Wild Rice Soup

Serves 12

cup wild rice, rinsed and soaked overnight
cups water
tbsp unsalted butter
medium yellow onions, chopped
carrots, peeled and coarsely grated
cup chopped celery
cup chopped green bell pepper
slices ham, ½" thick, cubed
large fresh mushrooms, sliced
cup all-purpose flour
cans chicken broth
tbsp chopped fresh chives
cups half n half
tbsp dry sherry

Bring rice and water to a boil in sauce pan. Boil for 45 minutes. Set aside. Melt butter in large sauce pan. Add onions, carrots, celery, bell pepper, ham, and mushrooms. Sauté until tender. Add flour and stir until liquid has evaporated and roux forms. Slowly add chicken broth, whisking to blend thoroughly. Add wild rice and chives. Slowly add half n half. Do not boil. Add sherry right before serving.