



ON THE BEAT

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D- League Showdown

BEAT TRIUMPHS!

The Beat won its biggest game in years today, beating the Chameleons 8-6 at a breezy Rossi Field. The game was marked by timely hitting, solid defense and a team effort reminiscent of championship play. By winning, the team took sole possession of Division D-8 in San Francisco City League Softball.

"The team was scrappy; it was a makeshift effort. We were hungry." said manager Wilfred Spoon. "We wanted it more than they did," agreed catcher Frank Green, one of the many heroes in a close-fought game. From the beginning, players and fans alike knew it was a game for the ages.

Injuries and absences forced the team to field a first-ever Defensive lineup. Donnell Moody started at 3rd, Mike Laffey at short, Mark St. Georges and Peter Wenner at their usual 2nd and 1st. With Palmer on Alaska time, the outfield had Ricketts, Young, Spoon and Wright. OB and Frank anchored the battery.

FIRST ROUND TO THE BEAT

The visiting Beat scored two in the 1st. With MSG and Wenner (batting 3rd) on board, Green and Moody each singled, driving in runs. The Chameleons answered with two in the home half, but the Beat defense stopped the bleeding, getting the final two batters and leaving runners stranded on 2nd and 3rd.

The team followed with two more in the 2nd. Danny Carroll, in the most courageous

play of the game, scored a home run on a deep drive that almost wasn't deep enough. As he slowed approaching 3rd, fighting a bone spur, Spoon relentlessly waived him home and The Danster gritted out the last
(see page 2)

COACH'S CORNER

After a dismal season of winter ball, The Beat came to spring training only to find we had been dropped a division back to "D". The poor showing from the previous summer was apparently enough to tip the scales in the minds of City League Softball Officials. Winter ball was a trying experience with skills tiring and tempers sometimes flaring. Being dropped to "D" was a slap in the face for the team.

The wake-up call seems to have motivated a turnaround in every respect. The Beat is tight like I haven't seen since we won the division in the summer of '91. Bats have come alive, defense has been nearly flawless and team spirit is at an all time high after Saturday's victory over the, used to be tied for first place Chameleons.

With four games still to play there's always the danger of letting down. We've gotten this far by being pumped for each game and there is no reason that should change. The difference is that now, as the only undefeated team, we alone are in control of our own destiny.

A GAME FOR THE AGES (from page 1)

sixty feet to give The Beat a lead they would not relinquish. TC Wright later scored on the second of Wilfred's coaching gems, rounding 3rd on a Young fielders choice and streaking home on an overthrow at 1st. Though the Chameleons scored one in the bottom half, The Beat had won the early battle.

DEFENSE TAKES OVER

Defenses dominated from then on, each team having already scored half their runs. Moody and Ricketts denied the Slime-Bellied Color-Changers the left field line, combining for seven putouts while refusing runners the extra base. In the outfield, Young directed a wall that denied any game breaking hits.

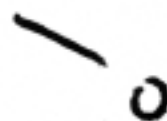
After a scoreless 3rd, The Beat scratched out a run in the 4th. Spoon, in his first start of the year, singled with one out, advanced to third on a Carroll single and scored on a Laffey double. Along with seven straight Chameleon outs, the Grey and Black led 5-3.

OFFENSES RETURN

The Beat almost closed it out in the 5th, thanks to aggressive base running and timely hitting. MSG doubled with one out, scoring on Peter Wenner's single. A fielder's choice left Green on 1st, until Moody's single moved him to 3rd. Donnell moved to 2nd on the play, setting up the game's pivotal at bat.

Jeff Ricketts had hit the ball hard in his two previous at bats but had nothing to show for his efforts. This time, on a 1-0 pitch, he laced a high inside pitch down the 3rd base line, scoring Frank and Donnell to make the score 8-3. The Beat anticipated victory.

But the Chameleons would not die, mounting their own rally while silencing Beat bats. They scored once in the sixth on two singles and a double. In the 7th, with OB tiring, the Chameleons threatened with a triple, sacrifice, two singles and a walk. The second out, a grounder, moved the tying runs to 2nd and 3rd, with the Chameleons #4 hitter coming to the plate.



CRAWL TO THE BALL

On the first pitch the mighty hitter swung. The ball was hit deep to left center field and seemed to scream trouble as it left the bat. Then John Palmer, recently arrived from his inter-galactic tour, appeared to have a bead on the ball. But the wind was taking the ball toward right and as Palmer tried to cut back he fell.

Exactly how John responded is a matter of some debate. But as The Beat gasped and the Chameleons began to taste victory, the wind continued to work on the ball, holding it up just enough and dropping it straight down into the crawling Palmer's outstretched glove. The Beat wins, 8-6.



STANDINGS

Division D-8

Through April 30, 1994

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
The Beat	4	0	0
Chameleons	3	1	0
Plough & Stars	2	1	0
Sydney Ducks	1	2	0
Silver Streak	1	2	0
Duck!	1	3	0
Raging Bills	0	3	0

AND THE BEAT GOES ON ...