

On Deck

Newsletter of the BEANTOWN SOFTBALL LEAGUE Oct, 1983

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October - Vol. 1, No. 6

"Memories, light the corners of my mind... "

Marvin Hamlich

Yes, another summer has ended. The 1983 Beantown Softball League season is just another address on Memory Lane. For some it was a short trip--for others, an epic journey. Lest this season be quickly forgot, On Deck presents a summary of the highlights (and not so highlights) of the season of '83.

Chapter 1

"You've Come a Long Way, Baby"

or

"Who the Hell's Idea was that Anyway?"

- We had a new team join the league, sponsored by Skipper's. The team's inspiration came from a wide variety of literary sources. Their uniforms were inspired by the children's story, "The Emperor's New Clothes," while their play reminded us of Skakespeare's Comedy of Errors. Alas, they also reminded us of just how far the league has come in six years--hang in their guys, we're all rooting for you!!!
 - "Strike her out, strike her out." Ah, The Ramrod Cheerleaders. Perky, Sexy, Yes! But get it together, girls! Did anyone see a cartwheel or an occasional cartwheel?
 - Stereo sound: You thought you had to pay hundreds of dollars for it. Wrong. We got it continuously at Buddies games "thanks" to Neal 'the Mouth' Margulis and Toby 'Now's the time, Now's the Oowahh!' Pineau. Allegedly, President
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Reagan has been persuaded (by a conservative faction within the BSL) to include this dynamic duo as part of the early warning system in Europe. Help save one of our league's most valuable resources, our hearing--encourage them to go!!!

- Speaking of literary treasures, perhaps the biggest surprise was that On Deck didn't become the local scandal sheet during the season. But that just leaves us the winter to help any fledgling rumors become truly full blown. If you don't want your name to be associated with any of those terrible rumors, we'll take cash, check or money order.

Chapter II: "Good News"

or

"You Can't Win for Winning"

- Chaps won the Pittsburgh Invitational Turnpike Tourney, or PITT (which pretty well describes how they did in Chicago).
- After being embarrassed last year by the Police (something like 16-3), we felt embarrassed after clobbering the poor boys in blue this year 21-2. None the less, we at least know which embarrassment is preferred now!

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- The 1270 Women won in Tulsa. The final game was stopped after 3 innings because the score was 26-0.

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Chapter III: "Oscars" or "You oughta be in Pictures..."

The movies have "Oscars," and television has "Emmy's." Well, On Deck, in honor of that great supporter of BSL softball, Fenway Dick, presents the "On Deck Dicks":

- Best Supporting Actor: DON HOMER, for his dramatic performance in "I Remember Mama"
- Best Actor: JIM VIERRA, for his portrayal of a stand-up comedian in "The Executive Committee Meetings" (Parts I & II)
- Best Actresses, Supported and otherwise; Best Costumes, Make-Up, Etc.: JEFF PIKE AND THE PARADISE PLAYERS, for their stellar performances in "In Spikes to Heals" and "Oklahoma Medley." (Is it true that Jacques will sponsor the team next year, or will Paradise become Jacques-Cambridge?)
- The Cecil B. deMille Special Award (for lavish productions): THIS YEAR'S RANQUET: Hold on to your socks--this sucker cost upwards of \$6,000 to the league treasury. That's not counting other items which were paid for by individuals and individual teams.
- The Jimmy Cagney Special Award (You dirty rats): JIM VIERRA AND BOB BURNHAM. This award comes with a special copy of the Illinois "Rules of the Road" presented to our honorees by the Chicago Police Dept. Both James and Robert incurred the wrath of the Chicago cops (on separate occasions) by making illegal turns at intersections. Bob's experience showed that Justice is indeed blind as he was allowed to go free even though he was operating a vehicle while completely blitzed.

Chapter IV: "1984: Orwell Wasn't Kidding" or "Oh no, Not Another Year!"

- In order to police certain aspects of the league, the Executive Committee has approved the purchase the latest in detection devices. First, a machine developed at Anita Bryant Laboratories called the Straight-meter (it runs

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on AC or DC, despite the manufacturer's claims). Second, a drug tester from the Pan Am Games which will check for "foreign substances" in each player's bloodstream and his/her bat.

- Next year the Ramrod team will have a mean age of 65.3 years. Appropriately, the Social Security Administration has volunteered to sponsor them. But informed sources report the Fed's will have to go up against the private sector as Geritol is also interested.
- The unknown player memorial will be erected behind home plate in memory of the players who missed games. However, the monument will not be there if you criticize it, if it rains the night before, or if it is currently serving a jail sentence.

Chapter V: "Abraham had it Easy"

or

"Did You Remember the Potato Salad?"

or

- In order to avoid the marathon (almost two hours, no kidding!) session where the slaughter rule was discussed this year, On Deck has produced an easy to read 13-volume book on the slaughter rule that even BSL Executive Committee members might be able to understand. Unpretentiously titled, The Slaughter Rule, it is available anywhere you can purchase the latest issue of On Deck for \$1.98 (if you act right away, that is). Here are some highlights:
 - A team will be required to bring barnyard animals to each game
 - A pen shall be erected to keep the sacrificial animals in the Fenway.
 - If a team is leading by 15 runs after 5 innings, the opposing team must slaughter an animal from the fowl family and two from the pork family in order

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to receive 6 consecutive outs.

If after the sixth inning the lead is 15 runs, 3 fowl, 3 pork and 1 beef animal will be slaughtered. The trailing team must provide potato salad and a suitable facilities for the fans to bar-be-que (you get hungry after watching all those runs). Then they will be allowed to play the remaining 3 outs.

If the game exceeds 90 minutes, the losing team will simply give up (acts of submission are allowed), the farm animals will be set free and a vegetarian meal will be served at third base. The winning team is responsible for the sprouts and will promise not to wear white again.

The rule will be invoked at the whim of the umpires.

Final Chapter: "But Seriously Folks"

or

"Look out, He's Getting Mushy on Us"

Thank you to everyone who made comments about the newsletter. We always considered the suggestions (even the ones that we not exactly constructive) and were glad to know that people really looked at what we'd done. One particularly important point, however, which we apparently were unable to convey to the general membership of the league: This is your newsletter. Please use it to express any doubts, concerns, or positive statements to other league members. You will find that others share your concerns and this may provoke change if change is called for. One thing is certain: you will reach the audience that matters without needlessly broadcasting our problems across the community.

We mail each issue of the newsletter out to representatives from other NAGAAA cities. On a recent trip to Boston, one of the NAGAAA officers

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who receives our newsletter knew of a benefit here because it was listed in our calendar section. I was truly happy to hear the positive comments from others who receive the newsletter outside our area. We'll continue to inform the other NAGAAA cities of what's happening in Boston while we inform BSL members.

The whole purpose behind On Deck is to remind people that there's no such thing as "just playing ball." A lot goes into preparing to play a game on a Wednesday night or weekend afternoon. We attempt to remind league members of what has happened and what's upcoming so that they are aware of just what it takes to prepare to play and that there are things for everyone to do.