



The Sporting News

Winter Baseball 2015 Newsletter #10

Thus it came to pass - Week 6

The sun was out, the grass was mown and the dogs were heating up!

As opposed to last weeks clean sweep by all teams, this last week was a little more humbling.

So Adam, how did F grade go on your day trip to the flatland known as Kellyville?

SMS response...“Yeah—no good. Scored 5 runs in the top of the 1st, then went down hill from there. Hard hits, errors galore, balls dropping in. One of those days! Lost 9-17 in the end. Is wasn't the grand final team, is was the other Kellyville team who came third last season, with a few new players.”

Maybe the God of the white ball game will favour youse all this week as you travel to the north-east Corbin to play Ragnar's QH Vikings!

OMG - it's Phil's G3 WEST review –enter at your own peril.....

Well well well !!!

WWW

Streak

That's right people we have won 3 in a row....

Where to start ?

Travelling down the hill to Mackillop for the annual home run derby field we were all in good spirits and ready to claim a moment of glory with the short field beckoning us to go deep.

We started well by posting 7 runs in the first dig. Hits and steals all over the place.

Chilli (Chris) took to the mound for his first start in years and showed no signs of rust giving up only 2 runs.

We hit well again and another 7 runs posted.

They go 3 up 3 down. Great innings by Chilli.

We slowed up with the hitting and post 2 more runs.

They start to take advantage of Chilli losing some spice getting a few runs but with a double play from 3rd “Showbags” saved anymore runs.

We heated up again with their new pitcher going for 7 again !

Mark comes on to close and we sit them down.

Gave over !



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We continue the tales of Phil Cooper.....

We take stock and realise something strange happened ??? **Dave** had turned back the clock and gone 3 / 3 with a double, 2 singles and 6 RBI's !!!!

Absolutely fantastic all-round game by everyone except Ross who was AWOL due to alcohol poisoning and the fact he was still allegedly still drinking ciders in the big smoke.

The UNDEFEATED hero's bring the magic to Lomatia this Saturday, playing The Penriff Pussycats at 2.30 pm on diamond one!

**Which only leaves the emerging new and shiny H grade Royals to relay.....
Over to you Mike :-**

Lomatia at 2pm was meant to be the field of dreams for H grade. But on a sunny, Saturday afternoon our home ground was a field for dreamers. Up against our opening round terrorists, H grade started slowly and became slower. After a foul ball slammed ominously into a neighboring roof, Jobbo got the Mackillop team under some control from the mound. But our batting generally stank - we picked out their high quality short stop almost every time - and we gave up bases in the field like a drunken game of Tour of Duty. However, as the sun began to sink, and a slight chill entered the mountains air, things started to turn. Lochy took over the mound and pitched two screamer innings that left the mighty Royals with one inning to claw a come-from-behind draw. A misfield here, a punchy mid-field hit there; and after several stolen bases the scores were level. With a certain relief stoic umpire Wil called time and H grade shared the spoils on the day. Special mentions go to John, who caught everything behind the plate in the final two fielding innings; Pete, who showed us his new dance routine at first base; Jeff, who left his death bed to play and knocked out some good hits; and Matt, who cracked a neat drive to get us the final run.

Can't wait for next Saturday!

**So Mike, how come I ask Johno to do the review and you're the one sending them?
MMmmmmmm**

There was another special mention and that was to Lochlan's mum Tanya. Who on an hours notice came to score the game. She did a great job and we now have another sucker to pounce upon!!!!!!!!!!!!

Get well JO—we did miss you.

The Mackillop team also commented on how fair the umpire was! Wil—really!

H grade continue their slow rise as the opening act for Lomatia for a 12.15 game.

Remember every one—1 hour before all games to warm up and stretch.



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That's all very well and good but what else happened this week.....
Well, class, before I tell you all about Cameroon here are some points for you to consider – or else!

1/ Umpire money—we are required by the SMBL to pay each umpire \$25 per game. So that's around \$2.50 each per game. At Lomatia Wil set's aside the money for the end of year presentation. But if they don't want it or rush off—it's your call.

2/ Each week at Lomatia Stadium it is the responsibility of the first team to lend a hand to set up the diamond to game ready. Between games the first team is to rake the bases and mound for game 2. After game 2 the last team is to again rake the bases and mound. They must also bring in the benches, close the dugout gates, bring in the bases and put the bungs in the holes thereof. Naughty F grade.

***Thank you Lochy, Matt and Jeff for heeding the call arms this past Saturday.

3/ Banking Details. As I begin to round up the stragglers, the numbers for our bank account are as follows—062 601—2801 7662.

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL CLUB

***FYI we have EFTPOS at the park to make payments and the Canteen offers is as well. The EFTPOS is at the park on Wednesdays also.

4/This Saturday – IF AND ONLY IF — you have a jersey/ shirt that does NOT have either or both the ROYALS logo or your new number, you must leave it with your Coach, Wil or myself (the good looking one) on Saturday. F grade can give them to Chris or Lauren and they shall pass them on to me Saturday night.

5/ You may have started to get emails form BBNSW as we are now registered with them. These were about Little League this week—do not be alarmed.

6/ The SMBL called for interest in a June long weekend Masters Tournament this week. I know A.T. is choking at the bit to do it so is anyone 35 or over wanting to play all or part of the Tourney? For the newcomers, Masters is a series of games, 4 or 5, over the Saturday and Sunday held at Bensons Lane (Richmond). Its great—believe me. There 26 eligible players registered this year so hopefully.....

Bail up Wil, me or A.T. at the weekend enthusiastically if you are interested.

7/ FYI - the Plumpton Club contacted us last week about entering our kiddies in a T-Ball comp they are organizing for summer. Though their intent was good, their approach was insulting and we said no, especially considering our Softball commitments.



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And that brings us to the wayward tale of Cameroon.....

Whilst the summer sun beat down upon our fair land, yours truly received the first of many emails from the CAMEROON Baseball and Softball Federation, go on Google it—they exist.

Mmmmm—thinks Wil and I—warning!!

Their sales pitch was good, they wished to come and study our methods and how we administrate our club and how we affiliate and interact with our governing organizations.

After some too-ing and fro-ing they forwarded their passport details, the entire party of 6, and asked us to recommend accommodation in the area that would be deemed appropriate. They had requested and we sent a formal letter of invitation offering to share our experience and structures with the CB&SF. It was all going along swimmingly considering they speak French, and are on the other side of the world in the same time zone as London.

Then the first oddity.

They had no credit cards and could they deposit the money for the Visas into our account. We had discussed this at the Monthly Exec meeting and we were not letting those details out to anyone outside the club. We let that slide for the moment, until they sent us letters from the Australian High Commission in Nairobi asking them for their fees to be paid Asap. Again, a request to use our account as a transfer base.

We were getting very cautious but willing to give them a hearing as they are affiliated with the IBF. They were becoming insistent, emailing every day. We asked for references and they sent us contacts in Japan where they had visited earlier last year. Japan still hasn't replied.

After much mumbling, Wil decided to contact the Cameroon Consulate in Sydney.

He is an elderly Aussie chap living in Wahroonga, home office et all. He listens to Will and soon gets back to us.

Well!!!!!!!

What turned out in the end was a scam but not as we feared.

Organizations in Cameroon contact overseas like-interest groups, do the visit and press the flesh and head of back home. Apart from a bit of freeloading not really any harm done BUT.....

When they return home they have fulfilled the requirements to apply for and receive government funding for building their organization in Cameroon.

No reporting, just a series of large cash grants to them and off they go.

Evidently a Council in Melbourne went through with it and were very lavish with civic receptions and hospitality (a lot of out of pocket expenditure) and after they left they never heard from them again.

When I rescinded the invitation I received a very angry email from the Lady President saying that like all the world I had it in for Africa and how dare we say they are a fraud.

Sticks and stones etc but you'll never get our bank details.

And now to close proceedings—the Quote of the week:-

“I can throw an Orange like a Baseball, but I can't eat a Baseball like and Orange—let that be a life lesson to you!”

**Jarod Kintz—never played ball but wrote a book called
“The Zebra is the piano of the Animal Kingdom.”**

Tanya – I still can't remember what I had to email you.