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Dirty Dozen, Bethesda, 9/28/09, 6:30pm

In Summer 2009 the **Dirty Dozen** had a great season. Almost. We lost our first game, but went on to win the next nine games to finish 9-1. Almost? 9-1's a great season, right? Well..., not always. The team who beat us that first game was the **Wild Wing Cubbies** who went on to finish the season 10-0, so our 9-1 was only good for Second Place. The **Dirty Dozen** and many of our other teams have been on both ends of that 10-0 vs. 9-1 thing before, so we took it in stride, but, doggone it, we didn't necessarily have to like it.

Not only did we not have to like it, but we didn't even have to wait long to do something about it. When we received the new Fall 2009 schedule, lo and behold, our first opponent was, guess who. That's right, it was those same 10-0 **Cubbies**.

The **Dirty Dozen** had been playing great ball, allowing runs sparingly and driving in enough clutch runs to win game after game. We hoped to bring that same grit to the **Cubbies** game, though we hadn't played together as the **Dirty Dozen** in a while, what with all the rainouts and make ups and forfeits at the end of Summer 2009.

I brought my grit to the coin toss, won and made us Home team so the game was on. The **Cubbies** put up two in the top of the first, poking liners and running like the young, fast guys they are. We started our half of the inning with two singles, followed by three fielder's-choices. We scored a run on the middle fielder's-choice and trailed 2-1 after an inning.

We held **Wild Wing** to nothing in the second and went to work again. For the second time, we led off with a pair of singles then followed with a ground-out. Then **Leroy** "Smokin' Joe" **Frazier** stroked an RBI single to make it 2-2 and **Rocky** "Marciano" **McCoy** did the same to put us up 3-2! Another single loaded the bags and a fourth straight base hit made it 4-2, before a fly-out gave us two down. **Steve Prachyl** "What You Preach" came up with a clutch single for two runs, 6-2, and **Tim** "ber!" **McCoy** busted a triple that came up a couple of feet short or a homer to end the inning. Those last two runs made it a seven run inning and our 2-1 shortfall had turned into an 8-1 surplus.

The **Cubbies** knuckled down in the third, but the **Dirty Dozen's** "D" held 'em to a lone run. We failed to get a run home in the third, but still led 8-3 after three. **Wild Wing** got a deuce in the fourth as, once again, our "D" held without breaking. We had a second straight donut in the fourth and our lead had dwindled to 8-5.

The **Cubbies** made it 8-6 with a run in the top of the fifth, but we answered with some two out runs to extend our lead. We started the bottom of five with two fly-outs, but followed them with two singles then **Larry** "The Barber of" **Civelli** busted a deep one for a triple and both runners scored, extending our lead to 10-6! **Andy** "Photo" **Matz** ** picked up the spare with a two-out single to make it 11-6! A single and fly-out completed the frame, but not before we'd thrown three runs worth of two-out Aflac on the board.

The **Dirty Dozen** knows what to do with a lead at the end of a ball game and we did it Monday night, holding the **Cubbies** to nothing in the top of six. We didn't score in the bottom of six, going line-out, fly-out, line-out, and we went to the final inning leading 11-6. Our defense was up to the task in the seventh and threw a donut on the board to win the game 11-6!

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Wild Wings Cubbies	2	0	1	2	1	0	0	6
Dirty Dozen	1	7	0	0	3	0	x	11



Once again the **Dirty Dozen** came through with solid defense and clutch hitting as our veteran team did what we've been doing for years. We also prove that old Klingon proverb that says, "Revenge is a dish best served cold." Seven of our eleven runs scored with two down and we had some big hits to go with our usual load of singles. Great game, **Dirty Dozen!**

The guy on the left you probably recognize, since he's been framed for BOOBing before. In fact he's the first double-BOOB since the frames began.

Larry Civelli "War" was 3-3 with two RBI. **Tim** "Pac Shakur" **McCoy** was 2-3 with three ribs and **Leroy** "Orbison" **Frazier** was 2-3 with one.

** this particular nickname courtesy of Tim McCoy

"Close" Game

The Cowboys, George Pierce, 9/29/09, 8:00pm

Tuesday night **The Cowboys** did something different. Only two teams, **The Cowboys** and **ECS Wolves** signed up to play on Tuesdays at Bethesda Park for Fall 2009. When I talked to the Guy, Tim and I had already put our heads

together in preparation of the league not filling up, so I asked him what was going on at George Pierce Park on Tuesdays. He said there were seven teams in the Men's division, so I jumped at that last spot and **The Cowboys** were in.

When it came time for schedules to come out the Guy told me the Tuesday schedule at Pierce was being delayed because they'd had a flurry of new teams and the league was up to eleven teams. When we finally got Tuesday schedules, we were in a twelve team division, playing three games on Field 1 and three on Field 2 every Tuesdays night.

We lost a couple of Cowboys between Summer and Fall through normal attrition then lost a couple more having to play our games at George Pierce rather than Bethesda. So, Tuesday night we welcomed four new players to McCoy Softball rosters as regular players. **Mike Ball, Jonathan Brivette, Troy Kelly** and **Jason Tyler** joined **The Cowboys** to help us wade through all these new teams at George Pierce and we were glad to have them!

A freak wind over rotated the coin the umpire flipped to decide Home and Visitor, so we wound up batting first against the **Rebels**, a team we knew nothing about, save for the fact that they had spiffy new, dark green jerseys.

Yes, we had to bat first, but, no, it didn't seem to hurt us any. We started the game with a single and a fly-out then **Elden "Kneivel" Kasmier** poked a double for the first run of the game. The next four **Cowboys** singled and the last three guys drove in runs to make it 4-0. A fly-out gave us two down, but we were not ready to call it an inning, not by a long shot. **Jonathan "Apple" Brivette** stroked a two-out double to clear both runners off the bases, 6-0, **Trey "The Tool Man" Taylor** doubled for another run, 7-0, then **Guarionex "Tony" Montano** busted a gap and ran a lap for a two-out, inside-the-park homer and we suddenly led 9-0! And we still weren't done, yet. A double got the carousel going again then **Ammar "ican Idol" Ahmed** singled for a two-out run, 10-0, and another double followed. "Colonel" **Tim McCoy** hit a two-run double, 12-0, and, appropriately enough, "Sergeant" **Rock McCoy** drove in the 13th run of the inning. A single followed, but a fly-out ended the top of the first inning, but not before we'd batted eighteen times and scoring thirteen runs before the **Rebels** batted. **Elden Kasmier, Tim McCoy, Rocky McCoy** and **Mike Ball** were each 2-2 in the inning. We went to the field feeling a little better about what we might face at George Pierce, at least for one Tuesday night.

The **Rebels** came out swinging in the bottom of the first, but not as prolifically as we had done. They scored three to knock a dent in our first inning, 13-3. When we went to the dugout, all smiles and kidding around, it was good to see, but I was not about to let us get complacent and let the **Rebels** chip away at us. I told **The Cowboys** that our thirteen run first inning meant nothing and that we were down 3-0 to the **Rebels** and we had to make up the runs.

We knuckled down in the second and plated a pair, 15-3, or 3-2. **Jonathan Brivette "Lieutenant"** hit a one-out triple and a double scored him then a single scored the double. We failed to score in the third inning, but we did BOOB, trying to stretch a two-out single into a double. The **Rebels** got one in the bottom of three and, as far as I was concerned, we were down 5-2, not leading 15-5.

We got down to hitting again in the fourth inning, leading off with a line-out, a single and a double. A fly-out made two down, but plated a run, 5-3. **Guarionex "G Man" Montano** tripled for a run, 5-4 and **Robbie Crider** picked up the spare to make it a tie ball game, 5-5! (Okay, kind of.) **Ammar "Club" Ahmed** busted a deep one and ran the bases for a two-out, two-run, inside-the-park homer and we now had a score I was happy with, leading 7-5 without the thirteen runs in the first inning. A fly-out ended a productive run where we fought for more even though we really had a big lead.

We fought on the field in the bottom of the fifth, to hold our "two run lead". The **Rebels** got a run, so we "7-6". We didn't score in the top of the sixth and in the bottom of six our defense stepped up again, this time holding the **Rebels** to zero and we won the game, by run-rule, 20-6, while maintaining a 7-6 advantage without the first thirteen runs!

Run rule	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
The Cowboys	13	2	0	5	0	-	-	20
Rebels	3	1	1	1	0	-	-	6



Considering that we had no idea what kind of team we were up against and no idea what kind of team we had in our own dugout, we did a fantastic job Tuesday night and every **Cowboy** who played should slap himself on the back as soon as he reads this! Our defense was tough the whole game, especially after we started acting like we didn't have the thirteen runs we started off with. Our offense piled up the huge lead, so that we could act like it wasn't there. We hunkered down, playing like we didn't have the big lead and "came from behind" to win. Thirteen of our twenty runs score with two down. Dynamite start, **Cowboys!**

Okay, so I don't always have a picture of the guy in the frame so I have to improvise a little.

Robbie "C.C. Crider was 4-4 with an RBI, **Guarionex "Butte" Montano** was 3-3 with four and **Jonathan Brivette "Midler"** was 3-3 with a pair of ribbies.

Surprise!

Jets, George Pierce, 9/30/09, 9:00pm

Wednesday night the **Jets** were playing on the wrong night, Wednesday instead of Friday, at the wrong field, George Pierce instead of Bethesda, and against an opponent we knew nothing about, so we hopped for the right outcome. Not

only were we facing all these unknowns, but we were facing them with only six of the eleven **Jets** who were regulars on the team for Summer 2009.

We were playing on Wednesdays at Pierce because the **Jets** were the only team registered for that night and park, so we had to make a decision. I asked the Guy what he had a Pierce on Fridays and he said there was a spot open in the Men's Unlimited Homer division there. I asked him what else he had. There was one spot open on Wednesdays at Pierce, so that's where we landed.

We had two guys subbing for **Jets** who had to miss that night and three more guys who were knew to McCoy Softball. We welcomed **Jamie Caballero**, **Jose Silvero** and **DJ Thomas** to the mix and wished them many happy seasons and many championships with our teams!

We faced a team called **Meggitt** Wednesday night. From the questions the other coach was asking before and during the pre game umpire conference, I could see that **Meggitt** was a new team and that we were not starting Fall 2009 against monsters. I won the coin toss and made us Home team so we hit the field to start the new season.

We held **Meggitt** scoreless in the top of the first and they did the same to us. We led off with a single then two fly-outs that could have been hits, but for two nice plays. The runner on first ran for second base on the second fly ball and almost made it to end the inning with a BOOB and it was 0-0 after one.

We hung another goose egg on **Meggitt** in the second inning then did some hitting in the bottom of two. We started off with a single and a walk. An fielder's-choice at third gave us one out, a walk loaded the bags then another fielder's-choice, this one at the plate, gave us two down, but we didn't waste all those runners on the bases. **Jamie "Jarin" Caballero** busted a clutch double, all three runners scored and we led 3-0! Two singles followed the double, once again loading the bases, then **Guarionex "Joe" Montano** stroked a two-out, two-run double and we were up 5-0! An RBI single from **Ammar "Club" Ahmed** added a sixth, two-out run before a fielder's-choice ended the inning. All eleven of us batted in the second and we scored six runs to break the scoreless tie.

We hung a bagel on **Meggitt** in the third then scored three more runs to lead 9-0 after three. We scored the first two on four singles to lead off the frame then, after a double-play, **Jamie "Song of the" Caballero** struck again for a two-out run.

We stuck another hole on **Meggitt** in the fourth and went to bat again in the bottom of four already leading 9-0. We led off with a single then two doubles made it 11-0. A fly-out gave us one down and a single gave us a 12-0 lead. A double put two **Jets** on the runway and **Andy Matz "Headroom" **** launched them when he launched a triple and we led 14-0! **Jose Silvero "Bullet"** singled for a final run and we won the game, by run-rule, 15-0!

Run rule	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Meggitt	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	0
Jets	0	6	3	6	-	-	-	15



That was a great start no matter how you look at it! It was also a surprise. The **Jets** had been improving, season to season, and we're learning to expect to win games, but blowing out an unknown team 15-0 to start Fall 2009 was definitely a pleasant surprise! We scored tons of runs against a team that shut us down on three nice plays in the first inning, so our offense was clicking. So was our defense! I still say that any time we keep any team with aluminum or composite bats from scoring one measly little run for a game, we've done something special, no matter the opponent. Great start, **Jets!**

"San" **Jose Silvero** was 3-3 with three RBI, **Guarionex "Hannah" Montano** was 3-3 with two, "Once Upon a" **Tim McCoy** was 3-3 with a rib and "Triple" **Rock McCoy** was 2-2 with a walk while **Jamie "Cash Cab" Caballero** was 2-2 with four ribbies and **DJ Thomas** was 2-2.

** this particular nickname courtesy of Tim McCoy

Wolves at the Door

Motörhead, Bethesda, 10/1/09, 7:30pm

When the leagues were forming for Fall 2009, I got a call from the Guy informing me that **The Cowboys'** league on Tuesdays at Bethesda was not going to fill up. The **ECS Wolves** were the only other team who had registered for that day and park, so we had to explore other alternatives. **The Cowboys** had to jump to George Pierce, since we already had four teams playing on most of the other available nights, but the **Wolves** jumped to Thursday nights to stay at Bethesda Park.

When the **Wolves** landed on Thursday nights they landed right next to **Motörhead**, McCoy Softball's Thursday night team. Naturally, the **Wolves** were **Motörhead's** first opponent of Fall 2009.

Back in Spring 2008, **The Cowboys** had been playing on Wednesday nights at Bethesda Park. We switched to Tuesdays for Summer 2008 and landed in a division that was topped by a team called the **Maddogs**, who had just changed their name to the **ECS Wolves**. Many of the **Wolves** had played with **The Cowboys** and other McCoy Softball teams, so we knew what to expect from them. They beat us the first time we played them in Summer 2008. The game

had been tied, 10-10 with one at bat to go in extra innings before lightning stopped us. When the game resumed, weeks later, the **Wolves** got a run and we lost. In Fall 2008 we beat them 15-11 and 13-11 en route to a 9-1 first Place finish and didn't see them again until Spring 2009 where we lost 20-13 in a division dominated by **USA**.

The **Wolves** did not play in Summer 2009, but a couple of their guys played with our teams. One of them played with **The Cowboys** for Summer 2009 and another picked up with **Motörhead**. So, when the **Wolves** landed on Thursday nights we lost a player and also faced a formidable opponent that we would play twice in Fall 2009.

We didn't have the kind of turnover on **Motörhead** that **The Cowboys** and **Jets** had, having to switch to different nights and parks, but we had to replace a couple of guys. We didn't add any players that were new to McCoy Softball teams, but we welcomed **David Lindeke** back and were happy to have a spot for **James Brown**, whose **Jets** team had had to switch nights, leaving him homeless for a season.

We were Visitors Thursday night against a very good opponent, so we wanted to throw some quick runs on the board. The **Dirty Dozen**, **The Cowboys** and **Jets** had all come out winners in their respective Opening Day games of Fall 2009 and **Motörhead** hoped to keep the good times rolling.

Unfortunately, we went down 1-2-3, all fly-outs in the first, but the **Wolves** got a deuce and led 2-0 after one. We produced two singles, but no runs in the second inning, and this time all three outs were fielder's-choices. We held the **Wolves** scoreless, still 2-0, after two.

We got a run in the top of the third, on a two-out, RBI single from "Eppy" **Calvin Shakir** then held the **Wolves** scoreless for a second straight inning, now 2-1 after three. I think we all felt like we had the measure of our opponent by then, having throw a couple of donuts at them, so we were confident going into the fourth, though we trailed by a run. **Motörhead** had shown itself to be a very gritty team in Summer 2009 and we still felt like we could beat any team we were close to half way through any game.

In the top of four we started off with a pair of singles then tied the game, 2-2, on a fielder's-choice. A single got us going again then **Jamie "GMC" Caballero** made it 3-2 with a double! **Trey "Drill Bit" Taylor** followed the double with a shot to left for a triple, two runs scored and we led 5-2! A fly-out chased Trey home to put us up 6-2 and empty the bases with two down, but we weren't done yet. A double kept the inning alive and "Don" **Pablo Isern** made it 7-2 with a two-out single. Another single followed Pablo's then "Rin Tin" **Tim McCoy** ** singled for two, two-out runs and we led 9-2! A fly-out ended the rally, but not before we'd batted twelve times and scored eight runs in the top of four!

When we were going to the field after the big rally, I was telling guys to play it like the game was tied, but as I passed **Leroy Frazier**, he said maybe we should act like we were down a run. We both grinned, but it was true. **Motörhead** had become the kind of team who plays better from behind. Either way we looked at it, though, we played well and stayed focused in the field and threw the **Wolves** another donut to maintain our 9-2 lead after four complete.

We put up two more runs in the fifth, on a couple of singles and a double, and held the **Wolves** scoreless again to lead 11-2 after five. We got busy with the singles again in the top of the sixth to lead 14-2 and now the **Wolves** were in danger of a run-rule. They needed three runs in the bottom of the sixth or the game would be over. We handed them another donut and won the game, by run-rule, 14-2!

Run rule	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Motörhead	0	0	1	8	2	3	-	14
ECS Wolves	2	0	0	0	0	0	-	2

That was another great start in a week of great starts as **Motörhead** kept up the winning tradition, starting Fall 2009 with a win! Our defense was great all night as we held a normally very robust **Wolves** offense in check after the first inning. **Rocky McCoy** made a couple of standout plays at 1B, the first on a diving stop of a throw to first, while dragging a toe over the bag for an out, and another on an absolute bullet over the 1B bag for a line-out. **Motörhead** was a little throw together team in Summer 2009, but we were able to shore up the outfield and infield defensively with a couple of new guys who can hit the ball well, too. We're not a little throw together anymore, guys... Great game, **Motörhead!**

James "Make it Funky" Brown was 3-4 with two RBI, **Pablo "LePew" Isern** and **Calvin Shakir "Rattle & Roll" **** were each 3-4 with a ribbie and **David "Lucky" Lindeke** and **Trey "Bright Eyes" Taylor** were each 2-3 with two ribbies apiece.

** this particular nickname courtesy of Tim McCoy

Ye Olde Record Book

The Cowboys' thirteen runs in the first inning, Tuesday night, is tied for the fifth biggest first inning in the history of **The Cowboys'** 423 game history. The **Cowboys'** biggest first inning was 15 runs in the top of the inning against **The Cutters** on 11/9/94 at the Softball Country Club. Thirteen is the second highest as Visitors.

The Cowboys' record for runs in any inning is 23, scored in the top of the second inning against the **Yahoos** on 9/15/99 at Briscoe Park, en route to a 33-2 win, which also represents our largest margin of victory with 31.

The **Jets** shutout win against the **Rebels** Wednesday night represented the first ever shutout victory by the **Jets** in its brief 60 game history.

Congratulations, **Jets!**

It was the third McCoy Softball shutout win in 2009. Our last shutout was on 7/28/09 where **The Cowboys** beat the **Grave Diggers** 10-0.

Of the 61 shutout wins in McCoy Softball history, the **Jets'** 15-0 win comes in tied as the 37th biggest margin of victory in a shutout win.

The most lopsided shutout was when the coed **Mixed Nuts** beat **SMR** 41-0 on 3/11/98 at the **SCC**. The biggest Men's shutout win occurred on 6/7/96 at the **SCC** when **Smoke on the Water** beat the **John Marshall Sharks** 30-0.