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Newsletter of the BEANTOWN SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Diamond in the ...

Just as it's difficult to imagine the Red Sox playing their home games anywhere but Fenway Park, it's almost inconceivable that BSL games could be played anywhere but Clemente Field. Clemente Field is the spiritual homeland of the BSL.

But Clemente Field is undergoing a facelift this spring, courtesy of the federal government. After little has been spent on field maintenance for years, more than \$200,000 will be spent to renovate the field area. Plans are to bring back to life a cinder track which circles the playing field areas, install new more efficient lighting, trees and some parking near the baseball field. Finally, after new drainage lines are laid under the fields, new back stops will be erected and sod will be laid in the outfield up to the cinder track. Probably the biggest addition to the playing fields will be new aluminum benches for the teams.

The finishing touches should be made by early summer but the field will not be playable because the sod must be given time to take hold.

Forced from its spiritual home, one would think that the transition to a new ballpark would be a traumatic one for the BSL. Well, the move to Daisey Field has been quite easy because the fields are in such good shape and are located in a very nice area. Shell-shocked shortstops saddled with shoddy springs of the ball from this rock or that hole in Clemente Field will have it a picnic on Daisey Field. Outfielders will have to get used to "playing the woods," behind them, but that change will be easy enough given time.

1984 may be the BSL's year in exile from its spiritual homeland, but that exile will be made quite bearable playing on Daisey Field.

"Our team competed not only against opponents but against the game itself. We tried to take ourselves more seriously than the game would let us."

-John Slote,
"The Social Sport,"
Esquire, July, 1982.

What is softball to you? A leisure sport? or a fierce competitive battle? Softball comes in many forms.

Thinking Softball

To get the most out of the game, it is important to realize the meaning of the game, not only to yourself, but to your team and the league. Think a moment. What are your expectations for the season? Have you prepared yourself mentally and emotionally?

All of us want to be winners; to stand at the top. As idealistic as it sounds, the final score of each game is not the measure of who really wins, of who really stands at the top. The feeling we carry with us after the game/season is important.

Here are several things to consider:

- Are you familiar with the game, its strategy and the requirements of your position?
- Do you know what the League goals are? And who are the elected officials? Are you involved in League activities off the field?
- How do you handle criticism? Can you adapt your game to the team's game?
- If you are playing poorly, and/or losing, how do you stay in the game and cheer on your teammates?
- Does "sitting the bench" keep you from contributing to the game? If you are a starter, how can you make the bench players feel involved?

The softball season consumes a large chunk of time and takes us away from family, friends, and lovers. Do they understand your involvement in softball? Have you considered their feelings?

There are many labels to describe where each of us fits into this league. "Superstar", "Pine Brother", "Team Player", "Softball Widow". Knowing who you are and contributing to the League is important. This league was begun with the growth of the gay community as a goal.

"...the unity that happens when you hear the sound of one another's voices in the field; [then] you feel together, solid."

-John Sloat