



Bristol Baseball Club

Match report, 20th June 2010, Badgers at Herts Eagles

Father's Day had the Badgers travelling to Hemel Hempstead. While some players made sacrifices and were away from their children (and/or wives!), Thom and Dan were lucky enough to be in the same game as their sons. The day was full of contrast as we started game 1 in frigid conditions only to finish game 2 in intense heat, and while we won the first game we ended up on the losing side in the second.

Game 1- Badgers 9, Eagles 0 – We did well scoring at least one run in each of the first 4 innings to take a 7-0 lead and never looked back. Gian pitched a 3 hitter to Fabian with 11 strikeouts. Other notable performances included Jose going 2-4, scoring 2 runs, with 3 assists playing shortstop; Alex went 2-4; Carlos scored 2 runs; Remmert topped these by going 3-4 with 2 RBIs; and Dan celebrated Father's Day by going 4-4 with 3 RBIs (and 5-5, 4 RBIs on the day.)

Game 2- Badgers 8, Eagles 18 – Luke opened with a strikeout to Paul in his pitching debut for the Badgers and did not allow a run the first time through the order. We were leading 7-0 (again) after our top of the third inning. However the contrasts of the day hit us hard in the third inning when we gave up 9 runs, with a Grand Slam for Herts as Geoff sacrificed his body against the permanent fence trying to make the play. Unfortunately our game was riddled with several errors and an unlucky bounce off the mound over the shortstop's head! Gian, Dan and Rem pitched in relief but saw an additional 9 runs scored against us. Notable performances came from Juan Carlos who was 2-2 plus 2 walks; Jose with 2 RBIs; Alex going 2-4 again; Luis getting his first hit for the Badgers; and Thom celebrating Father's Day going 2-3 with an RBI in each of his first 2 at bats!

Thanks to those players who drove to the game, and thanks to all for the team spirit throughout the day. Our respect for Herts Eagles and the umpire was verbally appreciated by them. *NOTE:* We wrote this prior to receiving an email from the umpire of game 2, Paul Auchterlounie, saying thanks for our conduct on and off the field, thanks for respecting his

decisions, and how he wished all the games he umpired were played in the same spirit. This is the second email we have received from an umpire saying similar things and is something we can be proud of. When we are in the field we may each be involved in 3-8 plays per game, and everyone on our team will make an error at some point this season. But the umpire is involved in every single pitch, as well as any resulting play, and often they are trying to umpire the bases while behind the plate! They are only human and will also make errors, sometimes on key plays. All our players are to be congratulated when our club receives this type of email from umpires. As we are doing now, we will continue playing hard within the rules and spirit of the game.

All Badgers players who were on the trip also saw the baseball set-up at Herts, which is something we aspire to in the future. While our doubleheader was being played on a new purpose-built baseball field with permanent fencing, the Herts Falcons National League team were also playing on an adjacent established field with permanent fencing! Our long term goal is to create a strong club in Bristol, with the ability to field 2-4 teams of various age groups every weekend on permanent baseball diamonds. Clubs such as Herts are a good model on how to establish baseball in the local area, so it was nice for all of us to see the results of their work.

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