

BK Controls Softball:

Season: 8

Recap: 4

Game: 5

Game Date: 6/9/10

Not What I Expected

This week we faced a team called The Wild Cards. I am only going to assume they play poker. And if they do, well we've got a few guys on our team who can do that as well, and for the record, they are pretty damned good at it. Right Joe? Lee? Anyone else?

Their record sat at 1 – 2 going into the game and we were 3 – 1. They played one less game than us because one of their other games got completely rained. This happened the week we suffered our rain shortened loss.

I did notice a few familiar faces, so I am guessing this team was a mixture of some new guys and players from another team we faced last year. Anyway, I was not expecting much from them for some reason.

As always we ran it right down to the wire with guys arriving on time. We only had eight guys at 8:30 and were once again seconds away from losing via forfeit, when you guessed it...Joe arrived to make nine. Jimmy came in right behind him to make our tenth. To Joe's defense (and Jimmy's), they do coach their daughter's softball teams, who practice on Wednesdays. But damn, I just hope one of these days it does not cost us. We are for sure pushing our luck.

This is usually why I like to go with eleven players instead of ten. This at least decreases the chances of a forfeit because you can start with nine. However, we can't even get eleven guys available on the same night, never mind getting someone to come out and just hit. Ah, the perils of running a team! You think I'd be used to it by now. LOL!

Oh, for those that have no idea what I am talking about with the eleventh player, in softball you are allowed to bat eleven guys, with one guy being a DH / Designated Hitter, (some leagues and tournaments even allow twelve hitters). Technically it's not really a designated hitter. It's an Extra Hitter as compared to the American League in baseball where the hitter hits for the pitcher, and is called a DH or designated hitter. Anyway, that DH or EH, can start out playing in the field and can be switched or rotated at will during the game. So, if someone comes late, it's fine. Unless the umpire asks how many you are hitting and you say ten, then and eleventh shows up, and then....Ahhhh fuck it...let's just play ball.

We had Scummer on the mound again, and he started things off on a positive note allowing no runs in the first. As a matter of fact, within just a few pitches he had them totally flustered with his knuckle ball. One guy did not swing at a pitch right over the heart of the plate because, and I quote, "I was scared of that thing! I hate knuckleballs!"

Well, that may be true, but that is certainly not something you say out loud, or at least loud enough for the catcher (me) to hear! Needless to say from that point on they were going to get a large dose of knucklers! I mean what did they think I wouldn't tell my pitcher? That's just ridiculous. That's part of the catcher's job for God's sake!

After Dave started things off with a double, we went down quietly in the first as well. So the first inning ended scoreless.

Scummer held them again to no runs in the top of the second. He then helped his own cause by leading off the bottom of the second with a single. Kenny pushed him to second with another single. Jimmy moved both runners up with a long fly out. Andy then hit into a fielder's choice that brought in our first and only run of that inning. After two we were up one to nothing.

This time the Wild Cards busted through with two runs in their half of the third. They took the lead two to one.

One thing about our team, and it's been this way for years, we are really good at "the big inning". In just about every win, we seem to have one or more monster innings that really puts the game away. Let's see what the third inning brought us.

Eddie, earned his money as the double lead-off man again, and started things off with a single. Dave followed with another. On the play a bunch of wild throws and miscues, allowed Eddie score all the way from first base to tie the game a two. Lee then moved Dave along with our third straight single. Joe made it four in a row bringing in Dave. Ebz made it five, bringing in Lee. Scummer made is six singles in a row bringing in Joe. It was like a freakin merry-go-round! Kenny brought in another run with a fielder's choice. Then Jimmy ripped a long triple to right center bringing in Kenny. One batter later I singled down the third base line bringing in Jimmy for the seventh and final run of the inning. After three, we were up eight to two. See what I mean about those big innings?

I have to give the Wild Cards credit. They came right back. They put three quick runs up in the top of the fourth to cut the lead to nine to five. It could have been worse, but we made some nice plays in the field when we needed it.

In the bottom of the fourth Dave got things going again with a double. Have I told you how on fire Diamond Dave is?! Holy SHIT!! That was his eleventh hit in twelve

at bats! Good lord! After a ground out, Joe singled Dave in for our lone run of the inning. After four we were up nine to four.

Again, gotta give it to these guys, totally not what I expected. They kept chipping away. In the top of the fifth they picked up two more runs, cutting the lead to nine to seven. You could kind of feel the tide turning a bit their favor.

We came up empty in the bottom of the fifth, opening up a huge window for them. Sure as shit, they kept the momentum on their side and scored three runs in the top of the sixth to tie the game at nine. It came down to one more at bat for them and two more for us. Again, this was not what I expected.

In the bottom of the sixth Dave led things off, this time with a walk. By the way, I just checked, and Dave has not made an official out since his third at bat of the first game! He has a sacrifice fly and a walk in there, but no outs in thirteen plate appearances! That's INSANE!

With Dave on first, Lee singled pushing him to third, and he took second on the throw. Joe flew out to left, but not deep enough to bring in a run. Ebz made up for it though with a long sacrifice fly to bring in Dave, breaking the tie. Scummer then came up, and in a huge clutch moment, singled to bring in Lee, giving us a much needed two-run lead! That was all we could muster up, but two runs is better than one or none. Going into the last inning we were up eleven to nine.

This is the third time I'm saying, this but you have to give them credit. They would not die easy. Their first guy singled. I think the second guy flew out. Their next guy got a hit. One out, one hit and one run later, they were down by one, with a runner on third, two outs and one of their big batters up!

Let me stop right here. I have said for years that there is an art to being a good softball pitcher. For those that think the only thing you need to do is put the ball over the plate, I say you're full of shit and don't know what the hell you're talking about. I have had several arguments with good players about this topic, and I will say again...YOU'RE WRONG! Scummer more than anyone I know proves this time and time again. I have caught him for years and I know how he works. Anyway, between his knuckleball (which they made it known they hated and were afraid of), purposely pitching short or long and moving the ball around, HE TOTALLY set this guy up! He pitched him perfectly. I don't remember if it was the first or second pitch but he floated a low arc knuckler, inside and short, counting on the fact that if it was close enough to the plate, (being a pressure situation) this guy would swing, but the ball would be out of his power zone. No ONE could have drawn it up better. Yep, he swung and hit a lazy fly ball to left center to end the game! If that is not the "art of pitching" nothing is! Way to go Scummer! I noticed! Maybe no one else did...but I DID!

That's a winner by the way, our third straight, raising our record to four and one, which puts us alone in second place.

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>
Wild Cards	0	0	2	3	2	2	1	10
BK Controls	0	1	7	1	0	2	x	11

Box Score

	<u>AB</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>SAC</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>
Dave	3	3	3	1	0	2	0	0	0
Lee	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Joe	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Ebz	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Scummer	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Franchi	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jimmy	4	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Andy	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pete	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Eddie	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		16	11	1	1	2	1	0	10

Big Hitters

- You can always see by the box score who the big hitters are. But, I have to give it up to Dave (for the reasons I mentioned in the recap) and Scummer.
- Dave is just as hot as hot could be, and he's done it quietly. On top of that, he's about as good a guy, you could ever meet! Good for you brother! Keep it up! You deserve it!
- When a pitcher goes three for four, and drives in two runs, including the game winner, that's not only big, that's HUGE!

Defense

- I know there have been a few good plays over the first three games, like Eddie's two or three running catches in right. But, this is the first game where two really stood out, probably because the game was so close. That meant if these two plays were not made, we probably would have lost the game.
- I think it was the first inning and there was a runner on first. The hitter cracked a drive over Ebz's head in left. He played the ball off the fence, relayed to Lee, who then fired it to Kenny at third picking off the runner for an out.

- In the last inning (I think) with runners on base (I want to say this was for the second out but not sure) there was a line drive to Lee's left at short, that was over his head and almost behind him. He made a leap towards center and came down with the ball for a huge out!

Comic Relief

Naming The Diva

Eddie and a friend of his were skateboarding before the game.

Ebz: Hey don't let coach see you doing that.

Pete: If he's skateboarding that's against his contract.

Kenny: Yeah, easy there Mariah!

Money

Pete: Earn your money double lead-off man!

Eddie: Do we really get money at the end of the year?

Pete: Yeah, sure we do.

Lee: What did he say?

Pete: He asked if we get money at the end of the year.

Lee: Hahaha! Right!

Pete: I said sure we do.

Mariah

Pete: Did you hear the Diva's newest nickname. It's a Kenny original

Lee: No, what is it

Pete: Mariah

Lee: Oh no!

Kenny: Yeah, it came out...and I wasn't sure about it. But, then I thought, Oh yeah that's a good one.

I Am Very Troubled

Kenny: I'm not going to make it to next week's game

Pete: WHAT!???

Kenny: Yeah, I know sorry.

Pete: You are kidding right?

Kenny: No.

Pete: Okay, this is really not sitting well with me!

Kenny: I know, I 'm sorry
Pete: I am very uncomfortable with this Kenny!
Kenny: I know I haven't missed in like ten years
Pete: I am very uneasy with this Kenny
Kenny: I know it, but some folks at work are getting let go so we want to all get together before then.
Pete: I don't like this.
Kenny: I mean I have to do this thing.
Pete: I'm getting a very sick feeling in my stomach.
Kenny: I don't know what to say. I'm sorry.
Pete: I just...I don't....ahhhhh!

Seven Weeks

Pete: Is there anyone who can't make it next week
Eddie: I can't make it in like seven weeks
Pete; What? Seven weeks? Can you make it next week?
Eddie: Yes
Pete: That's all I'm asking
Eddie: But I can't in seven weeks
Lee: What is he babbling about
Pete: He said he can't make it in seven weeks
Lee: Seven weeks? The season is over in seven weeks
Eddie: Is it?
Pete: If not close enough.
Eddie: Yeah, but I can't make it in seven weeks.

The End

The Coach Has Spoken....