



# QSBL

20 YEARS

QUEEN STREET BASEBALL LEAGUE

## CORONATION CALAMITY

By Dan Faucher

Sunday May 28th will go down as a day of infamy for the Queen St. Baseball League. At 5:45 in the afternoon, an ominous cloud cover hanging over Coronation Park broke, and teams breathed a sigh of relief as they warmed up for a six o'clock start. This elemental victory was only short lived, as an invading force swept through the park, destroying all hope of QSBL glory on the venerable fields by the lake. Scuttling down from their nests in Skydome Condoland, or some such unsavory place, swarthy members of another league announced their arrival, waving park permits, demonstrating bad hair, and dashing the dreams of our men and women in the field. It was only the dignified and diplomatic manner shown by our players that averted bloodshed on that fateful day.

Moving rapidly, so as not to waste a single moment of light, teams Squirly's

and Stiffs mobilized with lightning speed and precision, mapping out a plan that would land them at Bickford Park. The Crushers (known to many as Coronas) and Foggy Dew hung their heads only momentarily before moving out to Little Norway. Games that day proceeded with some delay. The Stiffs, wounded and worn down by the unanticipated exercise, suffered defeat at the hands of a powerful Squirly's team. Meanwhile, the Crushers



*Stiffs manager, Alison watches on as her team plays Squirly's at Bickford Park.*

JIM MCALLISTER | STIFFS

(while still trying to shake the Coronas moniker) continued their winning ways

likely over a beer. After grueling deliberation, it was decided that for the

despite a valiant effort by Foggy Dew.

Following the invasion and ultimate occupation of Coronation Park, a special meeting of the QSBL Commissioner and Co-commissioner's office was called somewhere, at some point, and

time being, or until somebody comes up with a better plan, games scheduled at Coronation would now be played at Bickford Park (Harbord and Grace) and Little Norway (Bathurst south of Lakeshore). As for Coronation Park, while it will always hold a special place in the annals of the QSBL, no games will be scheduled there until further notice or until the invading league is somehow brought to heel.



*Coronation Park. Games scheduled here will be played at Bickford Park and Little Norway until further notice. It was a little out of the way anyway.*

JODIE FISCHER | THE MENACE

# SEASON OPENER

By Jodie Fischer

Mothers' day 2005 left some mothers wondering where they went wrong. I know I sure ditched my mom to play the long awaited first game of the season. Actually, we had a satisfying lunch together at Shanghai Cowgirl, but with the lame explanation that I had something apparently

more important, and much more fun to do later.

It was a beautiful spring day that brought many smiling faces to the ballpark. Old friends and rivals alike joined together to briefly get reacquainted before riding off to their respective games. The long anticipated season opener did not disappoint.



JODIE FISCHER | THE MENACE

*A talented vocalist belts out our national anthem at season opener while members of QSBL sing along.*

# DIAMOND DOGS BEAT MENACE IN BOTTOM OF 9

By Benjamin Field

Week 3 proved another tough contest for the Diamond Dogs as the team squeaked out a 6-5 victory over the Menace in what may have been the most exciting game in team history. As usual the team displayed some amazing defense, playing virtually error free ball. Of the many highlights the second base tandem of Danis and Alana were fabulous, a virtual baseball black hole on the right side of the infield. The arms in the outfield showed off their prowess, notably Chris throwing out a runner trying to go first to third on a

single and Ben throwing out a runner at first from right field on a hard hit ball that got through the infield.

However the play of the day makes these pale in comparison. Heading into the top of the ninth the Dogs led the Menace 6-4. With one out and a runner on base the Menace's KellyAnn was at the plate. All day she had hit the ball solidly

and the Dogs' defense was aligned in preparation for another well struck ball.

Again KellyAnn made good contact, however this time

she had hit the ball with such authority that it screamed over the heads of the Dogs' outfield. The ball skipped though left field at Trinity South, eventually passing the trees and rolling out onto the asphalt. As



JODIE FISCHER | THE MENACE

*The Menace's Paul Mergler one fine evening.*

the Dogs outfield sprinted after the ball the runner on base scored drawing the game to within one run. After an excellent under-the-trees relay from Johnny, Bart, now in mid left field, had the ball. As KellyAnn rounded the corner at 3rd and ran for the plate, representing the tying run, Bart threw home. The throw was online, but hit the dirt 6 feet in front of the plate. Off one hop, the catcher Alana came up with the ball and the runner was out by a step. One more out, a scorcher to first handled adeptly by Tony and the Dogs won 6-5, moving to 3-0 on the season.

# COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

By Paul Le Page

In the beginning I was a little younger, but then I suppose most of us were. The El Mocambo was still trying hard to be the place to be, but others were sneaking up on it. The Cameron stole a few, the Beverly Tavern others. One fateful night, I was drifting, not sure where to look for a few stubbies.

The Fiesta Restaurant sure wasn't the place of choice, a little too trendy for my likings and small town upbringing, except on nights when some punk band was tooting up the street at the Masonic Temple.

Whether the restaurant threw him on my lap, or whether I fell through the

doors onto his has left my memory. If only I had stopped smoking so much dope (it gets stronger while I get weaker).

His name was Dennis Stewart, and he wanted to start a baseball team to play in this league that was playing out of Queen Street

bars. We were to be called LOS FIASCOS, and we would live up to our name. To be continued...



JODIE FISCHER | THE MENACE

*Commissioner Paul Le Page delivers his traditional opening day speech.*

# DIAMOND DOGS HAVE FUN

By Benjamin Field

DAN FAUCHER | STIFFS

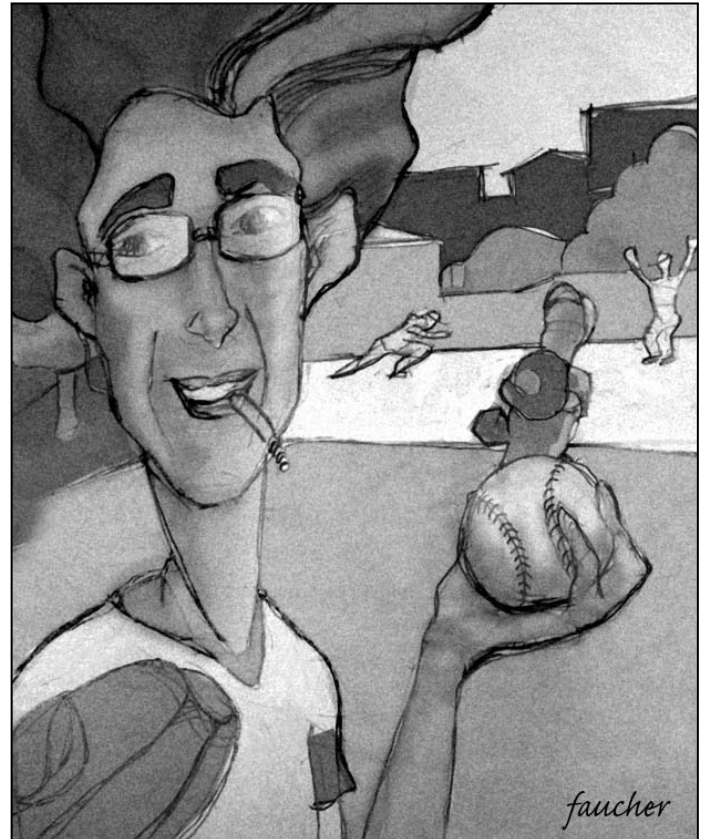
In the spring of 2003 following the demise of my slo-pitch team I was desperate to find a fun league in which to play ball. After some searching I found the QSBL and decided to put together a team. The squad was cobbled together on some strict criteria: 1) must want to have fun playing, and be at least a little fun 2) must drink beer, and 3) must try to do well (actually doing well not-so-much). Throw in a forced Bowie reference and the Diamond Dogs were born.

The resulting team is an eclectic mix who have tons of fun both on the field and of course, later at the bar. Winning only one game, the first season was not a success in terms of victories though it was hugely enjoyable for the team. In large part this was due to the league being

so welcoming and largely sharing our team's fun first, beer second, and winning third (if at all) philosophy.

Finally, this season the Dogs have been able to pay some attention to the third tenet of the team philosophy (we're a tad slow) and have come out to a surprising 3 – 0 start. I'm not sure if it's because the rust has started to come off some neglected skills, or just that our team is in much better shape after chasing down so many opponents hits the first couple of years, but the team is starting to put things together.

It's too early to tell if the Diamond Dogs will be contenders or merely pretenders this year, but one thing is certain; the team will be well represented at the bar after games.



*Diamond Dogs' Ben Field explains his team's philosophy.*

## VIEW FROM THE BENCH

By Shaun Armour



I've always classified softball as one of the great "sports of kings." In this vein softball keeps good company with darts, golf, bowling, croquet and pool. By "sport of kings" I mean a sport in which you can drink beer, smoke and generally move slowly, with only occasional bursts of energy. Beer and fastball were never as good a fit. Who can hit that fast-moving

little ball when you're half in the bag? Instead of getting rid of the beer, ingenious plodders solved the problem by making the ball bigger and throwing it underhand. Voila, softball was born.

After an eight-year hiatus from this glorious sport I was thrilled when I got the call from manager Paul Le Page. Put me in coach, I thought. For the week before my first game, W.P. Kinsella

visions of softball grandeur ran through my head. I imagined myself hitting it out of the park, or making a diving, game-saving catch. Ah visions—like a headfirst slide that comes up two feet short of the base, they're so nice until they're shattered by reality.

Apparently, in the eight years since I last played I've grown older, slower, and my eyesight is failing. I know what you're thinking. Playing baseball is like riding a bike. And maybe you're right, but with two strikeouts in my first game, I think it's safe to say that I crashed that bike, and crashed it good. Still, the sun was shining, the breeze

was blowing and my new teammates were good spirited and encouraging.

The season is now a month old, and while for me there have been no more strikeouts (and sadly no ball-crushing, game-winning homeruns), there has been ample sunshine and camaraderie. My teammates continue to amuse and enthuse, and the game still moves along at its humanely lackadaisical pace. Menace is a respectable two and two, with our eyes firmly on the prize (there's a keg for the winner, right? Right!?!).

So happily, even with my eyesight failing, the view from the bench is good.

# STANDINGS

TEAM RANKING		W L T
1	DIAMOND DOGS	4-0
2	CORONA CRUSHERS	4-0
3	DONERIGHT	3-0-1
4	HORSESHOE	2-1-1
5	SQUIRLY'S	2-1
6	THE MENACE	2-2
7	BRASS TAPS (ASS TAPPERS)	2-2
8	STRIKERS	1-3
9	SHANGHAI COWGIRLS	1-3
10	REBELS	1-3
11	FOGGY DEWS	0-3
12	STIFFS	0-4

# QSBL NEWS

Thanks to everyone who contributed to QSBL News Issue #1. Without your stories, photos, and illustrations this newsletter wouldn't be much fun to read. Keep 'em coming!

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Team captains please report game scores to Chris Adamson at [ca@area.ca](mailto:ca@area.ca) so that standings can be updated accordingly.

# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

**ALL QSBLers ARE INVITED TO MAKE SUBMISSIONS TO THE QSBL NEWSLETTER.**

Submissions can be feature stories about a game, about a team, a post-game bar story, or anything relating to the QSBL. Further ideas for stories could also involve stories about sponsoring bars, little known facts about the league and classified

personals (I saw you, did you see me? Meet me in the dug-out, I'll be wearing fishnets and a wig). Please keep word count to 350 words or less.

Make sure your team is represented by emailing digital photos of grand-standing plays and embarrassing moments.

Deadline for issue #2 submissions is June 30. PLEASE CONTACT JODIE AT [jfish@sympatico.ca](mailto:jfish@sympatico.ca).



JODIE FISCHER | THE MENACE

*QSBLers young and old gather together for opening day festivities. New blood stands out in a sea of familiar faces.*

CHRIS ADAMSON | CRUSHERS



*Another future QSBL-er*