

## BK Control Softball

Season: 8

Recap: 6

Games 7 & 8

Game Dates: 6/26/10 & 6/30/10

Note: In case you were wondering, you didn't miss anything last week. There was no recap because our game scheduled for Wednesday June 23<sup>rd</sup> was rained out. It is rescheduled for Saturday July 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Game 7:

## Can't Buy A Hit

On Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> we played a make-up game from our rain out on May 26<sup>th</sup> vs. a team called the Hawkisms. No, I really have no idea what a Hawkism is.

Saturdays are brutal days to for our team, especially during the summer, because most of us have kid and family stuff going on. So, it is very difficult to field a team. This was a prime example of that.

Only six guys from our entire roster out of over twenty players were able to make the game. Dave basically saved us from forfeiting, by getting five of his friends to play. A big time thank you goes out to all of them for showing up and giving it a go.

In the end, I wish I had better news, but we just could not hit. I am not sure what it was: the day, the time, the unfamiliarity, added pressure, I have no idea. It was just not meant to be. We could only muster up nine hits over seven innings and lost 7 to 2.

What I will say is the team we played really sucked! This win gave them three on the year, and I don't know how they won the other two. But, they won, so I give them credit for that. I just wish we could have hit a little more.

Sorry, but there really wasn't anything very funny about the game. Well, I lied, there were a few moments of laughter, but they were pretty much all in passing, with no real conversations.

One of those times was when I yelled and tried to convince everyone that our team is known for big innings, and they (the guys that were filling in for us) all looked at me like I had twelve heads or something. All I could say was, "No Really! We are known for that!?" No one said a word back, but after I thought about it, it was pretty funny.

Then there was the comment about "Having a sweaty butt", from the wife of one of the guys who helped out. Yes, of course I said something! Would you expect anything different? "You have as a sweaty butt, and I have a sweaty everything else, so I think we have it covered!"

Game 8:  
**What the Hell Was I Thinking?**  
**What The Hell Happened!?**

Let me say right off the bat, I had a rough week. I made some not so good managerial and coaching decisions going into this game and let some details slip by that I shouldn't have. I don't really know if they had an effect on the outcome of the game, but let's just say The Coach, had a bad week. Hang on and you will see why.

We continue to struggle with putting a consistent team on the field week after week. And this does have an effect on us, whether we think so or not. We once again had to bring in a rookie / first timer. When I say first timer I mean FIRST TIMER! He not only had never played for us before, he had never played in a men's league softball game before!

We had good luck with Eddie, so being he recommended his friend Vinnie to fill in for him, I figured we'd be okay. By the way, Eddie now has a baseball tournament through the rest of the year. And you wonder why we have problems getting a consistent team on the field. Anyway, I don't think Vinnie had any idea what the hell his friend Eddie got him into! As a matter of fact, I wouldn't be surprised if he never spoke to him again! LMAO! Just kidding! Or am I?

During the course of the week I told Vinnie to make sure he left really early to give himself plenty of time to get there, basically because most people get lost the first time around (just ask Eddie) and traffic is very heavy during that time. I also emailed him directions twice. However, I didn't ask where he was driving from and I didn't suggest a time for him to leave...mistake number 1.

We actually had eleven players available for this game. We can play with eleven, but someone has to just hit (remember the Designated Hitter / Extra Hitter thing). I always feel bad about that because no one really likes to just hit. So, I decided to go with ten...mistake number 2.

And by the way, the eleventh player, who I told we didn't need, is actually on our roster, is an experienced player and has played for us in the past...mistake number 3 (on quite a few levels)...so this was a compounded mistake. Also keep in mind how many times this year we have had our ninth and/or tenth guy show up just as the game was about to start, almost costing us a forfeit.

We move forward....as always I got to the field an hour before game time, which was 5:30. Traffic was really heavy and I immediately knew we were going to struggle getting everyone to the game on time. (Refer to mistake number one and mistake number 2). At 5:51 PM, my cell phone rang. It was Vinnie. As soon as I saw the number, I knew we had a problem. He had one question. "Can you give me directions to the field?"

I almost shit my pants!!! I stayed as calm as I could and gave him the directions for the third time! I actually found out Eddie gave him directions too, so that would make four times!

Then I asked the ultimate question. "Did you leave yet?"

His answer, "No."

I took a deep breath. "Dude you better get your ass moving, because the local traffic is horrendous!"

I didn't know exactly where he was coming from, but I had a general idea. And the drive without traffic is well over 30 minutes! Again, refer to mistakes one and two.

Shall we move on? Lets.....

For the second time this year, we were facing the Wild Cards. We beat them last time in a very close game, 11 to 10. We gave them a bunch of runs on some bad errors, but they hung in there with us, so I pretty much expected the same thing. However, I still liked out chances.

At game time, we had nine guys. Guess who wasn't there yet? Yep, Vinnie. See mistakes one and two.

You are allowed to play with nine, but you are at a grave disadvantage because that leaves a lot of room in the outfield. However, at least we wouldn't have to forfeit.

Let the game begin.....

Being the away team, we were up first. Dave led the game off with a walk, but he was forced out a second on an Ebz ground ball. With two outs Trice singled moving Ebz to third. Then John singled to bring in Ebz for the first and only run of the inning.

However, that one run was not the highlight of the inning. That goes to Kenny. Kenny was the last batter of the inning and decided he did not want to swing. He took a call third strike! YIKES!!! Swinging and missing is one thing and flouling out is another, but a call third strike! OH BOY! Sorry Kenny, I had to mention it. Besides, misery loves company brother!

We took the field and still no Vinnie.

In the bottom of the first, Trice struggled a bit to find the plate and walked a few guys. You will soon find out what his distraction was. Anyway, accompanying those walks, were a few dink and dunk base hits. In the end they all produced two runs, giving them a two to one lead after one.

Still no Vinnie. Now mind you, the rule is you can add the tenth guy at any time as long as you do not go through the lineup once. After that, technically you are not allowed to add anyone. So, depending on the mood and the strictness of the umpire, if he did not get there soon we could have been faced with playing nine guys the whole game.

We went quietly in the top of the second with no runs.

Still no Vinnie.

During those first two innings I think I spent more time turning around to see if Vinnie was coming, than I spent paying attention to the game. Mind you, NONE of us

had any idea what he looked like. See mistake number 3. I actually had my wife ask some stranger if he was Vinnie! LOL!

I believe with two outs in the bottom of the second a young kid ran up with some funky looking white, checkered Bermuda-type shorts, some funky black athletic shoes (he did not have cleats), a bat and a glove. I yelled. "You Vinnie?"

"Yep!"

"Good. Get your ass in right field!"

I digress a little bit. Technically, you are only supposed to play guys that are on your roster. Vinnie is NOT on our roster. Most teams bend this rule a bit during the course of the season, including us, as the roster is usually more for liability purposes than anything. However, a team CAN call you out on this rule. If you are caught using a non-roster player you can forfeit. The likelihood of a team doing that is not very high during the course of the season, but you have to be careful. You certainly do NOT want to openly promote or act like a guy is brand new because that will raise suspicions. So, to cover my tracks I told the ump Vinnie was a free agent from a list given out by the league at the beginning of the year, so I had no idea what he looked like.

So, Vinnie took the field and the Wild Cards did not score either. After two we were still down two to one.

In the top of the third, guess who was due to lead off? Yep, Vinnie? If this isn't ironic nothing is!

Vinnie showed up with a bat. It never crossed my mind that the bat might not be legal. For those that do not know, you can only use certain approved softball bats. You sure can't use a baseball bat.

I did not put two and two together (a kid who never played organized softball before and who walked up with a bat). This was mistake number four. So, put number four with number three and you have a humongous cluster fuck!!

Vinnie stepped up to the plate with his BASEBALL BAT. He got ready to hit and the ump called him OUT before a pitch was even thrown for using an illegal bat! Not only that, technically the player is supposed to be thrown out of the game and every time his position comes up in the order it's an automatic out. However, the umpire felt bad realizing the kid never played softball before and he didn't throw him out. I don't think the other team even knew the complete rule and I sure as hell wasn't going to remind them.

Yep, the coach was having a bad night!!

Oh yeah! I almost forgot! All of this went down with the owner of the team, my father-in-law, Bill Koch in attendance! Hahahaha! I'm surprised he didn't ask for his money back!! Bahahahaha! LMAO!!

Let the game continue. Neither team scored in the third either, so the score held.

In the fourth, with one out, Kenny and Marty singled back to back putting runners at first and second. I came up and hit a hard one hopper to short. The shortstop tossed the ball to the second baseman to force our Marty, but the second baseman's throw to first, (attempting to get the double play) got by the first baseman, allowing Kenny to score all the way from second, tying the game at two.

The Wild Cards scraped for one run of their own in the bottom of the inning to regain their one run lead.

By this time, Trice had completely settled down on the mound, finding his groove with every pitch around the plate. Little did we know he was distracted during that first inning. He said and I quote. "I'm going to blame that first inning on the smell of pizza. My father-in-law brought a pizza with him for dinner during the game. Hahaha!

Okay, so let's go to the fifth inning shall we?

Vinnie led off with a little bit of redemption, a single to center. Dave and Lee both followed with singles of their own to load the bases. Ebz stepped up and hit a fly ball to right field that the right fielder dropped! Two runs scored giving us a one run lead! Lee ended up on third and Ebz on second. John then hit a rocket single to left driving in both Lee and Ebz for our third and fourth runs of the inning! That was it though, but we had the lead six to three.

Trice put up another zero and the score held going into the sixth. We were in dire need of some insurance runs, but could not get it done. The Wild Cards came up with one run of their own cutting the lead to six to four going into the last inning.

Lee led off with a walk. Two batters later Trice doubled sending Lee to third. Following an out, Kenny came up in a huge spot and shot at redemption from his strikeout in the first. He came through in a big way with hard single to left driving in both Lee and Trice. This gave us a little bit of breathing room and an eight to four lead.

With their back against the wall, the Wild Cards came out swinging. You have to give them credit. They had not hit the ball hard all game long! I am not kidding. Most of their hits were soft line drives, dinks, dunks and bloopers. All of the sudden they started stinging the ball with hit after hit. Before we knew it, three runs were in with two men on and two men out. They needed one more hit to tie the game, and got it. We finally ended the bleeding, but the damage had been done. We were headed into extra innings tied at eight.

In softball, when you go into extra innings, every inning starts with a runner on second base. The purpose is to promote scoring.

So Marty was on second and I led off. I hit a bloop single to right moving Marty to third. Andy then hit a sacrifice fly to left bringing in Marty for a one run lead. Unfortunately, that was all we could put on the board.

Once again the Wild Cards came out hitting. After four batters they had one run in, two men on and one out. Their next batter, at the right time for them, hit the hardest ball their entire team hit all night! It was an absolute rocket to left right at Ebz! Everyone knows the hardest ball to judge in the outfield is a line drive right at you. At the crack of the bat, John yelled. "Right at you!"

The rest of the play seemed like slow motion to me. Ebz stepped in, and the ball just kept sailing. He gave a good leap, but it went right over his head. The runner on third and the runner on second both scored, giving them the win. DAMNIT!!!

A frustrating ending to a frustrating game and a frustrating week!

Win as a team, lose as a team.

We now sit at 5 – 3, alone in third place; two games out of second and three games out of first.

#### Line Score

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	T
BK Controls	1	0	0	1	4	0	2	1	9
Wild Cards	2	0	0	1	0	1	4	2	10

#### Box Score

	AB	H	R	BB	SAC	2B	3B	HR	RBI
Dave	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lee	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ebz	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trice	4	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
John	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Kenny	4	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Marty	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pete	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Andy	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Vinnie	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15	10	2	1	2	0	0	6

#### Coach's Corner

- I took some abuse (all good hearted) after this game, but I deserved it. There is no two ways about it. No excuses, the coach had a tough week.
- Everyone knows I do not take losing lightly; especially games that I feel we should have won. And even more so in games where I could have contributed to the loss.
- Talk is cheap, but I know what this team is capable of. I also know the other teams in this league are not great. The first place team, who we play the last game of the year, is undefeated. From what I have seen, they are pretty good, but we are better when we have our best on the field. The second place team we beat the crap out of twice last year.
- Kenny tried to cheer me up saying it's only one loss, because he discounts the rain shortened game and the Saturday game. I hear ya, but it's three losses in the standings. Actually that reminds me of our last championship year when we stormed back to finish the season at 16 - 16, after starting 1 – 10 or something. Based on my rules we actually never lost a game! Hahaha! Go to the playoff recap of 2008 and read all about it!
- It's time to "right the ship". Anybody with me?

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## Comic Relief

### Is this Legal

*After the whole illegal bat debacle, Lee decided to have a little fun on two separate occasions.*

#### Part 1:

Lee: Hey Vinnie. Why don't you go up with two bats and ask the ump if that's illegal!

#### Part 2:

*My son was at the game with his little kids bat. Lee took this bat and went to the ump.*

Lee: Hey ump. Is this bat illegal?

Ump: Ahaha! Good one!

Lee: No really. I was just wondering.

Ump: Yeah, you got me!

### The 11<sup>th</sup> Guy

Ebz: You said you had 11 guys.

Pete: Yep. I did.

Ebz: Who was the 11th?

Pete: Russ

Ebz: (to John) Your brother?

John: Yep

Pete: Oh, you made the right move then.

### The Apology

*After the game we were talking about hard line drives hit right back at the pitcher, and how many times it happened to Scummer last week. The belief is good teams can do this on purpose. There is also a belief that it can be avoided.*

Trice: That one guy who hit it right back to me actually apologized

Pete: Yeah, I heard him.

Trice: He came over and said sorry. That's respect.

Marty: Did you give him a little touch afterwards, or a little ass grab or something

Trice: No I told him to text me...send me a picture text

### Messing with God

Pete: I had a great plan to get Danny back for the end of the season and the playoffs

Kenny: Will he be here?

Pete: Unfortunately, no. At least not for another couple of weeks  
Kenny: Why not?  
Pete: Well, I have to be careful with this one, because it is legitimate. I still wasn't happy about it, but.....  
Kenny: What?  
Pete: He joined a new church with his wife and they have new member meetings for the next few Wednesdays.  
Kenny: Oh okay. Churches do that.  
Pete: Yeah...I know  
Kenny: I bet you had some initial negative thoughts.  
Pete: Uh...yes, I did. But I took a deep breath.  
Kenny: You were not happy.  
Pete: Well, no but...  
Kenny: You want to mess with God?  
Pete: The whole God thing did cross my mind, so I decided to not do that.  
Kenny: Go ahead Mess with God. I dare ya!

### BONUS EMAIL COMEDY

*I have said for years that some of the funniest shit happens over emails during the course of the week. Ebz has been my email buddy for years! I have never seen anyone reply to emails as fast as he does! It's like he already has a reply before you send yours and he is just waiting to hit the send button! LOL! Anyway, Lee jumps in when he can, which is always interesting. This exchange happened just this past Tuesday. I've shortened the replies a bit, but this is the gist of the exchange.*

Pete: Do we go with 11 or 10 this week?  
Ebz: It's your call?  
Pete: Ha! I went with 10 last week and got shit for it.  
Ebz: You got shit for it since Vinnie showed up 2 innings late and he looked about 12!  
Lee: I'd vote 10. No one likes 11.  
Ebz: And no one likes you!  
Lee: Don't you have some square dancing to do? Or is it banjo lessons for today?  
Ebz: Nope, that stuff is on the weekend.  
Pete: If that's not Comic Relief material nothing is  
Ebz: Well Lee is funny looking if that is what you mean  
Lee: Like I fell out of the ugly tree and hit every branch on the way down.

***The End!***

***The Coach Has Spoken.....***