

# PLAY BALL!

## DEAL SYNAGOGUE SOFTBALL LEAGUE BEGINS NINTH SEASON

### DEALINGS

*"THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY REMAIN THE SAME"*

*- ALPHONSE KARR, 1849*

The validity of the above observation, though made long ago, is established nowhere more convincingly than in our own beloved Deal Synagogue Softball League. The league, awaiting the birth of its ninth season, has seen many improvements. Signs of continued progress should again be readily apparent. However, basically, the game remains the same.

So what's new? Well, to begin with, the league welcomes four new captains, and a total of seven who were not at the helm last year. In addition, by the time the first lineup cards have been exchanged there should be no less than twenty rookie players' names among the team rosters. The league wishes all of you a very successful inaugural season.

Perhaps the most glaring difference in this year's games will be the employment of the fast pitch rule. Batters will now be allowed three strikes instead of two swings, pitchers must pitch from further back, and there will be no speed limitation on pitches. Other modifications include the allowance of baserunners to run on the batter's swing and the rescission of the automatic-out penalty for teams fielding only nine players. Also, the schedule reverts to the sixteen game format; each team will play a doubleheader against teams within its division and single games against those outside of its division, in the course of eight weeks.

What effect will the new rules have on league play? The consensus is that they will contribute to higher scoring ballgames. Time will determine whether or not an advantage will exist for pitchers who have experience pitching modified fast pitch softball, such as former Brooklyn leaguers Abie Cohen and Steve Azur. It will also be interesting to watch the effect of such pitching on throwing arms. Teams may need to rely on two pitchers now as arms may tire more easily.

Other developments which should merit our attention as the season unfolds include the performances of players in unfamiliar surroundings: Eddie Beda not playing behind the Front? Gemal's Pals minus David Simhon? Will the replacement of league legend Jackie Picciotto by superstar Elliot Braha make any difference in Capt. Mavorah's master plan? The league does have a slightly different look - why, Foncie hasn't even been traded once and the season begins in two weeks.

Perhaps a more challenging consideration is that which has not changed. Basically, Deal league ball will still require its more successful teams to execute the fundamentals and to play with intelligence and enthusiasm within the team concept. New rules will not dilute the importance of these ingredients. No, everything does not look strange. The Kassins are still together. Abie Esses and Mal Franco try another year as the two headed monster. Naturally, Marty's team is still the Pals. In addition, the change in schedule is a reversion to things past. So while some things do change, in essence, everything comes back full circle.

In recognition of this observation, the league eagerly awaits the return of Jackie Picciotto. "Peaches" continues to give considerable amounts of his time towards the growth of the league, and for this we are grateful. While he may not be playing, Jackie will still account for a large portion of our league's success.

## TEAM EVALUATIONS

As any experienced politician, economist, or gypsy will tell you, it is wisest to preface any prediction by impressing upon your audience the difficulty of forecasting the future. Usually it is best not to actually make a prediction, but to just mumble some obscurities concerning what might result if any one of a hundred things happen and to end with the words, "but anything is possible." While cautioning all readers that June's final standings may actually read like these predictions hanging upside down, this "expert" dares to lay it on the line.

Please keep the following cliché's in mind while appraising this appraisal:

- 1) The game is played on grass, not on paper.
- 2) There is no offense like a good defense.
- 3) You can never have enough pitching.
- 4) To err is human, to forgive divine.

## AMERICAN DIVISION

### **ZAPPED! - CAPT. ROBERT NESSER**

Two years ago Red assembled a team of kids (Team USA) and went to the championship. He's the favorite to do it again. This team has no significant weaknesses. Zapped! should be an exciting team to watch.

Eddie Mishan will become one of the premier shortstops in the league. Nathan Tawil is already a superstar in centerfield. With these two in control, the defense is solid. Doug Goldenberg, Red's latest phenom and pet project, will play second base or leftfield, with Mark Beda playing the other position. Jackie Saban, back to third base after an experiment in rightfield, will have another good year under Red, and should generate important offensive numbers. Michael Irving

Fallas, always steady in right, will receive some long overdue recognition. But perhaps the best pick of all is Raymond Beyda, coming off his most productive year. Other cogs in the machine are the designated hitters Moshe Dweck and Jack Saka. Richie Menahem and Marty Hoffstein are the pitchers, each of whom are familiar with Red's winning ways.

While this team is young, it has been noted that Red has done well with young players before. He also failed to make the playoffs last year. This should be all the motivation Red needs to harness the talent of this team and win the division.

#### **YANKEES - CAPT. CHARLIE SAKA**

Charlie's team will pose the greatest threat to Red's quest for a division title. The Yankees have a very good infield, a potent offense, and veteran leadership.

Ikey Dweck has decided once again to put off retirement and return to shortstop. His complement at second base is Joey Sutton, last season's unofficial rookie of the year. Morris Chera at first, Robert Chabbot in short center, and Irving Fallas at third round out an experienced infield. Stevie Fallas, newly acquired, patrols centerfield. The outfield play of Jeff Matut in left and Joey Franco in right will be instrumental to the Yankee's success.

Everybody should contribute to the offense. Besides Charlie, there is S.F., Ikey, and Joey Sutton to pitch to. Again, Jeff Matut and Joey Franco will play important roles in determining how many runs the team scores. Of course, when the outcome of the game is in doubt, there are few tougher hitters than "Uncle Irv." This leads us to the treasure that is the Yankee's bench - Jaws, Nemo, and Mo Farca. Charlie will have little trouble guiding his team to the playoffs.

## **RHYTHM - CAPT. JOEL RISHTY**

Five players who spent last season with Joel return, and four of those played for Joel two years ago. There is plenty of talent on this team, although some players may find themselves at new positions.

Richie Braha makes his debut at shortstop and undoubtedly will play it well. Captain Joel will use his speed to cover centerfield this year instead of left. Either Albert Dabah or Irwin Braha will have to adjust to leftfield after playing rightfield exclusively. Eli Haddad plays shortcenter which leaves second base open for either Danny Erani or Mal Franco. If Mal does play infield, Abie Esses may see more time on the hill than in previous years. However, the depth and versatility of this team is such that any and all open positions will be played by very capable people. The bench consists of Sam Gindi, Bobby Morabia, and Charlie Saka; all will play specific roles.

As for hitting, the big gun is Irwin Braha. The new rules should make Irwin even more dangerous, as he can pull the ball without fear of fouling out. The offense is bolstered by Sammy "Ribs" Kassin, Danny Erani, and Albert Dabah and features the speed of Richie Braha and Joel. This team should enjoy a comfortable run differential. Rhythm might take a little time adjusting defensively, but come playoff time it will be in sync.

## **ZIP - CAPT. EDDIE BEDA**

Eddie Beda will try to win a second consecutive with experience. An astonishing nine of these players have appeared in previous World Series. This is a group of veterans - young and old. Another thing which this team has in abundance is - what else? - Zip.

Zip is Stevie Azur blowing a fastball by opposing hitters. Zip is Jackie Haddad scoring from first on a single. Zip is Ricky Franco snaring a sure extra-base hit in the left centerfield gap. With Michael "Red" playing rightfield, Zip appears to have the best outfield in the league. Marty Miz will see limited action in the outfield only if necessary, in which case Isaac Betesh will stand in at first. Charlie Semah looks forward to being on a winner at second and Eli Dweck rounds out the infield at third. Bernie Goldenberg catches, with Eddie Dweck and Fred Ezon constituting a strong bench.

A chief factor which will determine how far this team goes will be the hitting and leadership of Eli Gindi. If he has a typical year, Zip may finish on top. However, the remaining two teams are likely to make this division a six-team dogfight.

#### **TIME TO EXPLODE - CAPT. ELLIOT MAVORAH**

After taking a year off, Elliot returns to the captaincy fielding a much stronger team his second time around. This team is indeed an explosive collection. What is scarier, they are a hungry team. They include three Dynasty players who came up short in last year's championship and a captain who missed the playoffs by percentage points last year.

Gary Erani, after a tremendous season last year, finally will get to play shortstop all season long without worrying about his team's outfield. Now all will appreciate just how good Gary is at that position. The rest of the infield shows Morris Gindi at first, Morris Shalom at second, and Alan Bailey at third. Alan Antar, to whom we wish a quick recovery to full strength, will probably start out at shortcenter. The outfield is fine; captain has the speed in left, Stevie Salem has the

rifle in right, and Elliot Braha does it all in center. Front is on the mound, and the new rules should make Sammy's change-up more effective. Eddie Ashkenazi pitches in relief.

There is no sure out in the entire line-up. Elliot Braha, Gary Erani, and Steve Salem are the loudest bats. Jeffrey Gindi led his team in hitting last year. Elliot Solomon is a perennial all-star at catcher.

It is a good bet that opposing teams will be hearing something ticking in their ears this season. This will be their only warning that it is time for this team to explode.

#### **KLINGONS - CAPT. MITCHELL HADDAD**

This prediction will get the most heat. These guys, no doubt, have the potential to finish first hands down. The division is just so strong that only a couple of games may separate top and bottom. Remember what happened last year?

Captain Mitchell Haddad (turned a slow-starting Dynasty) team into a power last year, and should be an inspirational leader to this group. Brother Alan dominates the outerspace of centerfield. Highly touted newcomer Stevie Nahama should claim left or right. Does this mark the return of RVJ to the outfield? It is possible, but sources say that RVJ will take his act to 2nd base, perhaps sharing time with Jerry Harary. This would mean all-star Richie Gindi would play third, and another all-star infielder, Joel Nasar, would have to play left. Joe Harari is strong at first and Kemmy Cohen is set at shortcenter. A replication of last year's performance by pitcher Jackie Matalon would make the Klingons even more dangerous.

The hitters should drive in a lot of runs. Jackie Matalon, Richie Gindi, Joe Harari, Joel Nasar, and "the Blonde Bomber," Eli Gemal are big

bats stacked in the middle of the batting order. Alan and Mitchell always get on base. Stevie Nahama and Kemmy should do well in such a line-up. As if this were not enough, opponents will also have to deal with Phumphy. This team may in fact boldly go where no team has ever gone before.

## NATIONAL DIVISION

### HIGH ROLLERS - CAPT. RONNIE GINDI

The High Rollers possess a lot of names with star quality. However, this is the least valuable of this team's assets. The primary strength of this squad is the stability of a great infield, the best in the league.

Eddie Anzarouth, second to none as a defensive first baseman, and Eddie Ash, a slick glove at third, anchor the corners. Up the middle are consistency and intelligence, otherwise known as Ronnie Gindi and Bobby Blanco. Robert Braha is a go-getter in centerfield. Eddie Azar Cohen plays left with JoJo Heiney the most likely candidate for right-fielder, a position he has played before. Ely Tawil and Abie Serouya are a tandem at catcher. Jack Cabasso should see action at shortcenter. Blimp Ashear, off his finest season, will fill in wherever needed. Sammy Saka should continue his effectiveness as spot starter for mentor Mitchell Gemal.

Ronnie, Eddie Ash, and Robert Braha are all great hitters. Anybody who remembers the Jersey Shore Summer League (besides Jackie Matalon) knows how Eddie Azar Cohen thrives on fast pitching. This hitting, combined with a tough defense, make the High Rollers the team to beat in this division.



## **ANGELS - CAPT. MOSES EASTMAN**

The first thing you notice when you look at this team - besides Moses - is that these are ten guys who are each playing their regular positions.

Jack Hakim makes the plays at first. The double play combination of Ikey Franco at shortstop and Eddie Kassin at second base is first rate. Albert Ades is money in the bank at third. The sure-handed David Simhon is the short centerfielder. The league welcomes back CF Stevie Kattan, late of "Bandits" fame, from the Japanese League. He is flanked by Morris Sultan and Alan Saka in the outfield.

The attack will focus on Alan Saka's hitting, as well as that of Capt. Moses, Stevie Kattan, Jack Hakim, and brother Judah. Ikey Franco will get on base for these bats. As for pitching, this staff has the only player ever to pitch a no-hitter in league history. No, not Moses - Al Fallas. Mourey Serouya and Joe Rishty figure to flash the signals.

The Angels are solid at every position. More importantly, the chemistry of this team should be just right. They will be at or near the top all season.

## **GEMAL'S PALS - CAPT. MARTY GEMAL**

Marty finally has a team with three genuine, full-fledged outfielders. This outfield could be the best hitting trio in the league. Overall, offense is probably this team's strength.

Elliot Betesh and David Shriqui should score a lot of runs. They reach base often and will have slugger Sammy Cohen, brothers Marty and

Zuti, and "H" Ebani behind them. The Pals have a very potent attack.

Popular opinion was that the Pals may have paid too high a price for this hitting in the form of infield defense. However, this is not the case. David Shriqui has proved he is an all-star at second, and should do a good job at short. Billy Robinson had a big rookie year and will be fine wherever he plays in the infield. Meno Dweck is a good glove at second. Morris Cohen is a fixture at first.

The 1984 version of the Pals may turn a few heads. They will score a lot of runs, while yielding only an average amount. That translates into success.

#### **KAMIKAZE - CAPT. EDDIE KASSIN**

Eddie began picking his team a week after the draft. This is because Kamikaze had been beset by a rash of injuries and "prior commitments." However, the gaps have been filled.

Sporting a league - leading four rookies and the youngest average age of any team (sorry Red), Kamikaze should be dangerous. Ace pitcher Abie Cohen led his team to the Brooklyn championship last year and Kamikaze feels he will do the same for them. Behind him is a superb outfield: Morris Shalom, Eddie Kassin, and David Haddad. Sammy Tawil will be at first after an extended spring training in Florida. Spark-plug David Shamula will be the second baseman. Michael Mishaan takes charge at shortstop. Jobs still to be won are at shortcenter and third base. Louis Hoffstein, acquired at the league's winter meetings, and Max Zalta should claim these spots. Mort Hirschman will assume duty as player coach. Richie Haddad and Stevie Tawil also figure to play prominent roles.

The offense will rely on Morris Shalom and David Shamula to set the table. Kassin, Mishaan, and Sammy Tawil should accumulate many total bases. On top of this, Kamikaze is also owner of the services of Abie "Pops" Franco, who should get a lot of at-bats. The offense will not score in bunches, but it will not have to. Kamikaze will win basically with pitching and defense.

True to its name, Kamikaze has the killer instinct. The players play with a lot of enthusiasm and desire. This spirit will be the quality which takes them to the playoffs.

#### **DIRTY DOZEN - CAPT. STEVIE SHALOM**

This team may just score a dozen runs a game. Victor Zilberman and Captain Steve should start things off. Then opposing pitchers must face Bobby, Sammy "Big", and Yogi - enough to rattle any man. Other lively bats include Tito Ades, Davie Miz, Elliot Kassin, and MK.

The defense, while not air tight, should do a good job. Sammy "Big" is the target at first. Elliot Kassin played very well at second last year. Victor Zilberman is at short, next to Hostileman at third. Davie Miz might even have shortcenter all to himself this season. The outfield reads as Stevie in left, Bobby K. in center, and newcomer Tito Ades in right. Yogi pitches, brother Jim catches, and Morris Swed does a little bit of everything.

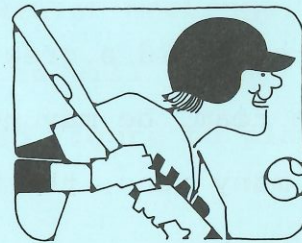
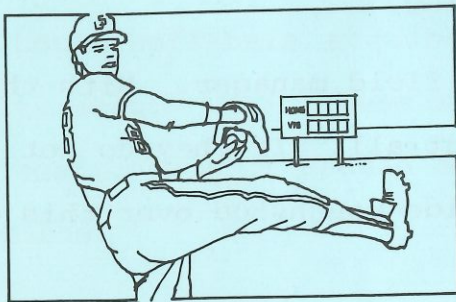
Stevie did a great job last year as field manager. With the talent on this team, he may not have to manage at all. If they do not give up too many runs, the Dirty Dozen will ride roughshod over this division.

## ROLLERS - CAPT. RALPH ZALTA

Everybody has been saying that the key player on this squad is Freddy Zalta. The question is not whether he will play well. Rather, it is how often will he play? Ralph assures us that Freddy will come every week and if this is so, the Rollers could roll a long way.

But Freddy is only one of many good players on this team. The outfield of Ralph, Joey Braha, and Ikey "Red" Dweck, who will come into his own this year, is top notch. The infield, under the direction of shortstop Marco Dweck, should play steadily. Irwin Azar Cohen plays second base. David Ashkenazi is very happy at third after renegotiation problems last year. The brother combination of Eddie and Elliot Gindi should complete the infield at first and shortcenter, respectively. Steven Jemal may also play one of these positions. Maurice Zalta and Foncie Missry do the catching. Max Rishty makes his Deal debut.

The Rollers have enough good hitters that someone should always be hot. The biggest threat is Marco Dweck, one of the smartest hitters in the league. Ralph and Freddy Zalta have surprising power and electrifying speed. Joey Braha is always in the middle of a rally. Ikey Dweck, Irwin Azar Cohen, and David Ashkenazi will pick up any slack. Come the playoffs, the Rollers may be the talk of the league.



# TRANSACTIONS



HIGH ROLLERS - Obtained Morris "Blimp" Ashear from ROLLERS in exchange for Stephen Jemal.

KAMIKAZE - Gave Leon Schneider his unconditional release  
Designated Elliot Harary for reassignment.  
Activated David Haddad from injured reserve.  
Purchased the contract of David Shamula.  
Acquired Louis Hoffstein from GEMAL'S PALS in a trade for Jack Shriqui.

ROLLERS - Picked up Eddie Gindi to complete deal with TIME TO EXPLODE for Eddie Ashkenazi.

ANGELS - Sent Stevie Fallas to YANKEES for Stevie Kattan.

TIME TO EXPLODE - Put Jack Picciotto on "unable to perform on Sunday's" list.

Signed free-agent Elliot Braha to 1-year contract.

TRADING DEADLINE: Wednesday, April 18th.



1984 DEAL SYNAGOGUE SOFTBALL LEAGUE - DRAFT SHEET - NATIONAL DIVISION

**#2 CAPT. STEVE SHALOM**

1. **Bobby Kassin**
2. Sam "Big" Kassin
3. Victor Zilberman
4. Yogi Kassin
5. Tito Ades
6. Elliot Kassin
7. Morris "Hostileman" Cohen
8. Dave Mizrahi
9. Morris Swed
10. Michael Kassin
11. Marc Tawil
12. Jim Kassin

**#4 CAPT. EDDIE KASSIN**

1. **Michael Mishaan**
2. Abie Cohen
3. Morris Shalom
4. Sam Tawil
5. David Haddad
6. David Shammula
7. Steve Tawil
8. Max Zalta
9. Abe Franco
10. Mort Hirschman
11. Lou Hoffstein
12. Rich Haddad

**#6 CAPT. MOSES EASTMAN**

1. **Ike Franco**
2. Steve Kattan
3. Morris Sultan
4. Eddie Kassin
5. Jack Hakim
6. Alan Saka
7. Albert Ades
8. Judah Eastman
9. David Simhon
10. Joe Rishy
11. Morey Serouya
12. Al Fallas

**DIRTY DOZEN**

**KAMIKAZE**

**ANGELS**

**#8 CAPT. MARTY GEMAL**

1. **Elliot Betesh**
2. Sam Cohen
3. David Shriqui
4. Harold Ebani
5. Meno Dweck
6. Billy Robinson
7. Moe Cohen
8. Saul "Winthrop" Tawil
9. Zuti Gemal
10. Jack Shriqui
11. Victor Franco
12. David Menahem

**#10 CAPT. RALPH ZALTA**

1. **Joey Braha**
2. Fred Zalta
3. Marco Dweck
4. David Ashkenazi
5. Irwin Azar Cohen
6. Ike Dweck
7. Stephen Gemal
8. Elliot Gindi
9. Maurice Zalta
10. Max Rishy
11. Alphonse Mistry
12. Eddie Gindi

**ROLLERS**

**HIGH ROLLERS**

**#12 CAPT. RONNIE GINDI**

1. **Robert Braha**
2. Eddie Ash
3. Eddie Azar Cohen
4. Bobby Blanco
5. Mitchell Gemal
6. Eddie Anzarouth
7. Joe Heiney
8. Jack Cabasso
9. Sam Saka
10. Eli Tawil
11. Abie Serouya
12. Blimp Ashbear

1984 DEAL SYNAGOGUE SOFTBALL LEAGUE - DRAFT SHEET - AMERICAN DIVISION

**#1 CAPT. EDDIE BEDA**

1. **Jack Haddad**
2. Steve Azur
3. Michael "Red" Fallas
4. Ricky Franco
5. Eli Gindi
6. Marty Mizrahi
7. Eli Dweck
8. Charlie Semah
9. Eddie Dweck
10. Isaac Betesh
11. Fred Ezon
12. Bernie Goldenberg

**ZIP**

**#3 CAPT. ELLIOT MEVORAH**

1. **Elliot Braha**
2. Gary Erani
3. Steve Salem
4. Sammy Ashkenazi
5. Alan Antar
6. Morris Gindi
7. Jeff Gindi
8. Elliot Solomon
9. Morris Shalom
10. Alan Bailey
11. Jeff Braha
12. Eddie Ashkenazi

**TIME TO EXPLODE**

**#5 CAPT. ROBERT NESSER**

1. **Nathan Tawil**
2. Eddie Mishan
3. Jack Saban
4. Mark Beda
5. Mike Fallas
6. Raymond Beda
7. Douglas Goldenberg
8. Marty Hoffstein
9. Moshe Dweck
10. Jack Saka
11. Ray Dweck
12. Rich Menahem

**ZAPPED !**

**#7 CAPT. JOEL RISHTY**

1. **Richie Braha**
2. Irwin Braha
3. Albert Dabbah
4. Danny Erani
5. Eli Haddad
6. Mal Franco
7. Sam "Ribs" Kassan
8. Abe Esses
9. Sam Gindi
10. Bobby Morabia
11. A.J. Gindi
12. Charlie Saka

**RHYTHM**

**#9 CAPT. CHARLIE SAKA**

1. **Steve Fallas**
2. Ike Dweck
3. Joe Sutton
4. Jeff Matut
5. Joe Franco
6. Morris Chera
7. Robert Chabot
8. David "Jaws" Dweck
9. Irving Fallas
10. Morris Farca
11. Jerry Wygoda
12. Nemo Chalme

**YANKEES**

**#11 CAPT. MITCHELL HADDAD**

1. **Alan Haddad**
2. Richie Gindi
3. Jack Matalon
4. Joel Nasar
5. Joe Harari
6. Steve Nahama
7. Kemyy Cohen
8. Eli Jemal
9. David Assoulin
10. Ronnie Jemal
11. Jerry Harary
12. Harvey Shomer

**KLINGONS**

# NEW FACES

The Deal Synagogue Softball League officially welcomes the following first-time enrollees with open arms and special good wishes:

NAME	TEAM	PROBABLE POSITION
Tito Ades	Dirty Dozen	OF
Stevie Azur	Zip	P
Jeff Braha	Time To Explode	SC
Jack Cabasso	High Rollers	SC
Abie Cohen	Kamikaze	P
Abie Franco	Kamikaze	1B
Douglas Goldenberg	Zapped!	2B, OF
Richie Haddad	Kamikaze	SC
Steven Jemal	Rollers	OF
Jimmy Kassin	Dirty Dozen	C
Kavid Menahem	Gemal's Pals	1B
Stevie Nahama	Klingons	2B, OF
Max Rishty	Rollers	Inf.
Joe Rishty	Angels	OF
David Shamula	Kamikaze	3B
Jack Shriqui	Gemal's Pals	SC
Marc Tawil	Dirty Dozen	C
Fred Zalta	Rollers	P

**THE SYNAGOGUE OF DEAL**  
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