



# ON THE BEAT

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The Official Word on THE BEAT

## VICTORY!

The shouts from the crowd were gone suddenly and the high fly ball to Steve out in right merely had to come down. And Steve squeezed it, thus closing the curtain on Act I of the Beat's existence and setting the stage for Act II, whatever that may be. And drama it certainly was. The Beat's first victory had all the elements of a great play: suspense, excitement, stars, role players, Greg Luzinski-type villains, and a loud, jubilant audience to inspire the players.

Perhaps it was foreshadowing when starting and winning pitcher Anna Sandoval (1-0) pitched through the first inning without a Rockin' Robin run coming across. Last week's horrendous beginning was at the back of everyone's mind at the start of the game. After one inning there was no score.

A fired-up Beat team came to bat in the second and scored two runs. Willie Doyle knocked in John Palmer (leadoff single) with a double. One out later Gary Rothlein displayed some fine hitting, clubbing a rocket just inside the first base line to score Doyle from third. The Beat was experiencing its first lead of '88.

But the Robins scored four runs in the second and third innings, despite solid defense and good control by Anna. Three hits and a sacrifice fly combined for three runs in the third and the Robins took a 4-2 lead.

John Palmer stepped up to the plate in the Beat fourth and cranked a 2-0 pitch over the right-centerfield fence. There was no doubt about that ball the instant contact was made. The lead was cut

to 4-3 after four complete.

OB came in to pitch in the fourth inning and was greeted with some solid defense. After a leadoff triple, a routine fly ball was hit to centerfielder Eric Meyer. Meyer threw a four-hopper to catcher Dave Hamner, who made a spectacular sweeping tag to nail the tagging runner from third. Hamner held on, showed the ball while flat on his back, and the ump barked him out. Unfortunately, a walk and a triple

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## Coach's Corner

Saturday night I dreamed the dreams a child has after playing his first game. All the excitement and the joy of baseball brings to kids.

Saturday afternoon The Beat won its first game ever in league competition. I've never played in a game with so much drama. Palmer's game winning homer, Anna's aggressiveness, Eric and Dave's double play, Gary Rothlein's RBI single down the right field line, Roy Nelson's first hit, Mike Harvey's leaping stab in the 7th... The list goes on and on.

This was really a team effort and really drove home how crucial everyone's role is. There's a lot of games to go and I'm more pumped than ever.

I've expected a lot out of you guys and last Saturday you gave it all back and more. Individually and as a Team, we showed a lot of hair (nothing personal, Gary).

Congratulations on a great victory. More to come!

# GAME BALL

# ☆ Play of the Day ☆

Sponsored by: Rockin Robins

Game Ball #1 went to Anna Sandoval for her outstanding performance as The Beat's starting pitcher. Constantly keeping the hitters off-balance, Anna baffled the Couch Potatoes and left several of them talking to themselves as they left the plate. A truly clutch performance.

Game Ball #2 was presented to John "The Bomber" Palmer after launching two majestic home runs into 'Windshield Heaven' on Turk Street, including The Beat's first ever game winner. We all got a good glimpse of how great John is going to be.

Congratulations to both for their heroics and their hair!

GAME 1 vs. D.U.C.K! - 4/9/88


Offense - Michael Harvey rips a two out triple to right field and comes in to score on the errant throw in.

Defense - With two outs in the 2nd inning, Jim Harvey lunged out and snagged a rocket down the third base line and with an instant release gunned down the runner at first to close out a 1-2-3 inning.


GAME 2 vs. Rockin Robins - 4/16/88

Offense - With no outs and down 5 to 3 in the top of the 6th inning, Eric Meyer led off with a single followed by a walk to Tim Hesselgren to open the way for John Palmer's second home run of the day, a monster shot over the right field fence to put The Beat up for good and give Palmer The Beat's first game winner.

Defense - With no outs in the 4th inning, the Coach Potatoes led off with a triple and it looked bad for The Beat. The next batter hit a routine fly ball to Meyer (The Gwangwa Kid) in center field who caught the ball and drilled a four-hopper right on line to Dave Hamner at the plate. Dave grabbed the ball, spun around and tagged the runner's leg just before he touched the plate. A double play the hard way.



## ODE TO THE BEAT



Our coach is Jim Harvey  
Our Spirit's Jim Beam,  
They call us The Beat  
And we proved we're a team.


Our offense was timely  
Our defense was glue  
The fans? Pretty wasted,  
(The team shortly, too).

We got one lucky break  
On a line drive called foul,  
The chalk cloud created  
Was seen clear down to Powell.


But we hit, didn't miss,  
Got two blasts from "The Bomber"  
When the pressure was on,  
Anna couldn't be calmer.

So if anyone asks  
Whose butts we trashed,  
Tell 'em that  
The "Potatoes" were mashed.

So opponents take notice  
Of our win under belt,  
Cause the heat of The Beat  
Is just now getting felt.



- Gary Rothlein



## Amazing Grace

Tim Hesselgren, playing right field, decided that while the attention was on him, he'd impress the women by flopping onto the hill and lounging into a seductive pose. In reply to coaches' inquiries regarding his unorthodox fielding style, 'Hustler-Gren' said, "When you guys told me to play Centerfield, I thought you said Centerfold!! An anonymous player was heard saying after the play, "I can see the staple marks from here!"

## ☆THE FUTURE OF HITTING☆

A recent article in the San Francisco Chronicle highlighted a new approach to batting that was devised by two physicists (and ex-college jocks) which they call Gyroscopic Stability. They started with a scientific approach used by Ted Williams and added a little physics to come up with what may be the greatest improvement to baseball since the split-finger fastball.

The main idea is for the batter to keep his spine as straight as possible and to use hip rotation rather than a long stride for the power. By doing this, the torso acts like a giant fulcrum for the bat, the same effect you would get from a spinning top or gyroscope. Leg power is used to rotate the hips and a short swing is used with the shoulders "opening" toward the pitcher. This series of adjustments transfers angular momentum from the body to the fat part of the bat. Steady rotating hips keep the head from moving much and helps keep the eyes level for best perspective on the incoming pitch.

This method was first tried out on a little league team who went from averaging 6.5 hits per game on offense and defense to 17.5 hits per game on offense while still giving up only 6.5 on defense. At one point they got 14 line drive hits in a row. The team started the season 1 and 5 but won 9 out of their last 10 games and the division once they got used to the stance. Similarly, the Cal Bears have used this method this year and are boasting a team batting average of .305.

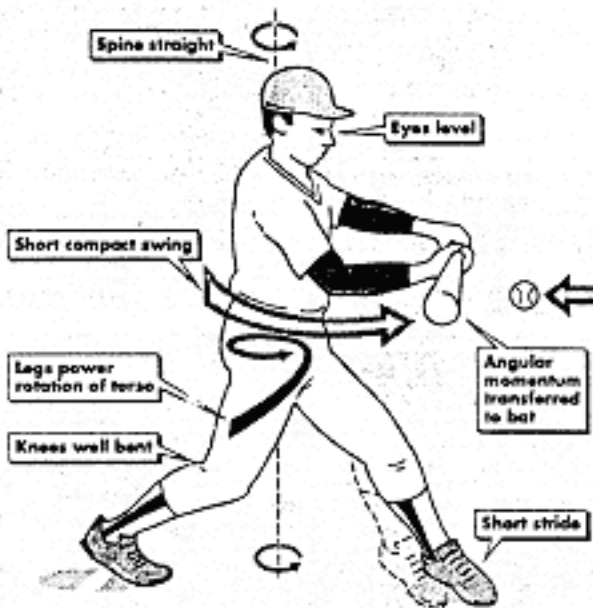
Now it may not be a good idea to practice this in games since it may take half a dozen games to get used to it and that's about all we've got in the season, but I strongly suggest the use of it in batting practice or at the cages. Give it a try to see how it feels and I guarantee you can feel the extra power in the bat, but don't expect miracles right away. Give it some time.

If you have any questions or for a copy of the original article, see Kevin or call 474-2357. Hey, if it

doesn't work it doesn't work, but if it does work we may end up being one of the strongest offensive teams in D-8 and doesn't that make your mouth water?

### HITTING A BASEBALL SCIENTIFICALLY

*In the middle of a swing, the batter's short stride gives him stability, balances his weight between his feet and gives him time to adjust to the pitch. Leg power rotates the hips and spins the torso; a short swing transfers angular momentum from the body to the bat. Like a spinning top, the spine is kept as straight as possible.*



Send John "The Bomber" Palmer to the Stick! The San Francisco Giants are holding a softball hitting contest following 5 home games with the winners from each night going on to a final in September. To get "The Bomber" into this contest we have to get a group of 30 to attend one of those five games. Group prices are \$5 to \$6 per person for upper reserve seats and the 30 can cheer John on after the game.

Prizes include a trophy and personalized jersey for John. The group gets commemorative jackets, dinner at the Stadium Club, tickets to a Giants game and they get to take infield prior to the game.

Lets show our slugger some support and give him the chance to take some swings at "The Stick". For more information or to sign up contact Jim or Kevin.

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followed the double play and the Robins scored their fifth run.

Defense again was the key in the fifth inning. With a man on first, a sharp grounder was hit back to OB on the mound. He threw to second for one and shortstop Kevin Austin could not quite complete the double play. Kevin made up for it a few plays later. With men on first and second with one out, a grounder was hit way into the hole between third and short. Lunging to his right, Kevin stabbed the ball and executed the only play he could, a force at third. Leathery Jim Harvey absorbed a tough slide from some bohunk Robin, and the thrust of the inning was changed. The Beat came out of the inning unscathed and still close.

The Beat sixth produced the last three runs of the game, and ended up being the key to the victory. Eric Meyer led off with an 0-1 single over the second baseman's head. Tim Hesselgren, despite few at bats so far this season, stood patient at the plate and drew an important walk on four pitches. The stage was set and the spotlight beamed on John Palmer once again. Palmer launched the second pitch deep to right field. Going, going, and it went. The Beat took the lead 6-5 to stay, and besides the odor of rotting potatoes, the Beat began to sniff a win in the Lang Field air.

The Robins came up twice more. In the sixth, a controversial call down the third base line and great pitching by the returning Anna Sandoval produced a called strikeout, plus two routine fly balls. The Beat failed to score in the top half of the seventh, and a one-run lead was theirs to protect.

The first batter of such an inning is often times the key, and Michael Harvey decided it was also the case for this game. A smash off the first batter's bat was stolen out of mid-air by the newly bespectacled first baseman, and everyone on the team received a charge, as well as the partisan crowd. The next Robin earned a walk. The heavy bats were now due up for the Robins. The outfield

decided to play extra-extra deep to avoid a ball hit over their heads. The Robin up smartly decided to try and drop a single into vacated shallow center. Too bad for him, the ball hung up and was chased down by center fielder Eric Meyer. The next guy up singled to left and suddenly the Robins were one single away from tying the game. Momentarily rattled, Anna gave up a walk to load the bases with two outs. The tension was so thick it hummed. Nowhere to put runners, the Robin up next was certainly looking for a game-tying walk. On a crucial 2-1 count, Anna bore down and threw a strike to a taking Robin. The walk was now too risky. The next pitch was the final pitch, and the veteran Bruckman hauled it in without making anyone too nervous.

All-around great defense combined with great pitching and John Palmer's heroics gave the Beat what its been looking for so long: the thrill of victory. The Beat joins the ranks of the victors for the first time, but certainly not the last.

#### WEEK 2 RESULTS

THE BEAT	6
Rockin' Robins Couch Potatoes	5
Van Ness Monsters	13
Bayside Cafe	2
Pat O'Sheas Mad Hatters	7
D.U.C.K!	1
Pride Guys	10
High and Dry	5

#### DIVISION D-8 STANDINGS AS OF APRIL 17, 1988

	W	L	PCT	GB
Pat O'Sheas	2	0	1.000	-
Pride Guys	2	0	1.000	-
THE BEAT	1	1	.500	1
D.U.C.K!	1	1	.500	1
Rockin' Robins	1	1	.500	1
Van Ness Monsters	1	1	.500	1
Bayside Cafe	0	2	.000	2
High and Dry	0	2	.000	2

# Letters to the Editor

## IN DEFENSE OF BODY HAIR

Dear Editor:

I was at your game last week and was disgusted to see one of your players fall on the right field hill. Seeing that poor man struggling to move and no one offering to help just made me sick! I am the regional chairman for NAEB (The National Association for Embarrassed Ballplayers) and I would like that player to contact me. The NAEB can offer the counseling you need at this critical time.

- Terry Mulholland

Dear Editor,

I wish to lodge a complaint about your softball team, specifically about the game you played on Saturday, April 16. I went to this game to assist in the making of the new Yoko Ono book, Great Ass Shots While Attending Softball Games, but the game you played was so good the photographer took almost all her film of your game! My rear was featured in no more than 30 seconds of the film, and now my photographer wants to continue going to your games more than wanting to shoot my butt!

So please don't play as well and my ass will be assured more film time!

- Moonie

In the last issues of "On The Beat", certain inferences were made regarding one hairy team member's "rustling sound" made as he rounded the bases with shirtless, leg-exposed attire. After several hours of consultation with key aides, I have concluded that this slanderous innuendo is about none other than myself.

Having recovered my composure only after two weeks of intense introspection coupled with an unusual protein powder supplement, I have decided to respond in the very pages in which accusations are hurled and lives are...ruined.

Perhaps the mud was slung by those envious team members whose hair lines are in the process of receding down to their spines. Members who bring #25 sunscreen to Stinson out of necessity.

Perhaps this is the time to say that I will never shave my body hair. The only use for a pile of body hair is to create yet another throw cushion for the sofa.

On the positive side, body hair's ability to absorb dust particles certainly has a cleansing effect on the basepaths, leaving a safer, healthier environment for subsequent base runners.

Therefore, in future issues, please stay out of my hair.

- Gary Rothlein

BATTING STATISTICS  
AS OF APRIL 17, 1968

#	NAME													--CLUTCH HITTING--		
		AB	H	AVG	SLG	OBP	K	BB	2B	3B	HR	R	RBI	AB	H	AVG
6	Austin, Kevin	8	3	.375	.375	.500	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	1.000
20	Bruckman, Steve	6	0	.000	.000	.500	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	.000
10	Chan, Mark	2	0	.000	.000	.333	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	***
36	Doyle, Willie	6	3	.500	.667	.667	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	.500
17	Hammer, Dave	7	4	.571	.571	.571	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	.000
7	Harvey, Jim	6	1	.167	.167	.500	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	.000
44	Harvey, Michael	5	1	.200	.600	.200	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	.000
00	Hesselgren, Tim	2	2	1.000	1.000	1.000	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1.000
1	Meyer, Eric	8	3	.375	.375	.625	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	.500
14	Nelson, Roy	2	1	.500	.500	.500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	***
19	O'Brien, Dennis	1	0	.000	.000	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	***
21	Palmer, John	4	3	.750	2.250	1.000	0	0	0	0	2	3	4	1	1	1.000
29	Rothlein, Gary	6	2	.333	.333	.333	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	.333
22	Sandoval, Anna	2	0	.000	.000	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	***
13	Ullmann, Dan	5	2	.400	.400	.600	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	***
Totals		70	25	.357	.486	.528	1	2	1	1	2	12	11	20	7	.350



Well, the final word on O.B.'s finger was that is was a clean break. But being the gamer that he is, O.B. still put in two innings of work in game two and is raring to go in game three. We just have two words of advice for O.B. to keep his name out of this column...DRINK MILK!

So who else do you think got his name in here again. That's right, it's DAVE HAMNER. Dave was the victim of another vicious drinking accident. Yes, he pulled a shoulder muscle reaching for a beer. But he did manage to play an excellent game on Saturday with a great play at the plate. Dave, you're so butch!

BUT BATS COMING AROUND

BEAT LOSES GAME ONE

The Beat started their 1988 Spring season on somewhat sour note. Playing without their first and second string pitchers, the team seemed a tad nervous for the opener. Gary Rothlein got the start and was hammered early. Seven runs scored before Kevin Austin teamed up with "Big Daddy" Dave Hamner for the first out, a force at home. But The Beat pulled it together giving up only two more in the inning with the bases loaded.

The home team picked up one in the bottom of the first as Steve Bruckman came in on Tim Hesselgren's RBI single but the rally never came. They came back on defense to put down the Ducks 1-2-3 in the second inning thanks to Jim Harvey and Tim connecting for the second and third out, the third one earning Jimbo the Play of the Day.

Mark Chan picked up the first walk of the year and scored on the first of Eric Meyer's 2 RBI's for the day. Dan Ullmann also scored on Kevin's RBI and the pair teamed up again in the 7th for another run. Michael Harvey added some offensive pop in the 6th with a two out triple to right and then continued around to score on an errant throw in. But the bats couldn't erase the deficit the Ducks had built. If there is any consolation in the 15-6 final, it's that The Beat weren't beaten by a better team, just by themselves.

SPRING 1988 OPENING BEATS

OFFENSE

At Bat ..... Kevin Austin  
Hit ..... Eric Meyer  
Run ..... Steve Bruckman  
Double ..... Willie Doyle  
Triple ..... Michael Harvey  
Home Run ..... John Palmer  
RBI ..... Tim Hesselgren  
Game Winning RBI ..... John Palmer\*  
Base On Balls ..... Mark Chan  
Out ..... Kevin Austin

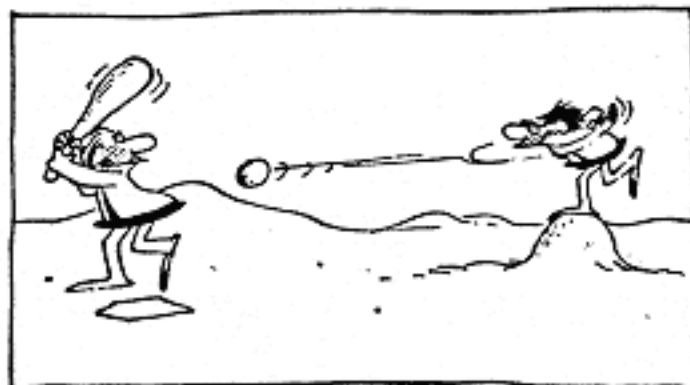
DEFENSE

Ground Out ..... K. Austin/D. Hamner  
Line Out ..... Roy Nelson  
Fly Out ..... Mark Chan  
Double Play ..... E. Meyer/D. Hamner  
Error ..... Gary Rothlein

PITCHING

Win ..... Anna Sandoval\*  
Strike Out ..... Anna Sandoval  
Base On Balls ..... Gary Rothlein

\*All-Time BEAT Firsts





## TRANSPORTATION

First off, John Palmer forwards his deepest apologies for being late to the season opener and missing out on that nasty first inning. However, my sources tell me that D.U.C.K! paid him to throw the game. An ASA Grand Jury is looking into the matter. Are we having fun yet?

The coaches, staff and in fact the entire Beat team would like to thank our fans (including our arch-rivals, The Monsters) for turning out in record numbers for The Beat's first league win. Everyone that was on that field knows how much it helped in the win. Cheers to the best fans in the league!

Another big hand goes out to Tara and O.B., The Beat's excellent video staff for providing us with game films. It's not only great to review a game afterwards but it has been an incredible help in finding out what we are doing right or wrong. Many thanks and keep up the good work!

\* \* \*

The staff of On The Beat wants you (or at least part of your mind, or a pint of blood, or your first born..) to help us before we blow a fuse. We are graciously accepting any guest articles, letters to the editor or anything else that you lounge lizards can put on paper so we don't have to. With your help we can stop printing garbage like this in which we ramble on and on until we foam at the mouth and fall over backwards.

Now for all of you clowns out there. The Beat's Great Baseball Joke-Off is well on it's way to being, well for lack of a better word, BORING! So put on those thinking caps, you Bozos. I mean really, we can't do all of this ourselves. Even the big guy is holding back to see if there is any real competition out there. So let's show that (deleted) Hamner that there's some real humor in this group or he's just going to go on thinking that he's actually funny. Plagiarists welcome.

Okay gang, we have a couple more parks to look at so here's the scoop.

Game 3 is at 11:15 a.m. on April 23rd at Balboa Park #1. Balboa is located at the corner of San Jose and Ocean Avenues right next to S.F. City College and the Balboa Park BART Station. Remember, Fast Passes can be used on BART within the city. Balboa Park station is also the end of the line for the K Ingleside and M Oceanview metro lines. The #26 Valencia, #36 Teresita and #49 Van Ness/Mission run right past the park and the #15 Third, #29 Sunset and #43 Masonic run down Geneva Avenue on the far side of Balboa Park station.

For all of you carpoolers, Highway 280 runs right past the park. Take the Ocean/Geneva exit. Parking can be tough so give yourselves extra time just in case.

Game 4 is at 1:45 at Parkside which is on Vicente Street at 28th Avenue. The best way to get to Parkside is to drive because parking is easy and MUNI is slim. The best bet by MUNI is the L Taraval which runs parallel to Vicente two blocks away. The #28 19th Avenue is another possibility but also a bit more of a walk.

Both of these parks are at the south end of the city so give yourselves plenty of time to get out there, especially if your taking public transit. If you need more info on carpooling or how to get to a ballpark, give Jim (864-2397) or Kevin (474-2357) a call. Remember, if you need a ride give us some time to round one up.

## Quotables \*

"Play every game like its your last!"

-John Palmer's Old Coach

"Jim, he's leathery but he's sensitive."

- E. Gwangwa Meyer