

DEALINGS

HAT TRICK CATAPULTS ZAPPED! TO DIVISION TITLE

After hearing all the whispers that maybe they weren't as good as everybody thought; after failing to sweep two games on any Sunday; after being dismissed as a team which is incapable of coming back from a substantial deficit, ZAPPED! set all such suspicions to rest by winning all three of its games.

The ANGELS were the first team to be zapped, followed by the PALS and RHYTHM. As is characteristic of division winners, the whole team contributed. Moshe Dweck (4 hits), Nathan Tawil, Eddie Mishan, and Jack Saka had good days at the plate. Captain Red was superb on the mound. Raymond Beyda got it in gear on the basepaths. Douglas Goldenberg was sensational in the outfield.

Featuring the most anemic attack of any playoff participant, ZAPPED! may finally be getting it together just in time for a playoff roll. Their opponents will again be the ANGELS, who move into the American Division by virtue of their fine finish. An analysis of this and the other playoff match-ups follows.

ANGELS VS. ZAPPED!

Last week's 6-5 score is a good indication of how these teams match-up - very evenly. In the infield, the ANGELS would seem to have a slight edge. Jack "Hamptons" Hakim has been having a good though unspectacular year for Moses' men. Steady Eddie Kassin and Albert Ades have been their usual sure-handed selves. David Simhon has had a tremendous season. Finally, the man who quite possibly holds the key to this series, shortstop Ikey Franco, is now in the groove. ZAPPED! counters with transplant Moshe Dweck at first, Mark Beda at second (try and get him fourth round next year), and experienced Raymond Beyda up the middle. On the left side, Eddie Mishan is playing a very smooth shortstop and Jackie Saban anchors the bag at third.

The outfield comparison flatters ZAPPED!, but not by much. Nathan Tawil may not have grabbed all of the headlines, but the best usually save the ink for the money games. He is the man the ANGELS must be most concerned with. Michael Fallas, having an all-star

year, plays right. Perhaps the best fielding leftfielder in the division, Doug Goldenberg has singlehandedly (all right, so he uses two hands) saved this team seven to ten runs. The ANGELS match up with Sultan, Kattan, and Saka left to right. Kattan, the "Filipino Flash", has not been given the credit he deserves for his patrol in center and performance at the plate.

At the plate, the ANGELS get the edge on numbers alone, having scored 40% more runs than ZAPPED!. Alan Saka is the team's best pure hitter. This is a surprise to all except those who have seen the ANGELS play. With Moses, Kattan, and Judah around him, the ANGELS do score runs; they are the third most efficient in the league at doing so. ZAPPED has been hard to figure out. On some days they struggle for singles. On others, Saban, Beda, Jack Saka, and Moshe Dweck can be seen routinely trotting around the bases (the second pair may not have a choice - huh, huh).

What this series will come down to is Red Nesser's ability to hold the ANGELS offense in check early. If the ANGELS start scoring, Ikey Franco and Stevie Kattan will lead their team to blowouts. These two guys will not let up and their personalities will be the grease which carries the ANGEL machine. If Red and the ZAPPED! defense deny the ANGELS an early lead, it will spell the end for the ANGELS. Robert gets stronger as the game goes on and his team, with the looseness and cockiness of youth, will win the close ones.

PREDICTION: ZAPPED! IN THREE GAMES, THE LAST A CLIFFHANGER.

THRILLER VS. KAMIKAZE

Though they lost their first three, KAMIKAZE finished with the second best record at 11-5. The biggest thing going for this team is their chemistry. The youngest team in the league, they all play on the same wavelength. Rookie captain, Eddie Kassin, playing the best centerfield of his career (including Gemal's Pals '81), has done a great job. Brooklyn imports Morris Shalom, David Shamula, and Abie Cohen have led a team which gets the most out of every run (it often has to).

KAMIKAZE's thriftiness is something with which THRILLER has not been concerned. Ronnie's team led the league in offense. Unfortunately, they also give up their share of runs. Though KAMIKAZE beat THRILLER in two close games, limiting them to only four runs, THRILLER hit some real shots which were caught.

Robert Braha is just as responsible for his team's success as any other THRILLER. Eddie Azar has taken his place among the league's elite hitters. Ronnie Gindi plays the league's best shortstop. If Ronnie is the heart of this team, Mitchell Gemal is certainly the soul.

What we have here is two teams with different styles. KAMIKAZE likes to do their damage in the middle innings and let Abie Cohen and their defense take care of the rest. Hopefully, that damage, often inflicted by a pair of Shamula-Shalom singles or a David Haddad/Max Zalta line drive, will be sufficient. In their game, all thirteen players must often be used.

THRILLER is so explosive that they can often win with only two or three players on track. They feel they can score at any time. Unlike other big lumber clubs of the past, though, they have a solid defense to go with it. Particularly they have Anzarouth-Blanco-Gindi-Ash.

PREDICTION: THOUGH THRILLER HAS THE BATS, LOOK FOR THE KAMIKAZE DEFENSE AND PITCHING TO PREVAIL IN THREE.

DIRTY DOZEN VS. GEMAL'S PALS

GEMAL'S PALS, in first place since week #4, took the league by storm. Included in their 12 wins was a sweep of the DIRTY DOZEN, in two lopsided affairs. Except for Stevie Shalom's ability to motivate and get a team up for a big series, all factors point to a similar outcome here.

The PAL attack is frightening. It features Elliot Betesh, who is certainly among the league's career leaders in on-base percentage; David Shriqui, a dangerous line-drive hitter; and Sammy Cohen, the league's most potent bat this season. And if this is not enough, Billy Robinson, Marty, and Zuti Gemal follow.

But if any team can more than match the PALS' offense, it is the DIRTY DOZEN. Simply put, this series should contain more shots than a San Antonio - Denver basketball game. The DOZEN have a pinball game of their own going, with Sammy "Big", Yogi, Tito, Elliot, MK, and Victor constantly banging the ball off the walls and whichever fielders occasionally get in the way.

PREDICTION: THE DIFFERENCES HERE ARE SIMPLY DEFENSE AND CONFIDENCE. THE PALS HAVE MADE ALL THE PLAYS IN THE FIELD THIS YEAR: THE DOZEN HAVE NOT. HAROLD EBANI, JACKIE SHRIQUI, MENO DWECK, AND MO COHEN ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR A DEFENSE WHICH

FINAL LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN DIVISION

<u>CAPTAIN</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>PCT.</u>	<u>GB</u>	<u>RUNS SCORED</u>	<u>RUNS AGAINST</u>	<u>DIVISION RECORD</u>
ROBERT JESSEN	* ZAPPED!	10	6	.625	-	65	87	6-4
CHARLES SAKA	* YANKEES	9	7	.563	1	94	71	6-4
EDDIE BEADA	* Z.I.P	8	8	.500	2	80	73	6-4
JOEL RISHTY	RHYTHM	6	10	.375	4	89	81	5-5
MITCHELL HADDAD	KLINGONS	5	11	.313	5	80	86	4-6
ELIOT MAVORAH	TIME TO EXPLODE	5	11	.313	5	57	102	2-8

NATIONAL DIVISION

<u>CAPTAIN</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>PCT.</u>	<u>GB</u>	<u>RUNS SCORED</u>	<u>RUNS AGAINST</u>	<u>DIVISION RECORD</u>
MARTY GEMAL	* GEMAL'S PALS	12	4	.750	-	100	69	7-3
EDDIE KASSIN	* KAMIKAZE	11	5	.688	1	80	50	6-4
RONNIE GINDI	* THRILLER	10	6	.625	2	114	93	5-5
MOSES FASTMAN	* ANGELS	8	8	.500	4	108	80	5-5
STEVIE SHALOM	* DIRTY DOZEN	8	8	.500	4	112	131	5-5
RALPH ZALTA	ROLLERS	4	12	.250	8	73	106	2-8

* MADE PLAYOFFS

DEAL SYNAGOGUE SOFTBALL LEAGUE

