



ON THE BEAT

VOL. 2 NO. 1

Circulation Damn near 30, I reckon

March 29, 1988

The Official Word on THE BEAT

BATTER UP!

SPRING 1988 - THE BEAT REBUILDS

Dave Hamner said it best. "The most important thing is having fun. But winning", he added, holding his thumb and index finger together, "is that far behind".

And so The Beat approached its second season, sick and tired and thoroughly disgusted with losing every league game last year. A team that began as a Saturday social club went through a grim re-examination, sought help, and now breaks camp ready to take on San Francisco D League Softball.

Although technically a returning team, The Beat has added so many players that the "rookies" (8) are the majority of the active roster (15). The influx of players has brought not only talent, but new knowledge and perspective, helping the team evolve into a tighter, more productive unit.

It began during winter ball, when Eric Meyer and Gary Rothlein arrived from the hinterlands to shore up the outfield. Then Patrick and Wendy Doyle dragged Willie to the park, and suddenly there was an infield. As spring training progressed, Mike Harvey, Tim Hesselgren and Roy Nelson joined the team, all strengthening the lineup while providing key defensive support. The new Beat had formed.

The improvements are sometimes subtle. Players are becoming more sophisticated in placing themselves for cutoff throws, in hitting the cutoff, in calling it off. Runners are sensing when they can stretch the defense, distract the fielders,

force the errant throw. And though the team's spring batting average is down, folks are getting their timing back, and the hits are starting to fall in.

The two practice games gave the team a chance to work on basics in pressure situations. The Mavericks and the Monsters were teams with years of league experience, ready for warmups against the new kids.

Against the Mavericks, the defense held tough. But the Mavericks were relentless, and led 6-0 after 5 1/2 innings. It was time for a Beat rally. Dave led off with a single to left, and Mike Harvey followed with a triple. Then, on two successive plays, Mike danced off third to keep the Maverick shortstop from making the play at first. The second play turned into a rundown, with Mike drawing so many throws that the ball ended up in left

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Coach's Corner

I'm pumped. The '88 season is just about to begin and all our hard work is about to pay off. Over the last two months, I've watched this group gradually grow into what I think is going to be a competitive and successful softball team. The coaching staff has acquired some very talented ballplayers to fill the gaps that gave us trouble last year.

So let the games begin. Over the next eight months, we'll be playing in some of San Francisco's finest parks.

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From The Mouths Of Babes

Jim likes to keep reminding me that I'm a rookie. "Don't get nervous, babe, I know you're just a rookie." Or, "That's a rookie mistake, man, you'll grow out of it. Don't worry".

Technically, I am a rookie. The Beat endured a frustrating, victoryless season last year, and I haven't been a part of the rite of passage. I think that's why Jim likes to consider me a rookie. I haven't been there in the formative, often painful process of building a baseball team. And I accept that. I relish it. I'd like nothing more than to be an instrumental part of an improving, winning baseball franchise.

And I have no doubts about the team's hopes. It's one thing to join a team of weekend fatboys, an aggregate of people looking for an excuse to drink beer and expose their hairy chests. It's another thing to play for a band of guys as devoted to the idea of baseball as I am. In that sense, there's no rookies, no veterans, it's a pastime, familiar yet intense, that follows us from boyhood through senility. Some scoff at the time and energy we put into baseball. But that's only because they don't understand that baseball, to us, is not just baseball, but a bond. You hit the cutoff man not only because you look good, but because when you do it well, it's good for everyone.

The motivation to play baseball is much more subtle than exhibitionistic (*Dave Hamner*) machismo. Baseball's not a vain sport, like tennis, but one where nine people (or ten) must fill nine different roles and act as a unit, and perform the required task.

I see that devotion to the purity of the sport on this team. And the people on this team clearly understand the anonymous quote, "Baseball is Everything". Being a rookie is an integral part of the everythingness of baseball, properly observed; so I laugh when Jim calls me a rookie; it's my role, and I understand its meaning.

- Eric Meyer



beatnicks

I think the whole team will be pleased to hear that Dave Hamner is in good health although he did get beamed in the head by an infield throw. But we all know Dave's got a thick head and we've seen his knee so who cares?

O.B. injured his finger on a sharp comebacker to the mound on the game against the Monsters but expects to be back for opening day. No x-rays showed nothing wrong, and the injury even led him to developing a new pitch, so we look forward to O.B.'s return.

Roy Nelson pulled a calf muscle during an excruciating night practice with the Manager and Captain and was immediately put on injured reserve for an unspecified time. All other injuries were minor so who cares.

The important thing to remember is not to get hurt in the first place. Collisions happen, even in the pros, but we have to do all we can to avoid them. On fly balls, when there's time to run under the ball, players need to call over and over when they are sure they can make the catch. The infielders defer to the outfielders, the rover defers to the deep fielders and everyone defers to the Centerfielder. Let's have fun and not get hurt.

THE BEAT'S GREAT BASEBALL JOKE-OFF!

* * *

Do you have a baseball joke? Then we want you! This is your chance for all of you amateur comedians to challenge the big guy, "Big Daddy" Dave Hamner, because you know he's going to have something to say. Yes, YOU have the chance to be the biggest clown on the team. So break out your best, but remember, there are women and children watching, so keep it clean. You could be the next "Big Daddy", but don't let that stop you - send in your jokes today!

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field, scoring two runs. A fielder's choice led to another, and suddenly the score was 6-4. Even though the Beat finally lost 7-4 in nine innings, each member of the team caught a glimpse of its potential, and spirits were high as folks looked to the next game.

That next game was against the Van Ness Monsters, a team with quite possibly the league's best pitcher. The Beat started it quickly, scoring twice in the bottom of the first. However, that was all the home team could muster against Monster Ace Bob Cain. In the top of the second, the Monsters exploded for 8 runs on 7 hits, aided by 4 Beat errors. The game was all but over. Starting pitcher Denny O'Brien was literally shelled, taking a one hop comebacker off his pitching hand. Anna Sandoval answered the call to the bullpen, putting out the Monster fire, going the distance in a losing cause. Anna's superb relief appearance raised many an eyebrow and was the subject of much of the post-game talk.

Ironically enough, the Monsters are in our division and we'll be meeting again on May 14th. They represent perhaps the biggest obstacle for the Beat this year, and with two former Monsters now playing for the Beat (O.B. and Dave Hamner), it should prove to be a real grudge match.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Rule 617-E of San Francisco D-League Rules states specifically: "All players, if they insist upon playing bare-chested, must accordingly shave all their chest hair." I've noticed at least one member of the Beat displaying not only a hairy chest, but hairy legs as well. If this practice continues, I'll be forced to report the offender to the officials. Its simply too distracting to the women in the audience and the gay men on the teams. Plus, this player makes a funny rustling noise when he runs. For the benefit of all players and fans, this practice must be stopped!

-Harry Nipples



The season is upon us and all of you that were with us last year know that there is no time to practice before the games. So far all of you diehard baseball fanatics, the coaches are fielding ideas for weeknights. We can do the cages or if the response is good enough we can rent a lit field. Toss it around and get back to us as soon as possible and we will try to find a weeknight that works best for everyone.

The coaches would like to thank Dave Hamner for sponsoring our beautiful new caps and Eric Meyer for helping us glue on the patches. Thanks again, guys.

This Day in Baseball Folklore...

1935 - Playing Catcher for the first time in his illustrious career, Little Mel Harvey lost his two front teeth when his brother Allen lost his grip on his Louisville Slugger and sent Miltie spinning into Never Never Land. Two weeks and several dental appointments later, Mel bought his first catchers mask and looked pretty silly wearing it in left field.

1955 - In a game against Cleveland, Mickey Mantle hit what would have been a tape measure home run to centerfield until the ball was blown out of the sky by Professional Hunter, Elmer Fudd. "Gowwy", said Fudd, "that wasswoowy wabbit tode me baseball was in season".

1988 - Baseball is the theme at a national political fundraiser as Peter, Paul and Mary sang "Right Field". John Fogerty sang his hit "Centerfield" and Paul Simon sang his own composition called "Left Field". Police and Riot squads were called in and Senator Simon was arrested for disturbing the peace.

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I know alot of you aren't used to batting with an umpire calling balls and strikes behind you, so be patient at the plate and make the pitcher work. Good hitters study the opposing pitcher before they bat to get an idea of how he's throwing. Be smart and stay away from "fly ball death".

Each of you has a crucial job to do to make this club successful. Everyone will get a fair and equal chance to play, so make the most of your time out in the field. If any of you (for whatever reason) cannot make a game or practice, please call Kevin or myself as soon as humanly possible, so we can make the necessary adjustments.

All of you are members of a talented and enthusiastic organization and I'm proud as hell to take you into battle with me. Thanx for all the support you've shown me and coaching staff. Now let's go out and kick some ass!

TRANSPORTATION

Well, the season's here, we've got eight big games coming up and I'll bet you're asking "but how do I get there?" Are you lucky or what? I'm going to tell you. First go out to your car and start driving. "What if I don't have a car?", you say... well, that's where The Beat's new and improved Carpool service comes in. But we need your help. If you do have a car and can help some of your teammates get out to a game or if you need a ride call Jim (864-2397) or Kevin (474-2357) or make the arrange-ments with your teammates. We'll try to arrange it so that drivers don't have to go to far out of their way. But please try to give us some time, it's hard to round up a ride if you call us at the last minute.

Game 1 is at 11:15 on April 9th and we'll be playing at West Sunset #2 on 41st Avenue and Quintara Street in the Sunset District. The only bus that runs close is the #48 Quintara/24th Street which runs right past the park. The "L" Taraval and the #71 Haight/ Noriega are within a 3 block 'climb' of the park. West Sunset is a residential neighborhood but parking is hit and miss.

Game 2 is at 3:00 p.m. on April 16 at Lang #2. Lang is at the corner of Gough Street and Golden Gate Avenue (or Turk and Octavia Streets). The #5 Fulton runs within a block of the park, all of the Van Ness lines are within 2 blocks and the #22 Fillmore and #38 Geary within 3. Parking is hit and miss. If you need further instructions or carpool information, call Jim or Kevin.

| PRE-SEASON BATTING STATISTICS | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|------|------|-------|--|
| As of March 20, 1988 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | AB | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | RB1 | AVG | SLUG | OBPCT | |
| Austin | 14 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .071 | .071 | .214 | |
| Bruckman | 6 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .500 | .500 | .500 | |
| Chan | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .167 | .167 | .333 | |
| Doyle | 16 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | .438 | .688 | .688 | |
| Hammer | 14 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .286 | .286 | .429 | |
| Harvey, J. | 15 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | .400 | .400 | .467 | |
| Harvey, M. | 7 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | .143 | .429 | .429 | |
| Hessclgren | 7 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .429 | .429 | .714 | |
| Meyer | 19 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | .316 | .474 | .368 | |
| Nelson | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .500 | .500 | .500 | |
| O'Brien | 14 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | .429 | .429 | .571 | |
| Palmer | 14 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | .286 | .571 | .429 | |
| Bothlein | 12 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .417 | .417 | .417 | |
| Sandoval | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 | .000 | .167 | |
| Ullmann | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .200 | .200 | .600 | |
| Totals | 157 | 49 | 17 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 11 | .312 | .389 | .452 | |

