



Report Information from ProQuest

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MacPherson makes legal pitch over foul ball

Author: MacPherson, Les

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Abstract (Abstract): Herefore and wheretowith is the unedited statement of claim in the personal injury case of [Les MacPherson] vs. Asper:

3. MacPherson was induced into participating on the weekend in a one-pitch, company softball tournament, sponsored by the aforementioned StarPhoenix, owned by the aforementioned Asper.

19. What is relevant is that the defendant Asper is a well-known baseball enthusiast who donated to Winnipeg a 6,000-seat ball park for the city's minor league team. As someone intimately familiar with the game, Asper knew, or should have known, that MacPherson had no business being on second base.

Links: [Obtain full text from Shapiro Library](#)

Full text: Herefore and wheretowith is the unedited statement of claim in the personal injury case of MacPherson vs. Asper:

1. Les MacPherson is a resident of the city of Saskatoon, where he is employed by the Saskatoon StarPhoenix, at least for the moment.
2. Israel "Izzy" Asper is a Winnipeg businessperson who owns the StarPhoenix, among many, many other things.
3. MacPherson was induced into participating on the weekend in a one-pitch, company softball tournament, sponsored by the aforementioned StarPhoenix, owned by the aforementioned Asper.
4. In spite of being inept in all aspects of the game, MacPherson was allowed to start for the Editorial team at second base.
5. Editorial's first game was Saturday morning against the computer systems team. Liquor was in no way involved. But it would be later.
6. In the first inning of this first game, MacPherson was at his post when a systems department opponent tried to beat the throw to second on a ball hit sharply down the third base line.
7. The ball was fielded by MacPherson's colleague and teammate Art Robinson, playing third.
8. Robinson is an employee of the aforementioned Asper. He also has a cannon for a throwing arm.
9. After scooping up the hot grounder, Robinson used the aforementioned cannon to fire the ball to MacPherson on second.
10. Distracted by the looming base runner, and not having played any ball since the last company tournament three or four years ago, MacPherson muffed it.
11. Instead of catching the strong, accurate throw in his glove, he blocked it with his face.
12. He went down like an equipment bag full of softballs.
13. So jarring was the blow that MacPherson actually heard imaginary Tweety birds chirping as they flew around his head.
14. As a result of being hit by the ball, MacPherson suffered a black eye, disfiguring facial lacerations and a pair of steel-frame prescription eyeglasses bent into the shape of a `Z."
15. Don't look at him. He's hideous.
16. MacPherson's pain and suffering was aggravated when his teammate and fellow Asper employee Dan Zakreski, instead of offering sympathy, said, "Hey, nice catch."
17. As a final indignity, MacPherson was subsequently shifted from second base to deep, deep, deep right field, a new position created especially for him.

18. Not that it's legally relevant, but a black eye isn't really black. It's more of a greenish purple. And, in a one-pitch tournament, any throw that deflects off an infielder's face is officially scored as a ground-rule double.
19. What is relevant is that the defendant Asper is a well-known baseball enthusiast who donated to Winnipeg a 6,000-seat ball park for the city's minor league team. As someone intimately familiar with the game, Asper knew, or should have known, that MacPherson had no business being on second base.
20. MacPherson is seeking \$1.5 billion in compensatory and punitive damages.
21. That's right: \$1.5 billion.
22. The head injury seems to be worse than anyone imagined.

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Illustration

Colour Photo: The StarPhoenix / EXHIBIT A: MacPherson's black eye ;

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Company: MacPhersons

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