



Your host,
Dave Henderson



Saturday, January 24

“The Best Fantasy Camps Have to Offer”



Eric Reifschneider leaps over a sliding Mike Murphey Friday afternoon.

Championship seedings are finalized

As it has all week, the bad inning spelled doom for the G Force Friday as the Obamas shut them out 11-0 to advance today's Oakland Athletics Fantasy Camp Championship against Tres Veces.

And on the Mariners side of the ledger, The A List prevailed over BB's Banditos 13-3 to earn its spot in the M's camp championship against Sayonara Bush.

The championship games will be the third meeting between the teams in each instance.

Scores			
BB's Banditos 8 - Sayonara Bush 4			
Obamas 11 - G Force 0			
The A List 13 - BB's Banditos 3			
Tres Veces 9 - Sayonara Bush 9			
M's Standings		A's Standings	
Sayonara Bush	3 - 2 - 1	Tres Veces	5 - 1 - 1
The A List	3 - 2	Obamas	3 - 3
BB's Banditos	3 - 3	G Force	1 - 6

“We had an outstanding team performance,” Obamas manager Shooty Babitt said following the game.

“If we play the way we are capable of playing, we're going to be fine (Saturday.)”

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Keith Comstock

Comstock practices a difficult patience

Keith Comstock does his best to be patient and suppress his instinct to scream while all around him his baseball team is crumbling.

It happened Friday when, after playing a very solid 7 innings of baseball, and holding onto a comfortable 9-3 lead, Keith's Sayonara Bush squad managed to give up 6 runs in the bottom of the 8th and allow Tres Veces to emerge from the experience with a 9-9 tie.

The game was called on account of darkness.

As Keith called his team together following the final-inning, he looked every bit like Tom Hanks in the famous scene from A League of Their Own, in which Jimmy Duggan struggles to contain himself when imploring his female center fielder to hit the cutoff man. His instinct was to say things that would make her cry. But he did not.

And sure enough, Keith managed to convey his contempt for this ugly Friday performance in a

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Paul Nishimura attempts to get past Kevin Noreen in a play at the plate.



Veteran Gary Hopper hurls the spheroid.

Keith...

manner that left no players in tears, but undoubtedly left Keith looking desperately for someone's dog to kick.

In sorting out his frustration, though, he should heed his own words of just a day before – words that sum up Fantasy Camp baseball reality as well as any ever spoken.

On a routine ball to the right side of the infield, Busher first baseman Andy Hesser failed to cover first base, assuming, we suppose, that pitcher Jerry Radich would be there.

Said Keith to Andy upon the latter's return to the bench:

"If this was normal baseball, yes, I'd expect the pitcher to be there. But this is not normal baseball. And Jerry is not a normal pitcher.

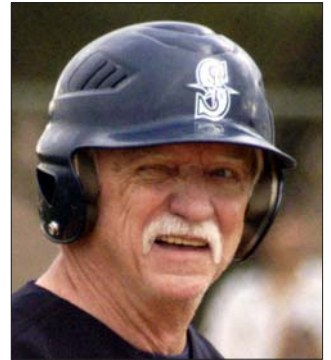
"So you've got to cover first base!"

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Shooty Babitt congratulates Lisa Hoffmann on her 2009 hit.

The week in pictures...



Championship...

For once, Babitt's ramblings do not seem to be exaggerations.

The Obamas pitching and defense produced the rarest of fantasy camp phenomenon – the 9-inning shutout.

Pitchers Scott Wagner, Eddie Contreras and Jon Westmoreland baffled the G Forcers, allowing only seven hits while walking two and striking out three.

In the meantime, the G Force reacquainted itself with its week-long nemesis – The Big Inning.

The game was a scoreless tie going into the 4th inning when the Obamas broke through with a single run. The 5th inning, however, was lurking just off stage, and when it arrived, it brought a 5-run outburst, followed by another 5-run deluge in the 7th.

Greg Giordano managed two hits in three at-bats for the anemic G Force offense. On the Obamas' side of the ledger, Scott Wagner had two hits and 5 RBI.

After a couple of recent setbacks, Shooty was relieved to see the team he thought he had drafted reappear.

"We are who we thought we are," Shooty said.

After defeating Mariners first-place finisher Sayonara Bush in the morning game, The A List struggled in the semifinal game Friday afternoon.

"Our biggest problem is that we are just beat up," A List manager Brian Holman said. "I'm proud of these guys. They played hard every time out. But we are just too beat up."



Steve Nardi slides safely under the tag of Lance Morgan.

After playing to the point of exhaustion in a triple-header on Thursday, the A List had Friday morning off before taking on the Banditos.

Manager Tom Lampkin said the A List is peaking in all phases of its game going into the championship game against the Bushers.

"This was the best all-round game we've had all camp," Lampkin said. "And physically, everyone is going to be ready for Saturday."

Lampkin said he always makes it a point to get his team into the training room for ice and treatment after the game and the routine has paid off.

"All we have to do tomorrow is execute, and we'll be fine," Lampkin said.

Craig Freshour had 3 hits and 3 RBI for the A List. Scott Zanzig and Bruce Morrison also had big offensive days.

On the A's side of the camp, Tres Veces wrapped up its first-place seed a couple of days ago.

But Sayonara Bush backed into its spot as top seed in the M's championship.

BB Banditos defeated the Bushers 8-4 Friday morning, forging a 3-2 tie in the standings. But the Bushers went to the championship game based on its better record within the Mariners conference. Playing other M's teams, Bush had one loss and the Banditos had two.

The Banditos score all of their runs in the first two innings, and the Bushers could not overcome the deficit. Drew Archibald was 2 for 3 to lead the Bushers offense. Tim Colwell had 3 hits and 2 RBI, and Eric Burak had 2 hits and 3 RBI for the Banditos.

In the Friday afternoon confrontation between the top A's and M's seeds, Sayonara Bush blew a 9-3 lead in the bottom of the 8th and left the field with a 9-9 tie with Tres Veces.

Drew Archibald was 2 for 2 for the Bushers. Ralph Archibald was 3 for 4 and Matt Stannard was 2 for 2. For Tres Veces, Jerry Hicks was 2 for 3. Chris Thielen, Dave Henderson and Jack DuBeau were all 2 for 4.