

Weekly Wiffle Thoughts Vol. 1

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The SWBL: What it means to me

Greetings everyone! My name is Andy Oldenburg and I'm the captain and founder of the Pirates organization of the esteemed SWBL. This is the first edition (and hopefully not the last) of my weekly blog entitled, "Weekly Wiffle Thoughts." A couple weeks ago I asked commissioner Sam Skibbe if I could write some articles for the website and he obliged. So, I'm going to deliver some weekly thoughts on behalf of the SWBL Pirates organization, along with some general observations concerning the league.

I wanted to begin my first spiel with some thoughts on the history of the SWBL. In particular, how I became a part of this great league. I have been a fan of wiffle ball as long as I can remember. During elementary, middle, and high school, I would try to get out and play on a weekly basis. I've known Sam since our days back at South Middle School and have always connected with his passion for sports. In particular, baseball and wiffle ball were our greatest shared interests.

I'll never forget our memorable math classes in high school where we'd focus more on wiffle ball and sports, rather than the class material itself. Throughout freshman, sophomore, and junior year Sam would frequently tell me about his wiffle ball league that he'd hold in his backyard. However, for some reason I'd never go over and check it out. My first "competitive" league was the unforgettable "Dan's Pimp League" hosted by the one and only Dan Salivar. Also held in his own backyard, the *EXTREMELY* short field was a hitters haven and was a blast to play in. After a year however, the DPL broke up and I was looking for something bigger and better.

Going back to the memorable Parkway South math classes is where I got my first invite to join the SWBL. While I was extremely confident with my personal abilities, Sam insisted that his league was truly competitive and would be a blast to play in. Well, he was right. That first season (in the summer of 2006), my partner Corey Griffin and myself jumped out to a quick start and held an undefeated record. Driven by our significant team power, I was flying high and thinking to myself, "this league is a joke, we're going to win the championship easily!" Well, that changed quickly as myself and Corey faced also then undefeated Sam and Gus Skibbe.

After getting our asses handed to us by Sam and Gus, I quickly realized that there are some legit players in this league. My first season would end quickly in the playoffs, but I knew I had found something special in the SWBL. Playing a game that I truly love,

along with a bunch of great people that also love the game, resulted in an amazing summer. After missing the past couple seasons of play, I know teammates Grant Steward, Rob Walters, and myself are very eager to get back into the swing of things this upcoming 2012 season.

Getting back to Sam's backyard for a weekend full of wiffle ball, friends, and ice-cold alcoholic beverages brings a smile upon my face. I'm confident all the other league members feel the same way as we inch closer and closer to Memorial Day Weekend. A season of competitive wiffle ball play awaits and the Pirates organization is eager to show the rest of the league that we have something left in our tanks. A month-and-a-half of Budweiser, practice, and smack talk will fuel the Pirates in our quest for the coveted SWBL Season 10 Championship.

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SWBL Pirates Organization
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