!! I told you we could beat this team!!!

### Box Score

		<b>AB</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>2B</b>	<b>3B</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>RBI</b>
Phil	LC	4	2	3	0	0	0	0	0
Lee	RC	5	3	5	0	0	2	0	3
Joe	LF	5	2	3	0	0	1	1	4
Bones	SS	5	2	2	0	1	1	0	1
Trice	P	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Franchi	RF	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	2
Dave	2B	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Pete	1B	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	1
Ken	C	4	0	2	0	1	0	0	1

Scummer 3B	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Big Hitters:</b>	<b>Lee, Phil, Joe (HR #4), Franchi</b>							

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## **Coach's Corner**

### **Turning Things Around**

After the first ten games of the season, we were 1 and 9, including four losses by forfeit. We finished the regular season with an overall record of 14 and 16. That means in the last twenty games we went 13 and 7. And in the last ten games we went 7 and 3. Can you imagine what we would have done if we had this team all year? Now let's go out and win the championship that counts the most...the play-off tournament!

### **Super Subs**

This season I stopped using the term Super Sub because we really did not have a full contingent of regular players for quite some time. But that term and that category of player have been very critical to our successes over the past five seasons. The two players who epitomize that category the most are Phil and Scummer. Time and time again, these guys have filled in during critical games, produced phenomenal numbers and contributed to key victories. A case in point was Phil's amazing performance last year in the play-off tournament, which we wound up winning. Scummer has done the same thing, mostly on the mound, as he is an awesome pitcher, and has had some amazingly great games at the plate. We still have some work to do this year, but thank you guys for keeping the Super Subs ALIVE!

### **DEFENSE**

I mentioned before, quite a while back, Lee took over the job of assigning defensive positions. This was a tremendous help to me because it was less that I had to think about. Sometimes it's not easy because our lineup constantly changes.

They say defense wins championships. Over the past weeks our defense has been very solid (except for the one or two innings we looked like a bunch of idiots...right Franchi) with a lot less bad throws and mis-plays.

What he did this week with two brand new players and five non-regulars was awesome. I may not have necessarily done exactly the same things, but I told him, he has free reign to do whatever he wants. The bottom line is, you can't argue with success! Nice job!

Special tip of the cap to Dave who played second base and made quite few awesome plays including a jumping over the head catch, and being involved with three perfect double plays.

### **Good Pitching Beats Good Hitting**

A few weeks ago, Lee almost pulled off the damn near impossible feat of pitching a no-hitter, when he tossed a one-hitter. This week Trice almost pitched a shut out! In twelve- inch softball, those kinds of pitching performances are down right INSANE and OFF the CHARTS! They just do not happen! Nice going guys!

### **The Fifth Infielder**

It's one thing to pitch an awesome softball game. It's another to make yourself a bon-a-fide fifth infielder by making incredible play after incredible play on balls that are hit back up the middle. T Rice is without at doubt one of the BEST fielding pitchers I have ever seen. He is constantly robbing the other team of hits. It's plays like these that contribute to keeping the other team's scoring down. It just goes to show you, it's not just about putting the ball over the plate. It's also

about mixing up locations, heights, spin, angles....and FIELDING!! Just so you know T....your work in the field does NOT go unnoticed!

### **The Challenge; update**

Here were the challenges I laid out from two weeks ago and last week.

1. Beat Economos
  2. Finish with an overall record of .500 or better
  3. Finish in second place in the regular season
  4. Win the play-off tournament
  5. Beat Papa O's in a double header.
- WE FINALLY beat Economos
  - If we win the tournament, we finish with a record of 16-16.
  - We officially cannot finish in second place. But, we did make it close.
  - We can DEFINITELY win the play-off tournament.
  - We beat Papa O's in last week's double-header!

### **Fan Support Needed**

We really do not get much fan support at the games, other than my wife Wendy my son Matthew and a few other wives, kids and girlfriends. But, if any of you out there can come out to the field and watch Wednesday's tournament that would be awesome!! We sure could use the cheering! Guys...bring your wives, girlfriends, kids, friends, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers...and whomever else you can think of!

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## **Comic Relief**

### **You suck**

After Phill went three for three in the first game, he finally made an out in his first at bat of the second game

**Joe:** You suck Phil!

**Pete:** Make sure you tell him that he has already used up his quota of outs for the nigh.  
NO more!

**Joe:** Phil you suck!

### **I'm forfeiting my money**

This was the ump's reaction to the ridiculously low scoring first game.

**Ump:** After a game like that, I'm going to have to forfeit my pay for this game.

### **Which Mind?**

**Joe:** Man, I should have never swung at that pitch.

**Pete:** It didn't look right.

**Joe:** I had my mind made up to go to right and the pitch was inside

**Pete:** Which mind?

**Joe:** Both

### **You Can't Be Sweating**

This was either Lee or Franchi I don't remember. I'm going with Franchi. After fouling out...or as we call it FLOULING OUT, he dropped his head and wiped the sweat from his forehead.

**Ump:** You cannot be sweating after that.  
**Franchi:** No. Actually I'm crying after an at-bat like that.

### **Where's Lee?**

Lee had to run to his car in between games and was a little late getting back to the field.

**Ump:** Let's go guys  
**Pete:** Hang on. We're missing one  
**Trice:** Where the hell is Lee?  
**Pete:** In the john maybe  
**Trice:** He's up by his car doing something.  
**Pete:** Here he comes.  
**Trice:** Hey, what are you doing up there  
**Lee:** I had to go to my car for something  
**Trice:** Did you need some help with something?  
**Lee:** No  
**Trice:** You sure?  
**Lee:** Why you going to adjust my cup for me?

### **The End.....**

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#### **Next Games**

**Date:** 8/13  
**Event:** Play-off Tournament  
**Opponent:** Papa O's  
**Time:** 6:30

**If we win, we play the winner of the Economos vs. Squirrel Cage first round game for the championship.**

**The G.M. Has Spoken.....**

*Pete*