



Week One: August 2, 2009

Welcome to week one of DC Freedom's new GMOT, where stories from the field and (more importantly) from the DOL will be shared in order to recap and piece together the night.

A Swift Kick in the Grass

Week One started off with the usual confusion - trying to find the field, getting shirts, setting a line-up, etc - but the Green Team (otherwise known as "A Swift Kick in the Grass") soon managed to pull it together and soon became a formidable presence on the field. With a little fancy fielding by our catcher and outfielders, in addition to some nifty pitching by Joanna (granny-style, anyone?), we surprised ourselves with a 6-2 win against the team **My Balls, Your Field** and then promptly headed to the bar.

We of course had to "warm up" our flipping skills and train a few of the newer players in our secret strategies before starting our official match. We pulled to a 3-0 lead before MBYF challenged with a win of their own. Not to be outdone, we rallied to put them away 5-1, but had a great time with their players. I noticed, however, that one of the guys on the other team kept on making the player (usually a girl) across from him chug an entire cup of beer when it was her turn. Our fearless pitcher met this challenge head-on, flipping her cup on the first try after taking what seemed like minutes to drink her beer.

After the official flip-cup match was over, we continued to play as usual, although some of us got distracted with the dancing (and the strip show that resulted from Madonna's "Like a Prayer").

My Balls, Your Field

My Balls, Your Field had a strong turnout for Week 1 of summer kickball. Although we came up a little bit short in both kickball and flip cup, we played hard and learned a lot. After all, it has been more than a few years since most of us have played any form of organized kickball (although perhaps not so long since we've played organized flip cup – no excuses there). Watch out, **I Dewey Love You**. We're gunning for you in Week 2. (We mean that in the nicest possible way.)

Since we're new to the league, we used Week 1 to watch and learn – specifically, to gauge the level of "¡Escandalo!" that is acceptable at DoL. After all, we didn't want to shock the delicate constitutions of our competitors. Now that we know that anything goes, we'll be out in full force in Week 2 (hopefully with flip cup and kickball wins to back us up).



I Dewey Love You and Puttin' Pitches in Their Place make friends after their official match.



DJ Julien and Catrina from BttM try and avoid a shark attack while busting a move on the dance floor.

Ball and Oates

In terms of kickball, I think **Free Iran** and ourselves might be the first two teams this season to make it a full contact sport. Many were roughed up, but few were injured. By the end, it was all in good fun and I think we're all a little tougher for the experience. At least I know Mauricio is, as he heroically absorbed a full on hit while trying to defend our honor at first base. He took one for the team, and for that, he's my MVP.

Otherwise, the game was well played by all members of the Oates crew. Our new team members proved to be an excellent addition with Adam rocking superb pitching skills on the mound (partnered with our fabulous Geoff for the first inning) and Brian coming in with a big out on 3rd. It wasn't enough to help us win, sadly, but it's definitely a good sign of things to come.

As for after the game, we took a loss in flip cup, but I blame Free Iran's sensual dance moves for causing a complete distraction. How could we possibly concentrate with the level of ass shaking and pelvic thrusts we were exposed to? However, we soon caught on to their method and wowed them with the cupid shuffle. We still lost, but we went down without being completely served. After that we helped to close the party

down with shots, carbombs, and beers while managing to avoid the shirtless-man orgy taking place in the center of the basement floor. We may have left a man or two behind as we left the bar, but I'm pretty sure they didn't mind or notice.

Heard on the dance floor by two former DC Capital players:

Player 1: "Why don't these people know the 'Cupid Shuffle?'"

Player 2: "Fuck them, this is my jam!"



Team GFY warms up before their flip cup match, but they didn't have a chance against Balls to the Mall, who has been undefeated for the last two seasons.

Monumental Disaster

Good start to the season for **S<S** as they jumped out to a 2-0 start in the top of the first inning and never looked back. When S<S's captain was up late in the game with a man on third and 1 out, MD did not forget the hurt he put in the first inning and decided to pull the intentional walk. The next batter hit a grounder and MD got the runner on third who was trying to score....next batter was gunned down at first and though pathetic in kickball, the intentional walk saved a run. Still 2-0 headed into the bottom of the 5th. In a game that lacked a lot of action the bottom of the 5th brought some excitement. MD finally got on the board when a new MDer looking to win Rooke of the Year Honors hit a solo HR to left center. Two more got on after and with 2 outs and the top of the order on deck S<S was able to close things out for a 2-1 final.

Single And Looking to Score

Since SALTS was screwed by the man (read: the league) this week and stuck with a Double Header, you all are [un]lucky enough to get TWO separate write-ups from our fine team. This will give us a chance to go on a start of season rant and properly introduce ourselves as a force to be reckoned with in the league. With our team seriously lacking in the Y-chromosome department and 99% of us having never played any type of organized kickball before (as evident by the 5-minute kickball crash course given before the game started) a start of season Double Header was the last thing we wanted. Our first game pitted us against **MD**. Props to their whole team for being very un-douchey and a lot of fun to play against. The game itself was a defensive battle. We went up 2-0 in the first inning and that was about all the action there was. We went back and forth with no runs scored, until one player from MD kicked the hell out of the ball, and got himself a solo HR. Game Ends. 2-1. We win. Since there was little excitement in the game itself, that allows me to rant about all our upcoming games that may not go as well.

The bar scene was much of the same. We drank. We flipped. We won. I think it was 5-3

Our celebration from our Game 1 victory was short lived. Game #2 of our Double Header

faced us against the male dominated FFoB. Now here is a quick lesson in Kickball 101. When you win the Rock, Paper, Scissor match-up at the beginning of the game, it is very beneficial to your team to be the Home Team. FFoB did not do this, putting them at an immediate disadvantage. As we were all still tired, sweaty, and drunk from our game one match-up we mustered up enough energy to score 6 runs and allow 0. Our defense was amazing. Props go to J-Razzle for covering the entire outfield, Jamie for actually catching a ball that no one ever expected, and Kelly for properly running the tip drill. FFoB did a good job considering how hard it is to actually catch and field a ball when you have a beer in one hand and a cigarette in the other. Once our kickball domination was over for the evening, it was time to head out to the bar. This is where things took a turn for the worst (best?). Blame it on the fatigue, blame it on the pressure, blame it on a few of our players blacking out, blame it on the half naked people behind us, but at the end of the day our flip cup loss can only be attributed to one thing. That my friends, is the fact that "Cupid Shuffle" started to play during the last rounds. Honestly, who has the mental capacity to be able to pass up dancing to that song (it's just so god damn easy)? So I am not going to blame it on the a-a-a-a-lcohol, but instead DJ Julien. WAKA officials are looking into how much FFoB paid him to just "conveniently" have that song play during our match-up. We ended up losing 5-3. We were not happy about it. Did we continue to Shuffle? Yes, yes we did. Word on the street (seriously even some crack head on North Capitol was talking about it) is that one of our team members tried to grab her own fistful of an FFoB member. I saw this in motion as I was leaving but as it was later stated to me "well im sure you can figure out what happened, I think you know what drunk grinding leads to." So I will let your imaginations wonder. So all in all, congratulations everyone on a successful Week 1.

*Heard in the DOL:
"Who's the team in the maroon this season? They look way better than the Keg Kickers. I want on that!"*

Top 10 Likes and Dislikes from before/during/after the game

By SaLTS:

10. The name of the game is *KICKball*. Anytime you bunt, God kills a kitten and kicks a puppy. Think about it.
9. Be nice to your refs. 100% of the time they are going to be drunk and could care less about close plays. Give them beer and get over it.
8. It is the DoL. NOT THE SWERVE. Even a few members on our own team refuse to call it the DoL. Ridicule them at all costs.
7. Pitching to the ladies should not be the same way you pitch to a guy. Double bouncing, curving, and winging the ball over the plate just reduces your chances of getting laid (scientific fact).
6. Real Flip Cup games take priority over Survivor. Get off the table and let official games go before.
5. You CANNOT overrun 2nd Base.
4. Winning flip cup b/c of backboards (empty cups/pitchers) is like winning the Special Olympics. You may have won, but at the end of the day you're still... (ok, I'll keep this PC for now).
3. Clean up your trash when you leave the field. Don't ruin it for the rest of the league b/c you are an inconsiderate a-hole.
2. Taking your shirt off in the DoL is NOT cool. Never has and never will be. It's disgusting and nobody wants to see that. And Madonna? Really? At least choose some better music (like pop sensation Miley Cyrus).
1. Remember its ONLY kickball and at the end of the day everything said in the GMOT is all in good fun. If you get offended, you only make it easier for future write up.

Fistful of Balls

In their first week on the field, FistFul of Balls delivered a fistful of fury on and off the field. Undertaking a strategy of playing hard on and off the field, FFoB pre-gamed a bit too much for the actual game and thus took to the field lightly. Despite claims to the contrary from the light-blue-shirted femmes of **Single and Looking to Score**, FFoB intentionally lost the first game of the season. FFoB Captain Dave Walker said, "This was our plan all along: underestimation. Think about it... Rocky Balboa lost in the first movie. But only so he could kick your ass for 5 more movies and a billion more dollars. Bitches."

Off the field, FistFul of Balls fulfilled their promise, by bringing the hurt on the flip cup tables. FFoB have established themselves as a force to be reckoned with, and this week, they will dominate Youth in Asia would will likely want to commit suicide after what is certain to be a damning loss on the field and in the bar.

Team GFY

Team GFY stormed the field and set the tone of the game early. Seems to be the talk of the league after Game 1 that BSC and GFY are the teams to beat. A veteran **BttM** team was confounded by the high velocity pitches that Steve Wade for GFY was placing in front of the plate. The entire team played great defense with brilliant pitching and a magnificent connection between the field, catcher and first. With a single GFY run going into the 5th this game was assumed to be merely a defensive battle. An explosion of late game runs ultimately blew this game wide open for Team GFY with a 5-0 victory over BttM. Team GFY is ready for battle next week vs. Elephantitis!

Fortunes were not on the side of GFY at the bar where the more experienced BttM took the victory in flip-cup 5-1. This however did not dampen the spirits of GFY. Eager to gain experience the team took on any and all challengers on the tables of glory. The Dungeon of Love soon introduced itself as a team of ballers disrobed and danced in their skivvies to many amazed players. As the beer flowed and fell throughout the night GFY's team pride was expressed more vocally with cheers of "Go F#&% Yourself" directed to no one in particular.

BTTM

Balls to the Mall, fresh off a good showing in DC Capital, came out in force on Thursday. Buoyed by new recruits and some long-time veterans, the team faced off against a skilled **Team GFY**. BttM played strong throughout, keeping the score tight for the better part of the game. Unfortunately, some ill timed plays and overthrows hurt them in the end. Shout-out to Molly for kicking a killer line drive and to Chris for pitching a strong game.

Fortunately, as some others in the league know, BttM's sense of coming out to play doesn't come into full affect till we reach The Times; team color-themed hydration aides on the field aside. They fought hard to hold on to their undefeated title Flip-cup title from D.C. Capital, rallying to win 5-1. After that, dancing and debauchery ensued till the late hours of the evening/morning. I have it on good authority that several of them may have had some awkward office bonding the next day as they pondered why drinking a pitcher through a straw is both a good and bad idea.



Even though the photo is blurry, the message is clear... guys should NOT wear shorts shorter than the ladies.

BSC

Welcome to another wonderful season of drunken debauchery, hilarious tales and, of course, the actual game of kickball.

THE GAME: Somewhere on the Mall, some wayward tourist is wondering why 5 sheets of papers are wofing in the breeze with names and actions scribbled so messily. That's because I lost my notes, but I will do my best to do the game justice. BSC was off to a rocky start, with overzealous base running and not a ton of communication. However, by the third inning, we came together and every cog in the wheel knew his or her place. As a result, the bombardment began. I imagine the other team now knows what it felt like to be in Custer's band of merry men as they made their way to the battlefield. BSC, in it's old school style of bunt-bunt-bunt-kick relentlessly pounded the rag tag group in the field. With sacrifices and long fly balls abounding, and even Sterling Morriss reaching base on legitimate at bat (she walked the first time), BSC quickly racked up the runs.

In the field, BSC was not flawless, but damn, were they close. Allowing only 1 run and thanks to the stellar pitching of one Roy "What did I get myself into" Gifford, BSC held Elephantitus, a name which clearly represents their overdeveloped sense of ego and not their ability to score big runs, to just that one run. With 2 consecutive 1-2-3 innings, BSC realized their true goal. Winning a game wasn't just for glory, it was for beer!

THE BAR: Once again, I managed to make it a photo finish to the bar in regards to my bladder. Running downstairs, I noticed that the DOL was already quite full. It was going to be a good night. Something in my bones told me so. Once I was empty, it was time to fill up again with that delicious golden nectar of the gods. As the newest editions to BSC, many of them Clevelanders (holler!) sat around the bar drinking straight from pitchers, off in the distance, a noise. An all too familiar beat danced in my ear drums. Suddenly, I heard those words: "Life is a myssssteryyyyy" Could it be? No! It's too soon. Said Sterling Morriss, "HE'S TESTING US". Test us he did. Our DJ friend Julian decided to start our night the right way. As the music played, he bolted to the bouncer, informing them it was OK and once the song was done, we'd put our shirts on.

According to Julian, "He said you're out if they don't go back on...don't make me a liar." And there we danced to our staple song. Others playing flip-cup looked on from the games of flip cup, quite obviously jealous of our team's blatantly erotic display to Madonna and disgusted that they didn't join up with us. As the song changed, the shirts went back on and it was time for business.

Flip-cup started with our team matching up against this Elephantitus ready to show them up once again, this time on the tables. BSC quickly gained a 2-0 advantage thanks to the one flipping and chugging ability that Joe and Amber recruited. However, the game was soon to become a nailbiter. With the arrival of one Paul "I got a job" Moinester and the inability for Sterling to pay attention to something for more than 43 seconds at a time, Elephantitus started to make a come back. However, once again, a stellar performance by Roy as anchor, BSC went on to win 5-4. In celebration of the win and his new job, Paul, Josh "Twinkle Toes" Spofford and I made our way to the bar for a shot. At which point, Paul said "fuck it, gimme the nastiest, shittiest tequila you got!" When asked for limes, the bartender obliged, informing us, however, we were "p*****ies". Down our gullets in went. Bad decision you say? Not in the slightest.

The night went on and the DOL closed down, with mostly BSCers remaining. A few stragglers made their way to the patio to discuss the evenings events. By 12:30, the party had died down. It's going to be a good season.

And with that re-cap, we come to this week's awards:

LEAST VALUABLE PLAYER

Brian "I'm fast, I can do it" Biel: Brian, unfortunately, while you are fast, you're not lightning. Brian overran second base on a bunt in the first inning and was quickly tagged out. He also made a crucial catching error, allowing

an Elephant to reach base. At the bar, his flip cup performance was, shall we say, less than what we all know he's capable of. Don't worry Brian, there's always next week.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

Roy "Kathy Lee" Gifford: Roy came through time after time last evening. With a stunning pitching performance similar to Cy Young winner Cliff Lee, Roy kept our opponents to one run and kept the field alert and in the game. At the bar, Roy one-flipped multiple times, giving us the advantage in flip cup. But what sets Roy's performance apart from the rest? When "Like a Prayer" came on, a reticent Roy was unsure of what he had joined. However, thanks to my coaxing and Sterling's, Roy's shirt came off and thus, he officially showed his dedication to the BSC.

Most talked about team this week:

Big Slick Cowboys

If you're new to the league, you found out the harsh way last Thursday: When "Like a Prayer" blares through the DOL, either join BSC by taking off your shirts or stay far, far away.

"We should give a shout-out to the people who didn't take off their shirts... The ones who did make me want to vomit."

"I swear those people who took off their clothes were on fucking ecstasy. They weren't even dancing...they were just moving around all weird like they were on drugs."

BttM presents "We on the Mall" to the tune of "I'm on a Boat." You're welcome.



Get your cleats ready it's about to go down (shorty,
yeah)
Everybody in Freedom hit the fuckin Mall (shorty, yeah)
But stay on your motherfuckin toes
We getting ready to fuckin roll
We running this shit, let's go

We on the Mall (We on the Mall)
We on the Mall
Everybody look at us cause we're kickin on the Mall
We on the Mall (We on the Mall)
We on the Mall
Take a good hard look at the motherfucking Mall (Mall,
yeah)

We on the Mall motherfucker take a look at we
Straight kicking on the Mall in this humidity
Bustin sweet bunts, ready for our next brawl
You can't stop us motherfucker cause we're on the Mall

Take a picture, trick (trick) I'm at the Times, bitch (bitch)
We drinking Miller champ, cause it's so crisp
We got our pitchers, and game faces
We're flipping fast, you should just get outta the races

We're sliding on the dance floor, busting moves and shit
The beer's flowing, getting e'rybody all wet
But this ain't Seaworld, it's the DOL
We at the Times motherfucker, and it's hotter than hell

We're at the Times and, it's packed and
We gotta WAKA themed headband
We're the king of the tables, at the Times like Petepapa
If you're not here, then you really oughta
{Get the fuck up, the Times is REAL!!!}

Fuck softball, we play kickball motherfucker
(motherfucker)
Fuck pong, we flip cups motherfucker (motherfucker)
We roll deep BttM, motherfucker (yeah)
The dance floor get crazy, motherfucker

Hey ma, if you could see us now (see me now)
You'd probably think we're nuts, but you love us wow
Gonna be the champs make the others bow
Like BSC anything is possible

Yeah, never know what we do
It's a big drunken mess we know (yeah)
Freedom!! Look at us, oh (all eyes up front)
Never thought we'd see the day
We'd rock out night and day
Believe us when we say, we fucked your teammate

Whoahhh
Sha-sha-shorty, shorty
Yeah yeah yeahhh

Power Rankings – Week 1

Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Runs For	Runs Against
Single and Looking to Score	2	0	0	8	1
Team GFY	1	0	0	5	0
Youth In Asia	1	0	0	2	0
Big Slick Cowboys	1	0	0	8	1
Free Iran	1	0	0	3	1
I Dewey Love You	1	0	0	2	1
A Swift Kick in the Grass	1	0	0	6	2
Monumental Disaster	0	1	0	1	2
Puttin' Pitches in Their Place	0	1	0	1	2
Menace 2 Sobriety IV	0	1	0	0	2
Ball and Oates	0	1	0	1	3
Balls to the Mall	0	1	0	0	5
My Balls, Your Field	0	1	0	2	6
A Fistful of Balls	0	1	0	0	6
Elephantitis	0	1	0	1	8

1. **Big Slick Cowboys** – BSC won the DC Freedom Cup last summer, and opened this season with a 7 run victory. They are the team to beat to start the season.
2. **Single and Looking to Score** – SaLTS was the only team to play two games on week one and they took care of business winning both, while only allowing 1 run.
3. **Team GFY** – If you were at the Kelly's, you knew who this team was and you heard that they won 5-0. This loud and proud squad strut their stuff during week 1 and should stay strong throughout season anchored by solid pitching.
4. **Youth in Asia** – One of three teams on week one to record a shut out against an M2S team, and defense wins championships. Look for them to beat FFoB next week.
5. **A Swift Kick in the Grass** – Scoring the second most runs on week 1, SKitG dominated in both kickball and flip cup. These folks are good at life. If they keep putting up runs, look for their continued success.
6. **Free Iran** – Won a close game in week 1, we'll learn a lot more about this team as they play 2 games in week 2.
7. **I Dewey Love You** – Jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the first inning on week one. Strong defense allowed them a 2-1 win. They will be playing another team that scored 2 in MBYF. Look for a good week 2 match-up in this game.
8. **Monumental Disaster** – Experienced a heartbreaking defeat in week 1. Their experience gained in DC Capital should help them rebound against FI in week 2.
9. **Ball and Oates** – Lost 3 to 1 on week 1 to FI. They are playing 2-0 SaLTS on week 2. If BaO can make some noise in that game, they will move up the table.
10. **Menace 2 Sobriety IV** – Lost by 2 runs in week 1. They are placed in the 10 spot because of their team name. Even if they aren't the same squad as the nationally competitive M2S team, they look for them to rebound in week 2 and hold up the M2S name.
11. **Puttin' Pitches in Their Place** – This team will be playing a similar team to what they saw in week 1. Their week 1 game could have gone either way, and PPITP fell just short. They will need to tighten their focus on week 2 to beat SKitG.
12. **Elephantitis** – They played a strong BSC team in week 1 and will play a strong GFY team in week two. They are an unexperienced, but very athletic team. They will move up the table as the season progresses and they gain experience.

13. **My Balls, Your Field** – Of the teams to allow 5+ runs in week one, MBYF was the only to score 2. They are playing IDLY in week 2 and will have every chance to make a statement in that game.
14. **Balls to the Mall** – This team was shut-out 5-0 against GFY in week 1, and are matched up against BSC in week 2. They do have kickball experience, and will win games as the season progresses. Win or lose though, always expect a strong performance from BttM every Thursday at the Kelly's. That being said, they are the team to beat in flip-cup.
15. **A Fistful of Balls** – They were shut out 6-0 in week one by SaLTS. They will need to put some runs on the board to beat YiA in week 2 who also recorded a shut out.



Youth in Asia 2 -1 Menace 2 Sobriety IV
 Team GFY 5- 0 Balls to the Mall
 Single and Looking to Score 6 – 0 A Fistful of Balls
 A Swift Kick in the Grass 6 – 2 My Balls, Your Field
 I Dewey Love You 2 – 1 Puttin' Pitches in Their Places
 Single and Looking to Score 2 – 1 Monumental Disaster
 Free Iran 3 – 1 Ball and Oates
 Big Slick Cowboys 8 – 1 Elephantitis



Menace 2 Sobriety IV 5 – 3 Youth in Asia
 Balls to the Mall 5 – 1 Team GFY
 A Fistful of Balls 5 – 3 Single and Looking to Score
 A Swift Kick in the Grass – My Balls, Your Field
 I Dewey Love You 5 – 2 Puttin' Pitches in Their Places
 Single and Looking to Score 5 – 3 Monumental Disaster
 Free Iran 5 – 1 Ball and Oates
 Big Slick Cowboys 5 – 4 Elephantitis

August 6, Week 2's Schedule:

***Squatting: Ball and Oats & SaLTS**

***Equipment: Youth in Asia & Monumental Disaster**

<u>Field/Time</u>	<u>Teams</u>	<u>Ref</u>
Field 6:45	SaLTS Ball and Oats	I Dewey Love You
Field B 6:45	Menace to Sobriety IV Free Iran	Swift Kick in the Grass
Field C 6:45	Big Slick Cowboys Balls to the Mall	My Balls, Your Field
Field D 6:45	Elephantitis Team GFY	Youth in Asia
Field A 7:30	Youth in Asia A Fistful of Balls	SaLTS
Field B 7:30	Monumental Disaster Free Iran	BSC
Field C 7:30	My Balls, Your Field I Dewey Love You	Team GFY
Field D 7:30	Putting Pitches in their Place A Swift Kick in the Grass	Elephantitis

Spirit Award

Stay tuned for more information about this season's competition (aside from kickball and flip cup). In the meantime, keep an eye out for those teams who are going above and beyond with their team spirit. You'll be nominating teams and then voting for a winner at the end of the season.

If you think this GMOT was long and boring, send less words and more photos, shout-outs and over heard quotes to jesseka.kadylak@gmail.com.

Presidential Address:

Freedom kickballers,

I hope you all had a great first week. I know we got off to a rocky start with last minute registration and schedules and I know a few teams are still shirtless. Those hiccups aside, last Thursday bordered on the perfect season opener.

I want to give a big thanks to all the refs that stuck around and helped out. Games went extremely smooth with very few problems and that's usually a testament to good ref-ing. We only have one small issue regarding a rule interpretation after one game. It was overheard that I commented that the ref "acted stupidly" and I feel I could have calibrated those words differently. To resolve the issue, the ref, kicker, VP and I have arranged for a friendly, thoughtful conversation over beers and flip cup. Thankfully, flip cup summits such as this should be a thing of the past since Chris, our head ref, held a clinic this Tuesday, which covered a lot of the gray areas in the rules. I hope all teams took advantage of it... and the free beer we used to bribe you to come.

Presidential decree #1: Guys. Belly shirts are never OK.

I thought I would have more actual information for a presidential address, but things went so well. From the looks of it, we have 15 enthusiastic teams that bring their game to the fields and leave their inhibitions at Kelly's door. That combined with a board that seems born to organize adult kickballers, I feel like we have the recipe for a great season.

See you on the fields,

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Other notes:

*Check out the user friendly links on kickball.com to view the schedule and kickball and flip cup scores. (kickball.com/season/dcfreedomsummer2009)