

Mixed Nuts Head for the Hills

Nixed Nuts, Lanford, 9/25/03, 7:35pm

Thursday night the **Mixed Nuts** played a must-win game against **Embry Hills**, who won the Spring league at Lanford Park this year. We were 4-1, having lost our last game, and **Embry Hills** was rolling right along at 5-0. With **Atlanta Connection** sitting at 4-1, too, it made for a very bad situation if we lost to **Embry**. Losing meant we would be two games behind **Embry**, plus they would own us in the event of a tie, and we would trail **Atlanta Connection** by a game even though we beat them earlier. Our hopes for the divisional championship would, for all intents and purposes, go down in flames.

A win Thursday would be just the opposite, though. If we won, we'd have a one game lead and the tie breaker on **Atlanta Connection**, so we would have to drop two of our last four games for them to pass us. Beating **Embry** would tie us with them at 5-1, but we would own the tie breaker, essentially giving us a one game lead.

So, a win would put us in the driver's seat and a loss would put us in the trunk on a bumpy road. In our loss the previous week, we had played badly and we knew it. We played only okay defense, but could have been better and our bats were simply out to lunch as we lost 12-9 to a pretty decent team. Not only were we playing in the biggest game of the season, we were also trying to rebound after being so flat the previous week. It was a test of our team and it was pass/fail.

We lost the coin toss and were Visitors, so we grabbed our bats to do some damage. We didn't damage Embry Hills in the first inning, though. All we did was strand a two-out double. Embry hit the ball in the first, scoring three runs, despite some pretty solid defense. Their runs came on a towering homer over the LCF fence from a guy that looked like he might punch one out of the park every at bat.

We got on the board in the top of the second as three straight leadoff singles made it 3-1, but a double-play threatened to derail us. Embry Hills could play defense, it turns out. A single kept the inning alive and put a second runner aboard, then another single made it 3-2. Next up was **Mark "Alien" Nations** who busted a double to tie the game, 3-3, but some sketchy base running at third gave us the third out.

In the second inning we faced the bottom half of the Embry lineup and held them to one run, 4-3, as we played great defense once more. In the top of the fourth, we commenced with a fly-out, a single and a double, then **Tim "MAY!" McCoy** busted a gap for a triple and we led 5-4! The next gal did not hit a homer after the single, double and triple, but the out was a hard line-out. With two down **Howard "Judge" Mathis **** busted one over the fence for a two-run homer and we had a 7-4 lead! After a single, a fielder's-choice ended our half of the inning. In the bottom of the third we knew better what to expect from Embry Hills and that knowledge, coupled with the fact that we'd been playing stellar "D" thus far, held Embry to only one run in the third, 7-5. Their only run was when their big guy shot another ball over the fence. That gave us a chance to hit two more out later and it only cost us one run.

We led off the fourth with two straight singles, then petered out and failed to score as we made a second B.O.O.B. (Base runner Out On the Bases). We put a donut on Embry Hills to keep the score, 7-5. One of their guys shot one over the fence, but this one counted as an out since they already had one more over-the-fence shot than we did. To start the fifth, we got a fly-out, then doubled and singled for a run, 8-5, and another single followed. A third straight single made it 9-5, but a B.O.O.B. at second gave us two down. (Snap throw to the bag, no slide, runner thought he got back, umpire saw it differently.) So, with two down, **Howard "the Duck" Mathis** ripped another one over the center-field fence and his two-run homer gave us an 11-5 lead! A fly-out ended the rally, but we'd given ourselves some breathing room. We didn't get to breathe for long, though. The first three batters singled in the bottom of the fifth and the next one singled to make it 11-6. We were still playing solid "D"; Embry was just finding grass. Next up was that guy again, the one that had been hitting shots over the fence every time up. This time our pitcher didn't throw him anything he could lift, so he hit a screaming laser beam liner in front of LF. Our man about had it surrounded, but the ball came up hard and went sideways over his throwing shoulder and on towards the fence! We got the ball in pretty quickly, but the guy beat the relay to the plate and he had himself an inside-the-park grand slam, closing the gap to 11-10. After that we held them to only one more run, but they'd tied the score at eleven apiece.

We still had fifteen minutes left on the clock when we started the sixth inning, so it looked like we would be playing all seven inning, especially the way both defenses had been playing. In the top of six we loaded the bases with one out on three singles. A short fly chased home a run, just ahead of the tag, and we led 12-11, then **Denise "Gee, Tennessee" Brumley** followed that with a two-out, RBI single to make it 13-11! A fielder's-choice stopped us, but we had the lead. In the bottom of the sixth we held that lead with more sturdy defense and Embry Hills ate a donut.

In the seventh inning we put up two quick runs on a double and three singles, but three straight flies stopped us and on we went to the bottom of the conclusive inning leading 15-11. Our defense had been on fire all night long, so we felt good about our four-run lead, but we'd seen Embry put the ball in the grass when they had to, so we were not over confident. We'd made every play that came our way all game and we'd already turned two double-play's: **Howard Mathis** (3B) to **Deanna McCoy** (2B) to **Darlene Crews** (1B) and **Howard Darlene**, third to first. Our outfield had been solid, too, except for that one rogue hop that went over and past our left-fielder. Embry Hills led off the last inning with a single, but

we erased it on our third double-play of the night: **Rocky McCoy** (SS), to **Deanna** to **Darlene**. The next guy hit a soft fly to RCF and the game was over as we won 15-11!

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Total |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| Mixed Nuts | 0 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 15 |
| Embry Hills | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 11 |

Now THAT'S how it's supposed to look!! We played absolutely killer defense Thursday night as we didn't make any errors and made several exceptional plays. The **Dirty Dozen** wishes it could play "D" like we played Thursday night. We hit the ball well, too, despite **Embry Hills'** solid "D". They're not a team that gives up freebies. We earned what we got.

"Loud" **Howard Mathis** was 4-4 with only five RBI, **Tim** "Howard, Jr." **McCoy** was 4-4 with two and **Jeff** "Howard III" **Whitley** was 3-3.

** this particular nickname can be blamed on Tim McCoy.

The **Mixed Nuts** played their best overall game of 2003 and we did it in a pivotal game against the best opponent we'll face all season and we did it the week after we had played a ragged game the week before. I think we all thought about that loss and tightened it up a notch against **Embry Hills**. This is a different **Mixed Nuts** team than the one that played in the Spring and Thursday night we gelled as a unit. We were scrambling around early in the season, but now it has all come together. After last week, we could have crumbled this week, but we all knuckled down and played some ball. We picked each other up and didn't grumble at each other. (Okay, just the one usual guy; you know who you are.) We came together, **Nuts** and we're going to be tough to play in the PST! Great job, **Nuts!** It's a pleasure playing with you!

Next Game Times

DZ = Dirty Dozen

CB = The Cowboys

MN = Mixed Nuts

JT = The Jets

| Our Numbers | | Rain Updates | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Rocky - home (770) 465-0274 | Tim - home (770) 409-0537 | Bethesda (770) 822-8882 | George Pierce (770) 822-8882 | Lanford (770) 634-4545 | Lucky Shoals (770) 822-8882 |

“When in doubt, come on out.”

Monday 9/29/03 at Bethesda Community Park - Fall 2003
DZ 7:30 - 8 vs. The Dead Lois'

Wednesday 10/1/03 at George Pierce Park - Fall 2003
CB 10:00 - 1 vs. GMC Scrubs

Thursday 10/2/03 at Lanford Park - Fall 2003
MN 6:30 - 1 vs. Briarlake
MN 7:35 - 1 vs. Loose Change

Friday 10/3/03 at Lucky Shoals Park - Fall 2003
JT 7:00 - 5 vs. That Other Team

Monday 10/6/03 at Bethesda Community Park - Fall 2003
DZ 6:30 - 8 vs. Lazy Dogs

Wednesday 10/8/03 at George Pierce Park - Fall 2003
CB 8:00 - 1 vs. Tru Green

Thursday 10/9/03 at Lanford Park - Fall 2003
MN 9:45 - 1 vs. Loose Change

Friday 10/10/03 at Lucky Shoals Park - Fall 2003
JT 8:00 - 5 vs. Recall Protectors

Monday 10/13/03 at Bethesda Community Park - Fall 2003
DZ 8:30 - 8 vs. Bass Pro

Wednesday 10/15/03 at George Pierce Park - Fall 2003
CB 8:00 - 1 vs. Derby #10

Thursday 10/16/03 at Lanford Park - Fall 2003
MN 9:45 - 1 vs. Loose Change (makeup from 8/28/03)

Friday 10/17/03 at Lucky Shoals Park - Fall 2003
JT 9:00 - 5 vs. Springfield Isotopes

Monday 10/20/03 at Bethesda Community Park - Fall 2003
DZ 9:30 - 8 vs. Edy's

Monday 10/20/03 **Deadline for Winter 2003 League Fees**
Last chance to guarantee your Winter spots

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Wednesday 10/22/03 at George Pierce Park - Fall 2003
CB 9:00 - 1 vs. Godfathers

Thursday 10/23/03 at Lanford Park - Fall PST 2003
MN ??? vs. TBD

Friday 10/24/03 at Lucky Shoals Park - Fall 2003
JT 8:00 - 5 vs. ViaSat

Monday 10/27/03 at Bethesda Community Park - Fall 2003
DZ 8:30 - 8 vs. Luby's II

“When in doubt, come on out.”

The current MegaSchedule can be found at: <http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~dmcco01/Softball>

Be at all games at least 30 minutes before game time.

Standings & Scouting Reports – Fall 2003

Bold Italics = Our team, *Normal Brown Italics* = Our next opponent, **Red Teams** have clinched First Place. A + or – with a number indicates the difference in scores against that team, for tie breaking purposes. **PST** = Post Season Tournament. **TBD** = To Be Determined. An “x” before a team name indicates a team that has clinched a berth in the PST. The far right column shows our overall record against that opponent.

Began on 8/25/03

| Monday – Bethesda Men’s - No Homeruns | |
|--|-----|
| No PST for Fall season | |
| Bass Pro | 1-0 |
| Edy’s | 1-0 |
| Luby’s II * -2 | 1-0 |
| Strike Team * +1 | 1-1 |
| DSGB * | 0-1 |
| Lazy Dogs | 0-1 |
| <i>The Dead Lois’</i> | 0-1 |
| Dirty Dozen | 1-1 |

overall record

1-0
-
8-3
10-4
1-0
4-1
-
n/a

Teams with a * we play twice

The **Dirty Dozen** plays *The Dead Lois’* next. They lost their first game to **Bass Pro**, who is a so-so team.

I wouldn't expect them to be monsters, but we can't let them sneak up on us either.

Rain Makeup

Our rainout from 9/22 against **DSGB** will be made up on **Saturday, ??/??** at **?:??**.

If you can't make it call Tim McCoy at: (770) 409-0537.

The Cowboys

play the **GMC Scrubs** next. You can see by their record that they've lost a few games, but you can see the same thing by our record.

With our three losses and the **Derby**, **B.O.B.** and **Injoy** having great seasons, we can pretty much kiss off

First Place and most likely Second Place, too, but that doesn't mean we have nothing to fight for the rest of the season.

I'd like to see us knock those smug grins off the mutant faces of the **Derby** when we beat them on 10/15 and I'd like to make the catcher and a few other players for **B.O.B.** have to shut their mouths when we score 25 runs off them on 10/29. We're out of the running, but we sure could affect the championship race...

There's nothing we can do about the first half of the season, but we can definitely play like **The Cowboys** the second half. Let's have some fun and go win out!

Began on 8/27/03

| Thursday – George Pierce Men’s - Equalizer | |
|---|-----|
| No PST for Fall season | |
| Derby #10 * -15 | 3-0 |
| B.O.B. * -12 | 3-1 |
| Injoy -3 | 4-1 |
| Tru Green | 2-1 |
| The Cowboys | 2-3 |
| Godfathers * +12 | 1-3 |
| Sharon Walk +18 | 1-3 |
| <i>GMC Scrubs</i> | 0-4 |

overall record

0-1
0-1
0-1
-
n/a
1-0
1-0
-

Teams with a * we play twice

Began on 8/14/03

| Thursday – Lanford Coed - Equalizer | |
|--|-----|
| All teams play in PST | |
| Mixed Nuts | 5-1 |
| Embry Hills +4 | 5-1 |
| Atlanta Connection +3 | 4-1 |
| St. Edwards * +9 | 4-3 |
| <i>Briarlake Baptist * +15</i> | 2-3 |
| Calvary +9 | 1-6 |
| <i>Loose Change **</i> | 0-7 |

overall record

n/a
1-0
1-0
1-1
1-0
1-0
-

Teams with a * we play twice
Teams with a ** we play thrice

The **Mixed Nuts** play *Briarlake Baptist* and **Loose Change** next in a double-header. We beat *Briarlake* by 15 the first time we played them and we play them first Thursday. Our second opponent is **Loose Change**, a team we haven't played yet, but whose record speaks for itself.

Rain Makeup

Our rainout from 8/28 against **Loose Change** will be made up on **Thursday, 10/16** at **9:45pm**.

If you can't make it call Tim McCoy at: (770) 409-0537.

Began on 8/29/03

| Friday – Lucky Shoals Coed – No Homeruns | |
|---|-----|
| No PST for Fall season | |
| The Jets | 4-0 |
| <i>With Ourselves</i> | 3-0 |
| ViaSat +11 | 1-3 |
| Springfield Isotopes +20 | 1-3 |
| That Other Team +10 | 2-1 |
| Recall Protectors +15 | 0-4 |

overall record

n/a
18-4
3-0
8-0
4-1
2-0

Each team plays the others once.



The Jets play *With Ourselves* next. You know 'em, so let's hit the ball early and often and take 'em down. We only play them once this season, so a win puts us in the driver's seat.

The DL

So far, so good...

Billboard

Post your announcement, opportunity or business in The Sports Page. I can scan a business card and throw it on there. You need to be a McCoy Softball player or ex-player or family member and it has to be clean and honest.

| | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|---|
|  | Congratulations, Summer 2003 Batting Titleists! | |  |
| | <u>Dirty Dozen</u> | <u>The Jets</u> | |
| | Russell Ray 0.742 | Howard Mathis 0.879 | |
| | Norman S. Mapp, Jr. 0.710 | Darlene Crews 0.536 | |

Upcoming Birthdays

Steve Shreve knocks one off on 10/2.
Dawn Norton puts up another one on 10/4.
Dean Binder turns thirty-something on 10/5.
Darlene Crews parties on 10/12.
Sheryl Shea has a B-Day on 10/14.
Laurie Zienko celebrates on 10/17.

Your ad here?

Your ad here?

Your ad here?

Tina Cook

who played with the **Mixed Nuts** last year, is looking for a roommate to share her three-bedroom house off Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road in the Lawrenceville area.

For Details call: (404) 401-0992



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Ultra cool McCoy Softball stuff can be found at: <http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~dmcco01/Softball>

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