

Dead-Beat

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'96 Fan Appreciation Day Issue

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Deadwoods not Beleaguered by B-League

New Home Found in B-League

The date was April 30, 1996. There was a tension in the air. The e-mail lines were silent. Only one question loomed in the minds of the players ... could the Deadwoods survive B-League? It wasn't just about winning. It was about finding a common focus. If the team became too competitive, would we have to spin-off another team (i.e. like the Berserkers)? If so, what would you call that team? Some looked at this season as a "season of recalibration." Best put by Sledge, "If we lose enough games, they'll knock us back down to D-League." Others, had gotten used to winning and weren't about to give up now. Many were afraid that the team would be divided by the tension between those who wanted to compete and those who wanted to have fun. Said Lurch, "I'm afraid they [other B-League teams] will piss off Rocky, and that'll get me pissed!" So the question stood: would the move to B-League ruin the great institution known as the Deadwoods?

The answer ... halfway through the season and the 'Woods seem to have their priorities straight. As Goose put it "The bottom line seems to be that we are one Beer Guzzling, Soda Slurping, Chip Munching, Salsa Tasting, Pretzel Crunching and Cookie Slamming Team - our true legacy!" The main difference from D-League is that the Deadwood fans seem to stay awake during the games. Says Mrs. Reckless, "I actually watched a game for the first time." Unlike last year, every game has been competitive. And going into the second half of the season the Deadwoods are just

one game behind the first place Desperados and coming on strong. When Flex was recently asked what he thought about Deadwoods' newest rivals such as the Desperados and TTC, he responded "those guys are fags."

B League Standings

The 'Woods are on the move ...

Team	Wins	Losses
Desperados	7	2
Deadwoods	6	3
TTC	5	3
Bushwackers	5	3
Vipers	4	5
We Produce	2	7
Lazers	1	7

Something to Think About on Fan Appreciation Day

What is it that makes Fan Appreciation Day so special? Is it that special bonding between the fans and the players? There is definitely something special about Fan Appreciation Day that has made it one of the most awaited events of the season. After 10 years of Deadwood softball, it is a good time to contemplate the meaning of this great tradition.

Some have actually questioned why we even call it Fan Appreciation Day. Says Mrs. Rocky, "How is it Fan Appreciation Day if we [the fans] do all the cooking?" Rocky's response, "ah she's just feeling a little bitchy. Besides, how am I supposed to appreciate her if she don't cook?"

Some (cheap bastards) think of Fan Appreciation Day as good cheap fun. Says Lurch, "hey that plastic-ware do

wash up pretty good ... don't it?" Beef adds, "I've gotten by the past ten years on just one tank of propane. Not bad ... when you consider all the food I have eaten."

Ah, the food ... some say food is the main attraction of Fan Appreciation Day. "I just can't get enough of Rocky's cookin," say Liz Kral. "And Roots burgers are the best." What's Root's secret? Says Root, "acutually I found through Dan, that cheap bastard, that if you go to the Vietnamese restaurant on Montgomery and San Pedro you can get leftover dog and cat gristle real cheap ... cheaper than hamburger helper and just as delicious ... yummy."

There you have it. There's something for everyone at Fan Appreciation Day. Maybe it's best not to over-analyze. Just sit back, set that burger on your stained paper plate, and enjoy the moment. It only comes once a year.

Scary Deadwood Questions ...

These are questions that we all wonder about, but are afraid to ask ...

Q: What will Flex look like the morning after the drinking contest with Lurch?

Q: What does Goose do at Sandia? He doesn't have access to nuclear materials, does he?

Q: Why does Liz call her husband "Beef" even when they are at home?

Q: What would Big Dog look like in ladies underwear?

Q: Will Lurch ever reproduce?

No Words Necessary



The Veteran

The serious side of Goose

He pulled his car into the field's parking lot and sat looking at the empty diamond. First to show at the first practice of yet another season, the veteran of many campaigns. Why are the experienced (chronologically challenged) the first to arrive - out of habit, courtesy, fear? Stiff yet eager joints haul the weary yet anxious frame from the vehicle into an immediate and mandatory full body stretch. Equipment, both new and old, is pulled from the vehicle, the knight and his accouterments. "I need a page to help me carry this junk." Other cars arrive, other cars driven by other veterans. Time still for him to appreciate his presence here; a few moments of solitude while the others collect their gear. The satisfaction of still feeling the urge, the desire, the joy. Yet another season of funny looks, smirks, half-hidden ridicule and the even occasional expression of envy from peers long retired from games of their youth. Another series of explanations, arguments, and compromises with the spouse, off-spring and relatives. Another period of increased aches and pains. Any season could be the last due to injury (including the first)-no fear of that now. All for a few moments of boyish-like enjoyment in a game all but devoid of adult meaning and rationale. Ah, this silly little game

played with sticks and balls, gloves and bases.

He may be too old to still be doing this, he's just not old enough to stop.

-Goose Williamson

Roots Average Takes Nose-Dive

Makes a good arguement for preseason practice

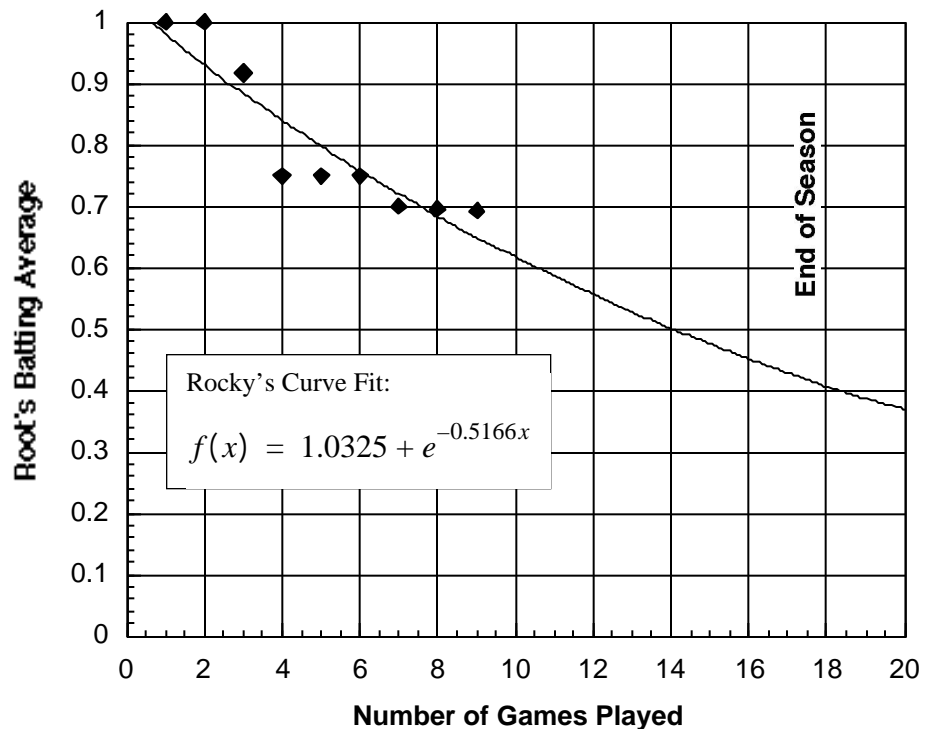
The first day of practice this season was the same as many other Deadwood preseason practices. Enthusiasm was high, the arms were a little sore, and Root was nowhere to be found. Continuing his boycott of all forms of practice, Root started off the season with his first swing at the plate against The Desperados. What followed was a magnificent display of batting that ended with Root going 4 for 4. Root's average was the highest on the team ... including all those guys who practiced. Coach Rocky was in awe of this spectacle. Had Root discovered a training secret that the team should follow? Root's second game was just as strong, again batting 1.000. The third game Root dropped to 2 for 3. But who could complain? Root had to miss sooner or later. Besides, at 0.917 he

still had the highest average on the team. Yet no one could see the avalanche that was coming. With each game Root's batting average dropped even further. His results are plotted in the graph below. The trend is obvious. The question is, how low can it go? Coach Rocky, being the constant strategist and planner, curve fit the data to see where Root was headed. How strong would Root be by tournament time when he will be needed the most? Says Rocky, "it looks like an exponential decay." According to Rocky's best predictions, Root will be batting a near 0.410 *cummulative* average by the end of the season. Root is currently 18 for 26 on the season. To hit 0.410 by season's end, Root will probably hit somewhere about 4 for 26 in the second half of the season. Rocky concludes "I think it is safe to say that Root peaked a little too early this season."

Check out the 'Woods on the Web!
<http://www.unm.edu/~slhoffm/Deadwoods/index.html>

Closing Fine Print

This publication is intended for mature adults, primarily those with a sense of humor. The authors of the Dead-Beat make no claims to the accuracy of the material contained herein. The names have been changed to protect the innocent.



Root's cummulative batting average as a function of games played this season.