

# On The Beat

October 5, 1991

## Coaches Corner Jim Harvey

For the second time in two years, The Beat has forced a tie-breaker for the summer division title. Last year, it was the Van Ness Monsters. This year it's the Fringe Players. I guess last year it was enough just to be in the tie-breaker...we'd never finished that high before. But I still have this image in my mind of my brother Dennis running across home plate, scoring the winning run for the Monsters. This year, it's not enough just to be there; this time I want to win it.

The members of this team have busted their butts all year long, and they deserve to be rewarded. We're very proud of the team we've built — we've surrounded ourselves with excellent talent and wonderful people. Eric, Wilfred and John have been invaluable to me as coaches and I am deeply indebted to them. Especially Wilfred, who has been forced to sit out the entire 1991 season and is now recovering from his second bout of major surgery. It would have been easy for his interest to fade, but he took on his responsi-

bilities with abandon and has been a major contributor to our success thus far.

I would like to thank the people behind the scenes who have such an impact on the team — Anne Spoon has been score-keeping all year and has been doing a great job. The score sheet reads like an instant replay of the game and has made doing

stats a breeze. Darcy McGaffie has worked on the newsletters and pocket schedules in addition to taking pictures of the team. I also want to thank the fans whose spirit and support during the games and whose hospitality after the games are always appreciated. The fans are a team's 12th man, and they are what make the Beat special.

Last, but not least, I'd like to thank the players for their dedication and hard work. This is a very talented ballclub and I'm proud to be a part of this organization.

Our dreams can come true today and this can be the happiest winter of our lives.

## Go Beat!

## ABOUT THOSE FIVE RUNS...

Eric Meyer

The game against the Laughing Hyenas should have been 22-0 instead of the actual 22-5. Call me a perfectionist, but the truth is, we looked bad in that first inning. That feeling, not so familiar anymore, began to creep back in: self-destruction. Thankfully, we pounded the ball when we came up and went out to rout.

In almost every other Beat game this summer season, an inning like that would have been the difference between being in the race and being out of it. The only possible exception was the Fringe Players game. When we play the Fringe Players again another first inning like the one against the Hyenas could make us D-League perennials.

The key to our 19-2 victory against the Fringe Players was DEMORALIZATION. We didn't make a single error and we scored consistently in every inning but the fifth. Sounds like a model game plan to me. We closed the door every time they were knocking and slowly but surely pressed our advantage each time we came to bat.

I believe that this time the Fringe Players will be waiting to pounce on any opportunity we give them. Just like last time, we must deny them any chance to get at us by playing flawless defense and steadily plugging away at the plate.

THIS IS IT. We need to be calm and cool out there on D because the pressure's on and everyone has to bring his own fire to the plate. Another key to our last victory against Fringe Players was the contribution of every player in the line-up. We need to put those elements into play again — remember the Monsters...beating them once was not enough!

Let's put the Fringe Players to rest with Beat authority.

### Game 9 The Laughing Hyenas

Led by 4 home runs, the Beat crushed the Laughing Hyenas 23-5 to clinch a tie for the division title and force a tie-breaker with the Fringe Players. The Hyenas, however, got the first laugh as they scored five runs on a combination of dinks, dunks and uncharacteristic bad Beat defense.

But he who laughs last laughs best, and the Beat scored 11 times in the bottom of the 1st, capped off by Frank Green's grand slam. John Palmer hit 3 home runs and drove in 8 runs;

Green drove in 6 runs and every player in the starting line-up scored at least one run.



### Game 8 The Fringe Players

The Fringe Players needed just one win to wrap up the D-8 division title but were deprived by

a hungry and aggressive Beat team as they lost 19-2. Scoring 2 runs in each of the first four innings and playing immaculate defense, The Beat led undefeated Fringe Players 8-0 after 4 full innings. Eric Meyer had an unassisted double play in the 5th and Mike Laffey sparkled at first base, fielding hot smashed all day and throwing out runners at 1st, 2nd and home plate.

The offense sizzled, led by the usual cast of characters: Mark

St. Georges and Eric Meyer were both 4 for 5 with 2 RBIs; John Palmer (3-4, 3 runs); Doug Butler (3-5, 3 RBIs); and a rejuvenated Dennis O'Brien (3-4, 2 runs, 3 RBIs). Laffey, Frank Green and Robert Bingham all drove in 2 runs.

The Fringe Players managed on two runs on 12 hits, and didn't score until the bottom of the sixth when The Beat had a twelve run lead. The Beat erased any doubt in the top of the seventh, scoring 7 times to put the game away.

The victory not only prevented a clinching, it tied The Beat for 1st place with the Fringe Players. The Beat is

the only remaining undefeated team in D-8, but are tied for first because of the two tied games.

### Game 7 Rubble's

It was a battle of nerves at Lang Field as The Beat and Rubble's slugged it out for eight full innings ending in a 5-5 tie. Both teams scored three runs in the first from before great pitching and timely defense took control of the game.

The Beat struck first as John Palmer singled to start the game. Following a force out and a Robert Bingham base-hit, Doug Butler tripled to deep right-center and scored

on an errant throw from the outfield.

Rubbles, however was up to the task as first baseman Rory Eisenstaelt belted a two-out, three-run homer well onto Turk Street beyond the right field wall.

The Beat chipped away with a run in the third and one in the fourth, but was unable to get the big clutch hit to break it open. Rubble's loaded the bases in the bottom of the fourth with nobody out and tied the game with back to back sacrifice flies.

Rubbles threatened in the fifth with runners at first and second and nobody out until John Martin flied out to deep right-center. Catcher Kevin Moran tagged on the play but was thrown out at third by a strong throw from former Princeton Quarterback Butler and a great tag by Leathery Jim Harvey. Both teams went quietly until the bottom of the eighth. A lead-off single to Martin looked harmless as the next two batters flied out, but Palmer dropped an easy fly off the bat of Michael Lynch and Rubbles had runners at first and third with Eisenstaelt (already 2 for 2 with a double and homerun) coming up to the plate. A meeting at the mound ensued and Eisenstaelt was intentionally walked, loading the bases for left fielder Doyle. The strategy paid off as Doyle hit a 2-2 pitch on the ground to third that was smothered by Harvey and taken to the bag to force Lynch. Dennis O'Brien did his usual great job, despite a season high



### Fan Notes

Darcy McGaffic

The fans are pretty excited about The Beat's summer season. The veteran fans are pleased to see the team doing so well, and are also happy to have the addition of certain new faces in the stands.

Susie Der Garry and Christy Susman have made quite a few games this season, with Susie snapping photos at the Fringe Players game. Also, Misha Bingham has added her own Southern style to bolster Anne Spoon in the cheering department. Jennifer Henderson helped host a party with her boyfriend Mark Lancaster and it was a lot of fun. Other visitors to games included Mark Lancaster's mother, my mom and both my sisters, Fred from North Carolina, a mass of Hastings students, and Sarita, the original Beat photographer. Todd managed to break away from his busy schedule to root at a couple games and of course Robina is still supporting the team regularly with her trademark enthusiasm.

We're behind you Beat. Go all the way; you deserve it.



four walks. He gave up only two earned runs and nine hits, striking out one. Alan Whiteside of Rubble's kept the Beat hitters off-balance, walking none and striking out one. It was the Beat's second tie of the summer season, after having only one other in the past four years.

#### Game 6 The Gamecocks

The Beat survived a late-inning comeback and held on to defeat the Gamecocks 6-5 at Rolph Park. Second inning singles by Doug Butler, Eric Meyer and Dan Carroll produced the first run for The Beat. Mike Laffey's single scored Meyer and Jim Harvey's base-hit drove in Carroll for the inning's third run. Dennis O'Brien cruised through the first five innings, giving up only four singles and was ahead of virtually every Gamecock hitter. The defense turned two early double plays and Robert Bingham made a sliding catch to rob the Gamecocks of a base-hit.

The Beat padded their lead in the sixth with a lead-off single by John Palmer and a bit of good luck. Mark St. Georges hit a double-play ground ball to short but the second baseman couldn't handle the throw and everyone was safe. After a walk to Bingham, Butler crushed a single to left to drive in two and Meyer's sacrifice fly to center made it 6-0.

But the Gamecocks came back with a vengeance in the sixth with the help of two wind-blown home runs to close the gap to 6-5. The

Beat went quietly in the seventh and the tension choked those in attendance. The Gamecocks first batter of the inning stroked a single to right-center and made the grave mistake of rounding first. Palmer, fielding the ball with fire in his eyes, threw a strike to Peter Wenner at first and Pete applied the tag for out number one. The next batter followed with a drive to left center destined for the alley. But again, Palmer was there to haul it in for the second out. After a single to center, Choy flied out to Palmer (of course) for the game's final out.

The victory kept the Beat a half-game out of first place and virtually eliminated the Gamecocks, who lost for only the second time this season.

#### Game 5 Harvey's Ballbangers

Confusion ruled as The Beat hung tough and defeated Harvey's Ballbangers 7-6 at Jackson Field. The game was originally scheduled to be played at Kimball Field; both teams were notified by the league office only 3 hours before game time. Eric Meyer, Anne Spoon and Darcy McGaffic scrambled like madmen to notify ballplayers of the change in plans. But the action started at 3:30 and The Beat took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the 1st on rookie Robert Bingham's two-out homerun. The Ballbangers countered with 3 runs of their own, but their lead was short-lived as Dennis O'Brien delivered a 2-RBI single in the bottom of

the second to tie the game at 3. Mark St. Georges walked to lead off the bottom of the 3rd, advanced to 2nd and 3rd on back-to-back comebacks and scored on Meyer's RBI single. Danny Carroll then roped a ball to deep left which held up in the wind and was almost caught by left-fielder Brohan. He couldn't hold onto it, however, and Carroll was credited with an RBI double and The Beat took a 5-3 lead. The Ballbangers scored one in the fifth to close the gap, but Peter Wenner's 2 RBI single in the sixth provided the sixth and seventh run for The Beat and the breathing room they needed for victory. The Ballbangers scored 2 in the seventh, but it proved to be too little, too late. Pitching and defense were big keys in this game; OB walked two and struck out one and the defense turned two nifty double plays to squash potential Ballbanger rallies. The victory improved The Beat's record to 4-0-1, the best start in the Beat's history.

#### Game 4 Hammertime

The Beat rallied for four runs in the final inning to tie Hammertime 11-11 in what may have been the most exciting game in Beat history. More of a boxing match than a ballgame, both teams came out smoking, scoring 4 times each in the first inning. Hammertime scored one in the second and The Beat came back with 3 more of their own to take a 7-5 lead after 2. Hammertime, however, tied it in the 3rd,

held The Beat scoreless and rallied for 4 in the 4th to take an 11-7 lead. Told by the umpires that the bottom of the 4th would be their last at-bat, The Beat showed their hair and went to work. John Palmer and Jim Harvey hit



back to back singles and Palmer scored on Robert Bingham's double. With one out, Mike Laffey hit a rope off the first baseman, which rolled far enough to allow Harvey and Bingham to score, making it 11-10 Hammertime. With 2 out, Peter Wenner singled to right and special guest Larry Avery walked to load the bases. Dennis O'Brien worked the count full before taking a 3-2 pitch outside for ball four to force in the tying run. A force-out ended the game and gave the Beat their first tie since a 2-2 game against The Over The Hill Gang in 1989.

The Beat played this game without Eric Meyer, Doug Butler, Mark St. Georges and Mark Lancaster, all of whom were out of town. Picking up the slack were John Palmer (3-3, 3 runs scored), Harvey (3-3, 2 runs, 1 RBI) and OB (3 walks, 1 RBI).



**Game 3  
LVPS**

To say that walks come back to haunt you is truly an understatement of this game, where The Beat was the beneficiary of eight first inning walks that led to 6 runs enroute to a 14-5 whipping of LVPS. Led by an offensive attack involving John Palmer (2-3, 3 runs), Mark St. Georges (2-4, 3 runs, 2 RBIs) and Jim Harvey (3-3, 2 runs, 3 RBIs), The Beat scored in every inning but the 4th to record their 3rd straight victory and retain their share of first place. Dennis O'Brien, who shut out LVPS in the spring season, scattered 10 hits and struck out two cruising to his 3rd win of the summer.



**Game 2  
Holden Chinn, UPS**

Trailing 7-2 after 3 innings, The Beat rallied in the 4th, 5th, and 6th innings to stun Holden Chinn, UPS, 14-8. The Beat scored 3 in the 4th and 3 in the 5th to tie the game at 8-8, and then nailed the game down by scoring 6 in the 6th, a dramatic inning that included back-to-back home runs. Mark St. Georges went 4-4 with 3 RBIs and Dan Carroll was 3-4 with an RBI triple. Holden Chinn (previously Vincent Chinn, CPA) drubbed The Beat in the spring season and The Beat enjoyed the pay-back, to wit, "This was big because we came back against a really good team that spanked us last year." The late-inning rallies took the wind from UPS and The Beat was confident in the 6th and final inning. Mark Lancaster beat out an infield hit and OB walked. John Palmer forced OB at second base and St. Georges singled

to score both Lancaster and Palmer. Robert "Tequila Bob" Bingham then homered to deep right, the first of 3 Beat homers. Doug "Brett" Butler followed with a solo shot deep in the left-center field gap. Eric Meyer made it a threesome with a long homerun to straight-away left, directly in the teeth of Balboa's wind. The victory brought the summer record to 2-0.

**Game 1  
MJ Players**

Opening Day at Kimball Field. The MJ Players and The Beat battled for 5 full innings in a game where neither team could hold a lead, but The Beat prevailed, albeit modestly with a score of 17-15. The Beat blew an 11-5 lead when the MJ Players rallied and took advantage of mistakes to take a 13-11 lead after three innings. The Beat came back with 3 in the 4th and 3 in the 5th to take the lead 17-13, but

almost gave the game away in the bottom of the 5th. After a lead-off single, OB walked the next two batters to load the bases with nobody out. A base-hit followed to drive in one, and OB walked in a run to make the score 17-15. However, heads-up defense wins games, and OB handled a sharp comebacker and threw to the plate for the force. Catcher Frank Green snapped a dart down to first baseman Peter Wenner to double up the batter. With the wind taken out of their sails, the next MJ Player flied to left to end the game and The Beat dodged a bullet. Beat heroes for this game were: Danny Carroll (4-4, 3 runs, 3 RBIs, HR); Eric Meyer (3-4, 3 runs, 2 RBIs, HR); John Palmer (2-4, 3 runs, 3 RBIs, HR). Beat rookies making their debut included Robert Bingham (2-4, 3 runs) and Mark Lancaster (1-3, 1 run). Rookie Lancaster had a defensive gem in right field, throwing out an MJ Player at the plate with a rocket.



**Good...but Scary**

Eric Meyer says, "MSG gets so into it that he has pink gum residue in the corners of his mouth."

"Some people froth at the mouth, MSG shows his true color — pink."

**Insult to Injury?**

Laffey, about the kid in the Monsters' game who got hit by a frozen rope at third, "Get the kid a happy meal."



YTD THRU 9/28/91

THE BEAT - 1991

	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	K	SF	AVE
AUSTIN	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	.500
BINGHAM	26	13	9	1	0	2	11	5	1	2	.346
BUTLER	41	16	25	6	2	2	16	0	1	0	.610
CARROLL	47	11	25	1	4	3	20	4	3	1	.521
GREEN	47	11	17	0	0	1	17	3	0	2	.362
HARVEY	34	10	14	1	0	0	7	4	0	1	.412
LAPPEY	44	15	17	0	2	1	10	5	1	2	.386
LANCASTER	22	7	6	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	.273
MEYER	43	18	25	3	1	3	17	2	0	2	.581
O'BRIEN	37	7	11	0	0	0	10	10	2	0	.297
PALMER	57	32	33	10	0	5	21	3	1	1	.579
RICKETTS	9	2	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	.222
ST. GEORGES	54	26	26	3	0	2	13	5	1	0	.481
WENNER	39	5	15	1	0	0	6	4	1	1	.385
OTHERS	25	5	8	4	0	0	5	1	0	0	.320
TOTALS	528	187	234	30	9	19	155	52	11	12	.443

D-8 STANDINGS

As of 9/28/91

	W	L	T	GB
THE BEAT	7	0	2	--
FRINGE PLAYERS	8	1	0	--
HAMMERTIME	5	3	1	2.5
GAMECOCKS	5	4	0	3
HOLDEN CHINN, UPS	5	4	0	3
RUBBLES	3	4	2	4
MJ PLAYERS	3	6	0	5
HARVEY'S BALLBANGERS	2	6	1	5.5
LVPS	2	6	1	5.5
THE LAUGHING HYENAS	1	7	1	6.5