



Hanging Around

Walking Dead, Bethesda, 9/26/16, 6:30pm

The **Walking Dead** was hoping take it to the **Next Level**, a team new to our teams. We were on top of the division with a big walkoff win over the **Dirty Ducks** for the top spot, from a 15-4 deficit after three. **Next Level** had one win, that over the **ACC Ballers**, the only team in the division who had none.

We had overcome a big deficit against the **Dirty Ducks** and we'd overcome ourselves having played the **Waffle Batters** with just nine guys. We had bested the two best teams on the schedule and now we'd have to overcome another dangerous opponent: overconfidence.

Good teams stay sharp, even when they want to take a break, so to speak, and let down against a weaker opponent. Since we faced two tough games to end the season, we needed to stay sharp and run **Next Level** right off the field.

The **Walking Dead** welcomed **Justin Allen** to the McCoy Softball

We were Visitors and started the game with a ground-out and single. A shot into the trees made it two down then **Tim McCoy** got us on the board with a double after a ground-out ended the micro rally. We dropped a bagel on the **Next Level** and neither team was able to cross the plate in the second and it was 1-0 after two.

We started the third with a walk and back-to-back fly-outs. A single kept us alive then we got busy. **Nick Olmsted** tripled both runners home and scored on a single from **Jerry Smith**. A double drove in a fourth two-out run before a line-out stopped us. We dropped a bagel on **Next Level** and led them 5-1 after three. Once again, neither team scored and it was now 5-1 after four.

We scored a run in the fifth, with two down, then **Brad Mace** doubled home run and **Robbie Crider** added two more and we led **Next Level** 9-0. We still led 9-0 after they batted in the fifth. As it was an even numbered inning, both teams were blanked, so it was 9-0 after six and we'd been unable to score a run to send **Next Level** home in five or six.

We started the seventh inning with a single then went up 10-0 on a triple from **Nick Olmsted**. We singled and double for three more insurance runs before back-to-back fielder's-choices gave us two down, but we weren't done, yet. **Justin Allen** slapped a gap and ran a lap for a two-out, two-run inside-the-park homer! A single and fielder's-choice completed a six run inning and had us up 15-0. **Next Level** rallied in the bottom of the seventh, but for only one run and we won the game, 15-1!

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Walking Dead	1	0	4	0	4	0	6	15
Next Level	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

It was a solid win over a weaker team, where we scored a lot of runs, while not give up but one. I'd like to see us send weaker teams home early, rather than letting a team hang around like that. **Next Level** wasn't going to sneak up on us and after a couple of innings we knew it, but we never want to get in a habit of letting teams hang around. Sooner or later a little better team could hurt us. It was a solid win, though. Good job, **Walking Dead**.

Tim McCoy was 4-4 with four RBI. **Nick Olmsted** was 3-4 with four ribs and **Brad Mace** and **Robbie Crider** were each 3-4 with three ribbies.

Shake -N- Break

Dirty Dozen, Bethesda, 9/26/16, 7:30pm

The **Dirty Dozen** faced a double-header Monday night against two opponents we knew: **Shake -N- Bake** and **Dillon's**. The first, we'd played twice in the last couple of weeks, but the other we hadn't seen since Summer 2016 when they were some form of **Wild Wing**.

Shake -N- Bake beat us in an extra inning, 15-14, last game, but we'd beaten them on Opening Day, 17-2. We were looking to pay back a debt incurred the previous week.

Spencer Maddox was running late for the 7:30 start, but other than that we were ready to go.

We started the game with two base knocks then went up 1-0 on a single from **Tim McCoy**. After a line-out, we got a second run on a base hit then a fly-out followed. **Brad Mace** single home a two-out run to cap the scoring and we led 3-0. **Shake -N- Bake** scored a run to make it 3-1 after an inning.

We kept on hitting the ball in the second inning, this time plating four runs and **Kyle Shelton** drove in the two-out run with a base hit. We blanked **Shake -N- Bake** and led them 7-1 after two. **Shawn Nofziger** drove in the two-out run in the third, but that was all we scored. **Shake -N- Bake** scored two to creep up, 8-3 after three.

Neither team scored in the fourth inning, but we went wild in the fifth. We nailed seven runs onto the scoreboard on singles, doubles and walks and built a 15-3 lead. **Shake -N- Bake** scored one and only one in the bottom of five and we won the game, by run-rule, 15-4!

Run rule	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Dirty Dozen	3	4	1	0	7	-	-	15
Shake -N- Bake	1	0	2	0	1	-	-	4

We had a debt to collect and we got it back quickly and efficiently, hitting the ball and catching it. We hit all up and down the lineup and made every play in the field. That's how ya even it up when a team sneaks up on ya. Well done, **Dirty Dozen!**

Spencer Maddox was 3-3 with two RBI and **Brad Mace** and **Shawn Nofziger** were each 2-2 with a walk and a rib. **Jason Tyler** was 3-4 with three ribbies and **Robbie Crider** was 3-4 with two.

Wild

Dirty Dozen, Bethesda, 9/26/16, 8:30pm

Our next opponent didn't know who it was. It was called **Dillon's** Monday night, but it is usually some kind of **Wild Wing** offshoot. We had handled them as **Wild Wing** ... etc., but they were atop the standings nowadays.

Dillon's, at al, always plays good "D" and I knew we'd be scrapping for runs, but they never hit a ton, so it kind of evens out.

We were visitors and started the game with a double donut. **Dillon's**, on the other hand, scored two in the first inning and one in the second to lead us 3-0 after a pair.

We bowed up and hit the ball in the third, loading the bags ion three singles after a leadoff ground-out. We scored a run on a fly-out, then some clutch hitting showed up. A walk replaced the runner who'd scored on the fly ball then **Tim McCoy** singled home a pair to tie the game, 3-3. **Kyle Shelton** doubled home two more runs and **Brad Mace** doubled home another before a fly-out finally stopped us and we led 6-3. **Dillon's** answered our six spot with a four and led us 7-6 at the end of three.

We tied the game at seven apiece in the top of the fourth, on a fielder's-choice, but **Dillon's** answered with three and led us 10-7 after four. We failed to score in the fifth inning, but **Dillon's** kept right on hitting in the fifth. They scored four runs and killed the clock and we lost the game, 14-7.

Time limit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Dirty Dozen	0	0	6	1	0	-	-	7
Dillon's	2	1	4	3	4	-	-	14

It was just not a good game. We only really hit in the one inning, where we scored six, but our bats were hard to find other than in the third inning. Our defense was okay, but when we're playing the top team in the division and not hitting consistently well, okay isn't good enough. Tough game, **Dirty Dozen**.

Tim McCoy was 3-3 with two RBI.

Late

Jets, George Pierce, 9/27/16, 7:00pm

The **Jets** began the season with what turned out to be the weaker teams in small, but good division and we were 3-0 before the new and improved **Bombers** beat us. We rebounded by giving the **Hammerheads** their first loss and now faced **Short Bus Softball**.

Yes, you know who **Short Bus Softball**. They change names almost as much as **Wild Wing**, but you know them. Apparently, the wind changed direction and they were back to **Short Bus Softball** again. Regardless of the name, they were the team who beat us by a game in Summer 2016.

We had a repeater schedule. There were six teams in the division, so we'd play each of the other teams twice. We played them once through the schedule, then faced them again in the same order a second time. **Short Bus Softball** was the last of the first five and we'd be playing them again the final game of the season, so we wanted to play well and leave them thinking about it.

We were Home team Tuesday night and took the field first while **Short Bus Softball** scored a run. We came up dry in the first, 1-0 after one. **Short Bus Softball** hit quite a bit better in the second inning, scoring seven runs to lead us 8-0. We cut that lead by three, 8-3 after a pair.

We started to catch up a bit in the next two innings. **Short Bus Softball** scored one in the third and we answered with a deuce and we scored the only three runs in the fourth to close the gap to 9-8.

Short Bus Softball took over after we got to within a run of them. They scored four in the fifth inning and we had our TSP moments in the bottom of the inning. **Chris Barker** tripled with two down and scored on a single from **Brandon Gilbert**, but we trailed, 13-9. **Short Bus Softball** scored five in the top of the sixth inning and all but murdered the clock in the process. We dropped a bagel and lost the game, 18-9.

Time limit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Short Bus Softball	1	7	1	0	4	5	-	18
Jets	0	3	2	3	1	0	-	9

The **Jets** are very good at overcoming early inning runs, but we are also very good at giving up early inning runs. We caught up by the middle inning, but it was too many late inning runs that beat us. We just, plain got out hit. We had been in a three way with the **Bombers** and **Hammerheads** at 3-1, each having beaten the other, like a circular reference in a program, but that second loss might just have knocked us out of the running. There are a lot of evenly matched teams, though, so who knows. Tough loss, **Jets**.

Jon Vanderveen was 3-3 with two RBI and **Brandon Gilbert** was 3-3 with a "rib".

We found out the next day that **Brandon Gilbert** had played though half a game with a cracked rib. He will be out the rest of the season. Thanks for the hustle and the guts, Brandon! We miss you already!

How Young

The Cowboys, George Pierce, 9/27/16, 9:00pm

The Cowboys were facing a team unknown to McCoy Softball, in **Reeves Young**. This new team was hard to figure, just based on the standings. They started the season 0-2, having lost to two of the top teams in the division, but rebounded against to very good teams, to go 2-2.

Now they were in the other dugout from **The Cowboys**, on top, along with **One Bad Inning**, and hoping to stay that way. We had seen **Reeves Young** pick up a tournament player or two, so we approached them the way we might sneak up on a porcupine.

After an inning, we held a 4-0 lead and we didn't think any of them was a tournament threat, not even close. **John Culligan** hit a two-run single, with no outs, to give us a lead we never relinquished. **Reeves Young** failed to score in the top of the second and we kept on hammering. We batted twelve times in the second and scored eight runs, the last on a two-out double from **Chris Johnson**, and we led 12-0 after two.

We held **Reeves Young** scoreless again in the top of the third then pick up our clubs again. After a ground-out, we put two men on base on singles. A run scored on a fly-out to give us a 13-0 lead then **Tim McCoy** singled to put a second man on base then **Andrew Hess** tripled, both runners scored and we won the game, by run-rule, 15-0!

Tim McCoy had not requested a pinch runner on his last at bat and had scored from first base on the walkoff triple, but as he ran, he went more and more slowly, even more so than usual, and by the time he was near home plate he wasn't moving his legs at all. He flapped his arms and was able to fall across the plate for the final run. It turned out that his knee braces were so old that they were not made of titanium, but rather iron, and as he ran the metal built up an intense magnetic field as they passed back and forth within a half inch of each other as Tim ran. As Tim slowed he was unable to overcome the magnetic attraction and his knees slammed together with a sound like an arc welder igniting and the smell of ozone. Long story short, even with five of us pulling on each leg we couldn't break the magnetic attraction, but cardiac paddles in the hands of a skilled (and inventive!) paramedic, are not just for reviving heart attack victims any more.

Run rule	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Reeves Young	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0
The Cowboys	4	8	3	-	-	-	-	15

The **Reeves Young** we faced did not seem to be the 2-2 team who'd beaten the **Hit Squad** and **Pitches Be Crazy**. All we knew was that we faced a weak team and took them out quickly and efficiently. We fielded well, handling the few real threat posed by our opponent and we hit the ball hard and all over the place. We could have beaten anybody the way we were swinging the sticks Tuesday night, line drive after line drive. Good job, **Cowboys!**

Tim McCoy was 3-3 with two RBI, **Jerry Smith** was 2-2 with a walk, **Rocky McCoy** was 2-2 with three ribs and **Dean McDermond** was 2-2 with a ribbies.

Statement

Motörhead, Bethesda, 9/28/16, 6:30pm

Motörhead was faced with a rare double-header, Wednesday night. We normally play in even numbered, balanced divisions where we play one game a week for ten weeks, done and done. This time around we were in an oddball division where teams had a double-header or three. We'd played four singles games, but would now hit a stretch of three straight double-headers to complete Fall 2016.

Wednesday night we first faced an unknown in **State Property**, a coed or mixed team, who had somehow wandered into a Men's division. They were not a good team and were 0-6, none of the game close ones. We would use the first game to tune up to face the **Wolverton Wolverines**, a 2-2 team, who was much better than their record would suggest.

State Property batted first, but didn't score their one run until the fourth inning, when it was all over but the "Amens". We started off with two walks in the bottom of the first inning and took a lead we never lost on a two-run double from **Tim McCoy**. After back-to-back fly-outs, we wound up scoring some more. **Guarionex Montano** scored a two-out run on walk and **Joey Munoz** drove in two with a single and we led 5-0 after one.

We pounded for five more runs in the second inning to lead 10-0 and threw four unanswered runs on the board in the third, the last run on a two-out single from **Rocky McCoy**, and we led 14-0 after four. **State Property** score their lone run in the top of the fourth, but that was all and we won the game, by run-rule, 14-1!

Run rule	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
State Property	0	0	0	1	-	-	-	1
Motörhead	5	5	4	x	-	-	-	14

We did not expect a serious challenge that game and we didn't get one. They had a couple of runners on base in the fourth inning, but we held them to a lone run. Our defense was fine, though we were not really challenge. We had a lot of clean hits and quickly ran a weak team off the field. Good job, **Motörhead**!

Andrew Hess was 1-1 with two walks and two RBI, **Jason Tyler** was 1-1 with two walks and a rib, **Joey Munoz** was 1-1 with a walk and two ribbies and **Nick Olmsted** was 1-1 with a walk and an RBI.

Black Dawn

Motörhead, Bethesda, 9/28/16, 7:30pm

The **Jets** were the first of our team to face the **Wolverton Wolverines**. We beat them 19-0, but lost to them, with a superior pitchers, 7-1 later that season, Summer 2013. They landed in **The Cowboys** division in Fall 2014, where we won both game, 10-7 and 9-8. They beat **The Cowboys** in Fall 2015, 15-10, and now stood in the dugout across from **Motörhead** in Fall 2016.

The **Wolverton Wolverines** have a mix of older guys and kids and only appear in Fall schedules lately. They usually play good defense and hit the ball well. They were a good test for our new **Motörhead** team.

We were visitating and threw a blank in the first inning. The **Wolverton Wolverines** put one on the board to lead us 1-0 after one. We quickly loaded the bases in the second: walk, single, single, then a double drive in two runners and one was caught, dead, at the plate, while the batter rolled into third. **Jorge Minervini** was next and burned a gap for a triple and we led 3-1, but back-to-back fly-outs ended the run, but we had a lead. **Wolverton Wolverines** answered with a four spot and led us 5-3 after two.

We failed to score in the third and fourth innings, but the **Wolverton Wolverines** put a run in each frame to increase their lead to 7-3. We put three on the board in the top of the fifth inning, the last two runs on a two-out double from **Brett Shumaker** and single from **Chris Keagle**, closing the gap to 7-6 after five. Our defense, which had been a little shaky in a couple of spots earlier in the game, took a nosedive in the bottom of the fifth and the **Wolverton Wolverines** scored four run to lead us 11-6.

We rallied in the top of the sixth inning, with our backs to the wall and the clock almost gone and had the bases loaded with two down, then **Jason Tyler** doubled home two runs and **Andrew Hess** doubled home two more! A ground-out ended the rally and the game and we lost, 11-10.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Motörhead	0	3	0	0	3	4	-	10
Wolverton Wolverines	1	4	1	1	4	x	-	11

It was, without a doubt, a heartbreaking loss, but hopefully not a backbreaking one. We had missed an opportunity or four at the plate, blowing three bubbles in six tries, but it was our defense that had has feeling sick to our stomachs. We were probably responsible for half the runs we allowed. That's not okay, but it is excusable. **Motörhead** is a good team, but right now it is a work in progress. We have goo veterans and we have really good prospects, but having good players

does not always mean win after win. But for a few little things, we could easily have been 6-0, rather than 4-2, but that's the way it is. We are a team evolving and we're getting better and better. I've been coaching teams for 25 years and I see is improving, but for now we're have a few scabs. Don't let that kind of loss take you down, guys. Learn from that one, then shake it the heck off. Hang in there, ***Motörhead!***

Jorge Minervini was 3-3 with an RBI.