

## GABE DELUCA'S REPORT ON THE GAME

Thanks to the Mayor for the superb BBQ – food & service was great. Donna Loglisci and Lynn Arnow did a great job coordinating the events.

I began to feel we were in trouble when Umpire Charlie Pia approached me to get ready for the coin flip with the mayor to see who would be the home team. Next thing I know, the ump says (without flipping a coin), "Gabe get a batter at the plate." Mayor's team was on the field.

Without a doubt, Laurie, with the Mayor's purse strings, made the ump a better offer. I was planning on taking Charlie to lunch – provided he made calls in our favor. Laurie must be taking him to dinner because in the top of the 7th inning, with a tie 6-6 score, he made two bad calls against the Reps, preventing us from scoring 2 runs, which would have made us the winners.

I just finished reading a book called *The Glory Game*, by Frank Gifford, regarding the greatest football game ever – the 1958 Championship game between the Giants and Colts. I had the pleasure of being at this game to see the Colts win. Without a doubt, this evening's game ranks right up there with that game. The score after 7 innings was 6-6, and we decided to call it a night, enjoy a beverage and talk about the great plays.

MVP was Michelle Stabile. Jeter and A-Rod would have been no match for her. She was outstanding at short stop, making acrobatic plays, throws and was good at the plate. Nick Swisher of the Yankees is good, but Anthony (playing for the Reps) was super in right field with his catches. Scott Mirkin has to be considered Johnny Hustle. Although he was thrown out at the plate, he came in sliding on his stomach trying to score a run which would have put us ahead.

Laurie tried to baffle us by changing pitchers just about every inning. Her game plan didn't work. In this day and age when pitchers never pitch a complete game, our Mary Fedeli pitched a complete game; a little nervous in the first inning and then settling down.

Poor Mary, she would tell me every day to stop the trash talking lest it backfire on us. I may be the king of trash talking, but my counterpart Laurie had to take lessons on manipulating the batting order. How can a person be up in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, hit a 2 run homer with 2 outs, the next batter gets out, and end up being the 4th batter up in the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning? They tried to sneak up to bat hard-hitting Jon Zurkowski out of turn with 2 outs and men on base. I may be getting old, however I was alert enough to catch this deception. Jon was removed, the next batter was out and the game ended in a tie.

The Reps had outstanding coaches with Skigen at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Coppola at 1<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to Dr. McBride for being our top photographer.

To the Mayor and my ever loving counterpart, Laurie: it was a great game and a lot of fun, which is what it should be. Hopefully, Laurie won't hire a hit man again to break Kevin lassogna's arm preventing him from playing for the Reps.

Without a doubt this was the "Greatest Game Ever" in the annals of the Mayor vs. Reps softball games, which date back to 1978 with the late Mayor Clapes.