



Mar. 15, 06 – Issue 3, Vol 2

CURRENT STANDINGS

Team	W	L	T	F	Score
PrgChr	4	0	0	0	8
WWHac	3	1	0	0	6
AceOfB	1	1	2	0	4
Green	2	2	0	0	4
RustyT	1	2	1	0	3
JVKno	1	2	1	1	2
Tang	1	3	0	0	2
TrtlW	0	2	2	1	1

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Week 5 – 03/15/06

Game 17- 7pm field1:

Tang @ McCool Town
(ump: WW & Pregs)

Game 18- 8pm Field1:

WstsdeWhakrs @ Pregnt Cheerldrs
(ump: Tang@McCool)

Game 19- 8pm field2:

Ace of Base @ Greenorhea
(ump: Rusty&Turtle)

Game 20- 9pm field1:

RustyTs @ TurtleWrngIrs
(ump: Ace & Green)

DIVISION BAR NEWS



We encourage everyone to head over to Brennan's after the game. They're not just a great bar, they also give us a great deal, \$2.50 burgers and \$2.50 draft domestic beers each game night!



RSVP For Midseason Party

We have a little reminder here for everyone that is planning on going to the midseason party on Tuesday, March 21st. Please RSVP for the event as soon as possible. Our organizers have a lot to plan and the party will be much better if we know how many are coming. So if you're just waiting to form a flip-cup team, RSVP that you'll attend and send in your flip cup team later. RSVPs can be sent to: drinkforcharity@gmail.com

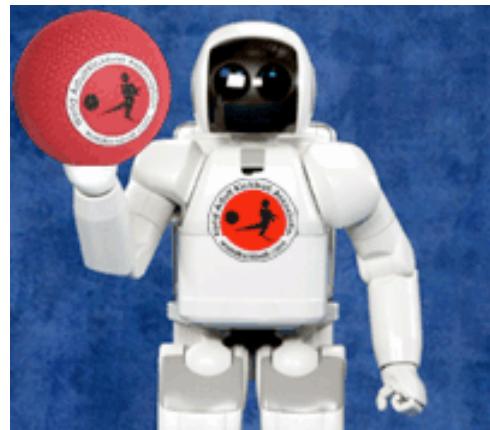
The Rules In Review

By Chris Hutchings

Last week, there was a bit of confusion about what constitutes a force play and how a run can be scored in the same play that a 3rd out is made. Well, I'm proud to say that many have poured through numerous

different rules for baseball and softball and in the end, the answer is right there in the WAKA rulebook. Almost.

To help us clarify the rules this week, I'd like to introduce W.A.C.K.E.R. (the World Adult Complicated Kickball Explanation Robot). He was developed by WAKA scientists in conjunction with the people at Popeil to help illustrate complicated kickball rules and repair fields in zero-gee.



WACKER would like to start by pointing you to WAKA rules 10.05 and 10.09. The first one has to deal with tag-ups and states that a runner that leaves base before the kicked ball is touched or caught must tag-up, and the tag-up is a force play. 10.09 then states that any runners that reach home before the 3rd out is made will count as a run scored UNLESS the 3rd out is a result of a force play. So that's pretty clear... but there's a few terms that should be defined so every player is on the same page. (That's like our mission statement or something: The Rules In Review's only purpose is to make sure everyone's action items are on the same page – and not to mix corporate buzzwords.) We'll first define all the force plays and then see how they apply to a few situations when a 3rd out and a run coincide.

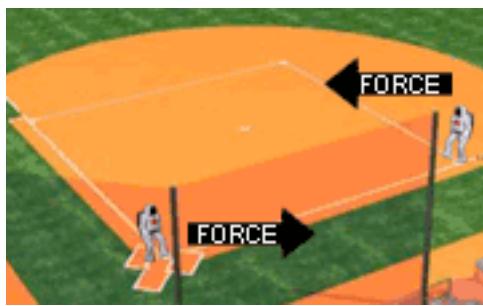
There is no clear definition of "force plays" in the rules (except in reference to tag-ups in 10.05), so we can only assume they're similar to baseball and softball otherwise. This means that the only time a runner is "forced" to advance, is when another runner is forced to advance on the base they occupy. The

Con't on pg 2, left column

WAKA Dog town Division GMOT, Wednesday, March 15, 2006

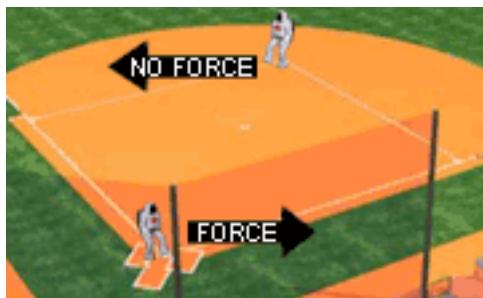
"Rules In Review" Con't from pg 1

kicker is ALWAYS forced to advance to 1st if the ball lands in fair territory and is not caught. Therefore, that means that any runner on 1st is forced to advance to 2nd, 2nd is forced to advance to 3rd, 3rd to home. WACKER will demonstrate in the graphic below. It is assumed that the WACKER on home kicked the ball and it landed in fair territory.



In the graphic above, if either of these runners advances more than one base in the same play, then they are no longer involved in a force play. For example, if the robot on 1st runs to 2nd and keeps running to 3rd, then the run from 2nd to 3rd is not a force. But let's say the robot on 1st runs to 2nd and stops and the robot that kicked the ball does not see that he stopped and keeps running after he touches 1st. Even though no base can be occupied by two runners and no runner can pass a runner in front of them, the kicker is no longer in a force situation after he touches 1st. (He can definitely get out, though.) The easiest way to remember this is that each time the ball is kicked and lands in fair territory, only one base is obligatory for each runner unless the base behind them is unoccupied.

WACKER is demonstrating a NON-FORCE situation in the graphic below. Again, assume the kicker has kicked a ball that landed in fair territory,



The runner on 2nd in the graphic above is under no

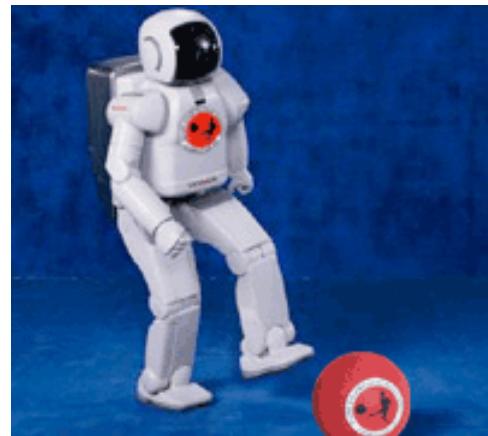
obligation to run, but can if he so chooses. He is still obliged to follow the rules of tagging-up, however, if he chooses to run to 3rd.

Which brings us to the last example of a force. This is in the event of a forced tag-up. Forced tag-ups differ from baseball and softball rulings. In WAKA rules, if a runner leaves base while the ball is in the air and then the ball is caught, the runner is then forced to tag the original base before advancing. So an obligatory tag-up is a force. Please note however, that if a runner leaves base AFTER the ball is touched or caught, they are no longer in a force situation.

So now that we know what all the force situations are, we can address runs that cross home before the 3rd out occurs in the inning. If a runner advancing from 3rd touches home before the 3rd out is made, the run will count as a score unless the 3rd out was a result of a force play. It's a matter of timing. So, hypothetically, let's say there's a runner on 3rd and a runner on 1st. There's one out in the inning. Events happen in this order:

- 1) The kicker kicks the ball, a pop fly.
- 2) The runner on 1st leaves base before the ball is caught. 3rd base runner stays.
- 3) The ball is caught. This is out number 2.
- 4) The runner on 3rd then advances to home, this is not a force play. The runner from 1st is forced to tag-up.
- 5) The runner from 3rd crosses home.
- 6) The runner from 1st is touched by the ball before tagging up at 1st. This is the 3rd out.

The runner from 3rd's score does not count because the 3rd out was a force play. If the runner on 1st advanced *after* the ball was touched and the runner from 3rd touched home before the runner from 1st was tagged, it would NOT be a force play and the run would score.



I know this is all sort of complicated. But that's why we built WACKER. His last word of advice for any player that's still confused is this: when you are on base, and your teammate kicks the ball, do not leave your base until the ball touches the ground or until the ball is physically touched by a fielder. Always pay attention to your base coach standing near 3rd, they can see what you cannot and will give you the best advice on whether to run or not. Then the only thing that matters is how fast you can run. Good luck players!

Lost & Found

If you have come across a black cashmere sweater that was left at the field anytime in the last few weeks, it belongs to Megan on Greenorhea. If you found it, she or a team mate will be on the field Wednesday. If you have lost anything at a game or at the bar, feel free to send the division an email and we'll post it in the GMOT for a few weeks. You can also notify us if you've found anything as well!

OUCH, THAT'S GOTTA HURT!

By Carey Melton

This is not an article about rules; this is an article about SAVING YOUR LIFE! Sort of. Well, not really. But, this is an article about making kickball a little bit safer. Over the seasons, I have witnessed several collisions on the basepaths and heard of numerous others. Last season, for instance, Whacker first baseman Michelle Constant received a full body check from Tang's Jorge Narino while Jorge was running to first. At the time, Michelle had her eyes on the ball (and foot a little too far onto first base) and was just inches from catching the ball to force Jorge out. Jorge had his eye on first base and was running full speed to try and tag the base before Michelle caught the ball. Michelle and Jorge collided, leaving Michelle flat on the ground and a disoriented Jorge repeatedly asking her if she was OK. Michelle only lost fourteen teeth and suffered a grade 5 concussion. Actually, despite a bruise, minor head-ache, and an apology (in the form of a free drink) from Jorge, she was fine. But, that hit sure did look painful. Let me stress that the contact between the two was accidental, and that neither Michelle nor Jorge were penalized for the play.

We have all heard of WAKA Rule 10.02 which states that fielders must stay out of the baseline. **While this is true, it should also be made clear that if a base runner intentionally runs into a fielder, or intentionally makes physical contact with the fielder, the play will be considered unsafe, and the runner will be called out. The ump will also have the authority to eject the base runner from the game (pursuant to WAKA rule 3.03), should he/she determine that it is necessary.** This is true whether the fielder is in the baseline or not. On the other hand, if the runner accidentally runs into (or makes other physical contact with) the fielder,

the play will be governed by WAKA Rule 10.02.

Most kickball collisions occur when base runners run into fielders. Sometimes, it's the base runners fault; sometimes, it's not. The bottom line is that if the contact is made accidentally, play continues. If the contact is made intentionally, the runner will be called out. This WILL BE ENFORCED to ensure the safety of all of our players. It will be left to the umpire's discretion to determine whether the runner will be ejected from the game.

Fielders, it is still your responsibility to stay out of the basepath. Umps, it is your responsibility to enforce this rule and to look out for the safety of our players. Following are a few base running and fielding tips to help make kickball a little bit more fun and a lot less painful.

TIPS FOR THIS RULE:

- If you are playing first or third, only stand on the inside corner of the base (the one closest to the pitching mound). If you are playing second, again, only a corner need be touched. Which one depends on the situation.
- TOO many times, I have seen fielders with their foot square in the middle of the base. This is unnecessary. See the tip above.
- Be aware of your surroundings and the situation. Be aware that a poorly thrown ball may put you directly in the path of the base runner.
- As a runner, keep your head up while running. Many times, to get that extra burst of speed, a runner will do his/her best impression of the running of the bulls. This is kickball, not Spain.
- As an umpire, watch for fielders interfering with runners, whether unintentional or not. If this occurs, the player is safe at the base to which they are running. PLEASE note though that interference only occurs if the fielder is not making an active play at the base.
- DO NOT intentionally grab a base runner or fielder while in play. Unless you are saving the person from a meteor strike. Or a runaway train.

If you would like to ask me about a specific situation, or have any comments, you can e-mail me at careymelton27@yahoo.com.

Kick-Pic!



Each issue, we'll pick a great kick-pic to post in the issue. If you have a picture for submission, email it to chris@gargrazz.com. Make sure it's WAKA-relevant. Either from a game, a WAKA event, or at the division bar and involves registered WAKA kickballers. This week's pic is of the World Famous Rusty-T dancers.

The Kickball Beer Troubleshooting Guide

Have you ever found yourself playing a game and you've been drinking and there's suddenly an unexpected situation? This chart was created for just such situations. Using elaborate, space-age chart technology, we have created a system to dispense advice for potentially embarrassing drunken kickball scenarios.

Please note that there is no drinking on our field. This is just in case you're playing in some other division that can drink on their field... which reminds us... if you know of any private softball fields in the Venice area that we could swoop on for free, then hook us up.



SYMPTOM	CAUSE	CORRECTIVE ACTION
Field getting sticky	Glass Being held at incorrect angle	Rotate glass so that open end points toward sky.
Feet warm and wet	Improper Bladder Control	Stand next to nearest opposing team member, complain about lack of house training
Beer unusually pale and tasteless	Glass empty	Get someone to get you a new beer
Home plate is covered by REALLY bright lights	You have fallen over backward	Have yourself leashed to the foul pole
Mouth contains dirt and/or grass, tastes like crack	You have fallen forward	See above
Beer tasteless, front of your shirt is wet	Mouth not open	You are not taking full advantage of your team practices
Field Blurred	You are looking through bottom of empty glass	Get someone to get you a new beer
Field moving in slow, loping bounces	You are being carried away	Insist that you are next in the kicking order
Field seems unusually dark	Game is over	Study the effects of aerodynamics while running the base path naked
Game suddenly takes on colorful aspect and textures	Beer consumption has exceeded personal limitations	Cover mouth, move in the direction of opposing team's dugout.
Everyone looks up to you and smiles	You are dancing on top of the backstop cage... AGAIN	Fall on someone attractive and cushy-looking
Beer is crystal-clear	It's water, somebody is trying to sober you up	Punch them
Hands hurt, nose hurts, mind unusually clear	You have been in a fight	Apologize to everyone you see, just in case it was them
Don't recognize anyone and balls are black and white	You've wandered over to the pee-wee soccer game	See if they have free beer
You only kick foul balls	You're not drunk enough	Have more beer until your kicks improve
Don't remember , clockwise or counter?	Beer is just right	Run both ways, just in case.

The Week Four Recaps

In addition to any reviews of the games we do on the website, we'd like to include player-eye-view recaps of the games submitted by players that actually played in the games. This gives us a better opportunity to mention the great plays, the heroic players and the scathing smack-talk. So if you feel your team is not properly represented in this newsletter, then we encourage you to nominate yourself as the team rep for weekly recaps and submit them to us! If you're not up for it, help find someone on your team to handle them. These submissions should be in to our writers before the weekend so we can include them in the publication by Wednesday morning.

Pregnt Cheerldrs 6, RustyTs 0

From Cheerleaders: They are a force of nature, an act of God, something to be feared and reviled. Like a purple wave of kickball pain they wash over your meager team and leave you stranded on rooftops like tsunami victims. They are the Pregnant Cheerleaders and they joined this league to do two things:

1. Chew Bubblegum
2. Kick ass

Unfortunately the Dusty G's last Wednesday found the Cheerleaders without one stick of Hubba Bubba so they treated the marching band wannabes like 10-year olds at a NAMBLA convention. That is to say we abused them. Co-Captain Kevin Meister had this to say, "We beat their asses black and blue. And we won the game too...DOUBLE E!!!"

As far as game details go... Pat Sattler was a man on a mission, and he got more than a little help from our own Texas Tornado, Tish Simmons. Some awesome pitching and catching in the field was complemented by a two-run dinger by Sattler to right center field. He almost had time to pick up Tish's dropped hat as he rounded third following her home. (We keep telling him that stalking is bad, but he doesn't listen.) That homerun, and some great aggressive baserunning, led the Cheerleaders to a 6-0 final score.

From Rusty T's: Week 4 was another tough setback for the Rusty T's, although team Mom's Mann-Hose and Corner Paint'n Perry did supply a delectable punch. The Pregnant Cheerleaders were able to wreak havoc on our noble heroes even with their oft-present swollen feet. The Trombones were just not able to mount any sustained offensive momentum. Far too many base runners were stranded, harkening back to the days of Robin Yount longingly staring off at second, just knowing that Pat Borders wasn't punching him in.

Defensively, the Trombones remained without cat-like reflexed Diet Todd, but made very few physical errors. On occasion, though, a Trombone or two made a rectal-cranial inspired play. In the end, by playing in the 7pm time slot, the Trombones were able to launch an early assault on Brennan's with the bulk of the team showing up for the festivities. With prime seating and a plethora of talent, the infamous Trombone Girls easily vanquished the Pregnant Cheerleaders in the much-ballyhooed "WAKA Dance-Off '06."

With groggy heads, the Rusty T's lifted Jaeggermeister, SoCo & Lime, and numerous Bud Lights in hopes for warmer weather to return and more grand old times. First baseman, Charger, was even left to ponder, "If this is how he act when we lose, imagine what we'll be like here when we win."

Westside Whackers 6, McCool Town JV Knockers 4

From Knockers: It's simple, the Wackers' powerhouse Babe Ruth-like pitcher could not be stopped by the Knockers - hitting a home run early in the game and then giving the Knockers trouble at the plate. Although the Knockers kept it close with great base running by "Crazy legs" Kat Lee and all around sold performances by Andrea "Rule Book" Saunders, Kris "Big Hands" Rossfeld and Ian "Look at my form" Landgreen, Michael "1, 2, 3 strikes your out" Black let the team down at the end of the game. A strikeout, a foul out and then an intentional walk involving the same player in one game . . . has it ever been seen before? The Knockers are looking into doping allegations regarding the Wackers' pitcher and would like to know where he was over the past couple of months (we have subpoenaed BALCO's records). We demand a paper-forfeit - he was just too good.

From Whackers: Sorry Knockers, no paper forfeit for you. No whining about the pitching mound either. The Whackers, once again, brought home the bacon (no, you still can't have any, Carey) for a winning score of 6-4. The Whackers pulled ahead during the first inning when Mike Fratarcangeli kicked a home run and brought in Dane Johnson. The first inning closed with a 2-2 score, but the Whackers were just getting warmed up. During the second inning, Whackers Captain Carey Melton kicked the ball hard & fast to center field to bring Paul Stanley

WAKA Dog town Division GMOT, Wednesday, March 15, 2006

home. Carey, known for his sometimes sketchy base-running maneuvers and SLOOOOOOOOOOW base-running, tried to run to second after seeing the Knockers scramble to get the ball. Unfortunately, the Knockers second baseman beaned the hell out of Carey with it. No sweat though, by this time the Whackers were up, 3-2. In the fourth inning, Paul pulled a triple & brought in Scott Gizer, Dane Johnson and Mike Fratarcangeli for a 6-4 score. We can't complain about the Knockers, though. Despite the fact that they lost, they managed to buy a Goldschlager shot for Whacker Goodwill Ambassador Michelle Constant after she offered to buy one for their captain. Meanwhile, the other Whackers joined WAKA rep Pat Sattler in enjoying the "show" put on by Brennan's live entertainment.

Turtle Wranglers 6, Ace Of Base 6

From Wranglers: What looked like a possible first win to the Wranglers would have to wait another week. Both teams put up a hard fight. It was to be a defensive masterpiece for the first four innings of the game and the Wranglers were able to put some numbers up on their offense. The Wranglers were lead by Ryan Gales who had a three run homerun in the third inning and was robbed of his second homerun of the night, had it not been for a missed step coming around first base and slipping. The Wranglers took a three run lead in the bottom of the fifth inning when their defense took a hit.

Ace of Base was able to score one run off of the pitcher Mario with an RBI double. Later Mario walked a player to load the bases with one out. He would later give up a game tying double and the Game would have to be called a split. It was a very entertaining night and we give Ace of Base their well deserved respect. Good game for all. We are glad that it's the last time Wranglers have to play on that mud trap. On a side note, I am happy to say that two of the best mustaches were battling on the field that night... It was a battle of the cool mustaches.

From Ace: Due to a pending rocket launch, a big budget feature, and assorted other seemingly bogus excuses, a forfeit dwindled before the Aces on Thursday night. Flakey girls who don't want to play on the dirty field in the frigid winter air, you say? No, actually, we only had 3 guys confirmed. Then, miraculously, Grant came through for his Aces and filled the slot of the fourth pre-requisite male. So then, with just a few good men and a decent showing of girls (4 guys, 7 girls, how do you like them odds?), the Few, the Proud, the Aces, proceeded to get three runs right off the bat.

With acrobatics by team wild card Kevin at 3rd base, brilliant rookie pitching by Ryan, and our nice guy/aggressive catcher, Ben, Aces were able to hold off the Turtles for a few innings. And then, by some stroke of luck (or perhaps due to the fact that the Turtles have some powerhouse kickers!), the Turtles out ran the now-cocky Aces by 3 runs! That's right, 5th inning: 6-3. But luckily, Molly made some rocky road (*please see article about investigation pg 7*), which is known for its performance enhancing powers. The team gobbled them down and Poof! 3 runs - Aces tied the Turtle Wranglers with only 4 guys. We went from near-forfeit to tie. And that's why I love kickball! The moral of the story? Next time you regulate all of your womenfolk to the tail end of your line up, just keep in mind - our players with the best kicking averages just happen to be girls.

Greenorhea 3, Tang 1

From Greenies: In what will go down in WAKA history as a game played for higher stakes than simple wins and losses, but indeed, for venereal disease legitimacy worldwide, Greenorrhea emerged the muddied winner on Wednesday night. The little STD that could looked into the eyes of the powdered, orange beast, and through injury, cold and confusing rules, managed to take home their first official win in two seasons of play.

Is this a sign of things to come? The league trembles...for like the cuddly hamster that is so adorable before it tastes human blood for the first time and becomes a rabid killing machine, Greenhorrea has tasted victory. And its thirst for more CAN NOT BE QUENCHED!

Be afraid, for there is a lurking monster in your underpants...and its focus is on a championship...

Not from Tang: Tang is, apparently, on a recap strike until such time as they win a game. We suppose they're following their mothers' advice: "If you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all."

GALLAGHER SUBJECT OF "ROCKY" INVESTIGATION

By Woody Carlbern

Dogtown President Carey Melton has announced an investigation into the use of performance-enhancing substances by team members of the kickball team Ace of Base (AoB), after AoB captain Molly Gallagher stated that her team routinely uses performance-enhancing "rocky road" brownie-like treats (see recap, this issue).

Dogtown guidelines provide, and encourage, that players ingest performance-diminishing substances such as beer, alcohol and fried foods after games. However, most performance-enhancing products are banned by the Dogtown division. Depending on the treats' ingredients coupled with Gallagher's comments, Gallagher may be the first player/coach to be punished under Dogtown's performance-enhancing substance abuse rules.

When asked what might happen to Gallagher, Melton responded, "Listen, in this division you're not guilty or innocent or whatever until proven guilty or innocent or whatever. I will be conducting a thorough investigation. If it calls for it, Molly may even have to make another batch of these 'rocky road' treats using the exact same recipe as before. I'll then send them to the labs for analysis and, if necessary, consumption. Until that day comes though, we will just have to wait and see what the investigative committee discovers."

Dogtown's Board first voiced concern of potential violations of the substance abuse policy after a woman allegedly on AoB's roster appeared for the first time at last Wednesday night's game. The mystery woman/player scored all six of Ace of Base's runs in the same inning. She also had six runs kicked in (RKIs) in the game. AoB tied the Turtle Wranglers 6-6. In the post-game interview, the player attributed her success to a strict work out regimen. Without being prompted, she denied eating any "rocky road" treats, and concluded her interview with this reporter with the comment: "No comment."

An AoB player close to the investigation contends that she hand-fed the mystery player the suspect treats in her car an hour before AoB's game with the Turtle Wranglers. She refuses to be identified until she is granted immunity by the league.

Upon watching AoB's new addition in action, Michelle Constant, Dogtown's Secretary and AoB defector, stated excitedly, "Damn!"

Melton was tending to his official duties as president while AoB played its game. Melton did not see the mystery player, but stated, "I saw the sign last season that Molly was serious with her team. I'm hoping the pressure of defending the championship hasn't caused her to stray to performance-enhancing treats." Melton added, "All that she wants is for her team to do well. But, in this league, Molly has to know that you have to play by the rules."

When asked to comment, Gallagher responded, "I would think that Mr. Melton would be above making stupid jokes involving my team and mid-nineties Swedish pop duos. Then again, I would also think he would be above poaching my players, however, history proves otherwise. As far as the alleged abuse of Rocky Road, I have no comment, other than to say that I think these shameless shenanigans are a conspiracy to get me to forfeit my batches of Rocky Road to the President of our League for his own personal consumption. You know, if our line up last week had been 4 girls and 7 guys, no one would be pointing fingers and claiming that we had 'assistance' for getting our 6 runs! You bet I'm going to fight this!"

Over the years, many Dogtown players have argued the benefits and detriments of performance-enhancing substances. The debate mostly focused on beer and alcohol consumption. Many argued that beer and alcohol are performance-enhancing substances that should be banned at the park. The debate came to a head in 1973 after the proponents of the alcohol ban were pelted with full cans of Pabst Blue Ribbon beer. In response, the Division decided that the trauma of seeing approximately 56 cans of PBR go to waste required a strict ruling. (It is rumored that the 3500 stitches that resulted from the now infamous Pabst Pelting also played a part in the league's decision.) The league eventually ruled that beer and alcohol may give the player the impression that the player is playing well, however, said impression has no basis in reality. Thereafter, Dogtown banned alcohol from the playing field, but agreed to heartily endorse its use at a "division bar" after games. Ms. Gallagher's case would be the first to test treats as banned performance-enhancing substances.



Mystery Player lifts AoB to tie last Wednesday night (AP)