



The Sports Page



Midterm

The Zombies, George Pierce, 10/3/17, 8:00pm

The Zombies began the season well, gradually easing into the schedule against the **QTS Eagles** and **Caught Looking**, a team playing its first game ever and a team with experience who was not all that good. Tuesday night we faced **Alpha Elite Softball**, who used to call themselves **Scared Hitless** before they dumped some guys, got younger and started winning all the time.

Alpha Elite Softball won the lower division in Fall 2016 and got bumped up the hill for Spring 2017, along with **The Cowboys**. **Alpha Elite Softball** struggled up the hill, but to say **The Cowboys** struggled in the tougher division would be a massive understatement. **The Cowboys** had held an 8-5 record against this team, but had lost the last four to go under 0.500 at 8-9.

If our two wins from our thrown together **Zombies** team had been quizzed, the first two weeks of the season, then Tuesday's game against **Alpha Elite Softball** was a midterm.

We were Home team and took the field long enough to let **Alpha Elite Softball** score one run, then it was our turn. We started with a single and a fly-out then got on the board, 1-1, on a double from **John "0.316" Culligan**. "Father" **Tim McCoy** doubled John home then **Derrick Quarles** "About Everything" made it 3-1 with a triple and scored on a fly-out. A line-out ended the first inning, but we led 4-1.

We threw **Alpha Elite Softball** a donut in the second and plated one run, on a single, to lead 5-1 through two. **Alpha Elite Softball** had a hole in the third, but we threw another four spot on the board, the last run on a two-out single from "Papa" **Jon Laporte**, and led 9-1 after three. We scored the only run in the fourth inning and held a 10-1 lead through four.

In the top of the fifth, facing a run-rule, **Alpha Elite Softball** hit the ball. The game was well in hand to that point and I think both teams sensed it. So, **Alpha Elite Softball** was relaxed and started to hit liners, where they'd been hitting flies and scored four runs on us to cut into our lead, 10-5, and stave off a skunk. We answered with a pair off the bat of **Josh Carper** "Diem", whose two-out triple made it 12-5 after five.

Alpha Elite Softball was still relaxed and continued to stroke the ball in the top of the sixth and, judging by the fading clock, final inning. They scored seven runs to even the game at 12-12. With just seconds left on the clock, all we had to do was score one run and call it a night. We led off with a fly-out and two singles followed, but a fly-out and fielder's-choice sent us to extra innings.

The seventh inning would be an extra inning, since the clock was dead, and, as such, we would be playing one-pitch for the rest of the contest. We held **Alpha Elite Softball** scoreless in the top of seven, their only hit a one-out single, and once again it was up to us to score one run and call it a night. **Jerry Smith** led off and dropped one in front of the RCF, who bobbled, allowing a heads up sprint to second base for a double. **Jon "Mister Clean" Vanderveen** was next and promptly shot a bullet through the defense for a single, the run scored easily and we won the game, in extras, 13-12!



Extra Inning	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Alpha Elite Softball	1	0	0	0	4	7	0	12
The Zombies	4	1	4	1	2	0	1	13

As midterms go, we passed, but we didn't get an A, but we weren't far off. We scored in six out of seven innings, so kudos to the offense, but the one time we dropped a bagel was the one inning where one run would have won the game outright. Our defense was pretty solid, not perfect or great, but pretty darn solid. We faced a good team, who knew how to stay alive and slapped us a couple of times. So, I wouldn't say we got a A, but we were way better than a C. So, some for of a B? Maybe a B+...? Screw it. I'm grading on a Softball curve and giving us a W., done and done. Good job, **Zombies!**



Jon "Pepé" Laporte was 2-2 with a walk and an RBI. "Yosemite" **Tim McCoy** was 3-4 with two ribs, "Porta" **John Culligan** ** was 3-4 with a ribbies, **Jon "Katniss" Vanderveen** was 2-3 with a walk and a dot and "Oh My" **Josh Carper** was 2-3 with three bones.

** this particular nickname courtesy of Tim McCoy

Hammering the Hammered

Motörhead, Bethesda, 10/4/17, 8:30pm

At 2-2, **Motörhead** had squared its record and was digging out of another hole. We dug ourselves an 0-1 hole in Summer 2017, and 0-2 to start Fall 2017. We went ahead and ran off nine wins to take a 9-1 First Place in the Summer and we were looking to run the table and go 8-2 in the Fall. So far, so good.

After losses to **Royal Flush** and **Motley Crew**, two good teams, we beat the **Victory Eagles** and **Maxxi's Creepy Crawlers**, two divisional bottom feeders. This week we had our double-header, against a very good team and a decent team in **Wild Wing Bar & Grill** and **Los Menores**.

Wild Wing Bar & Grill is always a tough assignment. They were the ones who beat us, deep down into the tiebreakers, after we started 9-0 in Spring 2017, but, then, they were one of the nine wins during the Spring run. We had the 8:30 game, so we knew that **Wild Wing Bar & Grill** would be nicely hammered, having sat in the parking lot drinking for a long time.

For a change, **Motörhead** had all it's regular eleven guys together for a game. The suspensions and long trips were over and we'd found good players for the season ending injuries and shift changes. The chaos that had been **Motörhead** had gotten us to 2-2 on the season. Now, we hoped that the smooth sailing would result in a 2-0 record on the night.

We were Visitors and went down 1-2-3-4 in the first: a two-out single and three fly-outs. It felt like a **Jets** game. **Wild Wing Bar & Grill** didn't have the slow start we'd endured. They hit the ball early and often and threw five runs at us for a 5-0 lead after one inning.

We got our sticks going in the second, though. Three straight singles started the second inning, to get us on the scoreboard, 5-1, and a double made it 5-2. A single drove in a pair to make it 5-4. A fly-out gave us an out and a single followed, but a line-out gave us two down. **Brian "Big" Byrdsong** drove in a game tying, two-out run, 5-5, and a single followed, then "Lieutenant" **Dan Covault** drove in two with a single before we made the third out. We batted twelve times in the inning, scoring seven runs and turned a good sized deficit into a 7-5 lead! **Wild Wing Bar & Grill** had been there before. We've been fighting wars with these guys for years and knew they knew how to respond to a good sized rally. They put three on us and led us, 8-7, through two.



We started the third inning with a ground-out then loaded the bases: single, single, walk, but a line-out and B.O.O.B., behind the runner at 1B ended any rally before it could produce any runs. We held **Wild Wing Bar & Grill** scoreless and it was still 8-7, after three.

We led off the fourth inning with a fly-out, but a couple of singles followed then **Kelvin "Machu" Rachu** tied the game, 8-8, on a double! "Lieutenant" **Dan Covault** put us up, 9-8, with a single. A fly-out made it 10-8, but left us wit two down. Not to worry, though... We were just getting started. A double put two men in scoring position then "Invader" **Tim McCoy** and "Totally" **Tyler Edema** drove them in with two-out singles to give us a 12-8 lead. A walk loaded the bases then **William "Tellburne" Shelburne** unloaded them with a triple and we led 15-8! "Limestone" **Rock McCoy** drove Will home, 16-8, then a single and walk reloaded the bags. "Absolute Zero" **Kelvin Rachu** and "Dapper" **Dan Covault** each drove in a run with a two-out single and **Marshall "Dillon" Shepard** added a double for two more before a final, fatal fly ended the rally. We batted eighteen times in the top of the fourth inning and scored thirteen runs to turn a small deficit into a rout, 20-8. **Larry Civelli**, **Kelvin Rachu** and **Dan Covault** were each 2-2 in the inning and **Brian Byrdsong** was on base twice with a hit and a walk. Yes, we'd seen **Wild Wing Bar & Grill** rebound after a good sized rally, but we'd also seen a number of team drop their eyes and shoulders after a really big rally. They hit the ball, but we held them to just two runs and maintained a 20-10 lead through four.



We were thinking run rule in the top of the fifth inning. We already had the requisite ten-run lead in the fifth, but we wanted more, because we knew better than to let a very good team off the hook. We started with a ground-out then "Roto" **Tyler Edema** tripled and scored on a single. A base hit followed, but we made back-to-back outs to end the run, but we'd scored one to lead 21-10. We dropped an onion ring on **Wild Wing Bar & Grill** and won the game, but run-rule, 21-10!

Run rule	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Motörhead	0	7	0	13	1	-	-	21
Wild Wing Bar & Grill	5	3	0	2	0	-	-	10

Our opponent did not seem as far in the bag as we sometimes see them for a later game. Maybe they knew they were playing a tough opponent. Had they seen the **Tyler Tomadoes** on their schedule they might have had one seven guys stagger onto the field, the rest asleep in the parking lot. They did not face a walk over, though, so the hammered were hammered. Our defense was on top of things in the first game Wednesday night and we held a top tier team down. We game up some earned runs early, but adjusted and allowed only two runs in the final three innings. Part of that, though, was they huge inning we put on them in the fourth. We were a little Jekyll and Hyde, offensively. We didn't show up in



three innings, but in two innings, we crushed it. Each time **Wild Wing Bar & Grill** threatened us, we were there with a barrage. I loved the way we responded. Great job, **Motörhead!**

Kelvin "Kobayashi" Rachu and **Tyler "Garden of" Edema** were each 4-4 with two RBI and **Andrew Hess "Express"** was 2-2 with two walks and three ribs.

El Run Rule

Motörhead, Bethesda, 10/4/17, 9:30pm

The first game of our double-header, Wednesday night, was on Field 10, but had to move to Field 9 to face **Los Menores**. Our run-rule over **Wild Wing Bar & Grill** had put things on time on Field 10, but the game on Field 9 was running 23 minutes behind us.

The two teams playing ahead of us were **The Wash Ups** and **Los Menores**, the team we would face next. **The Wash Ups** was in the process of a late inning rally in a run rule over **Los Menores**, so we had time to scout a little. **Los Menores** is a young team, learning to play the game well. One day they'll be dangerous and you never know when that day might be, but we didn't think it would be in the 9:30 game last Wednesday. Still, any team is dangerous, especially when you're just 3-2 like we were.



We were Home team and stayed out in the field way too long in the first inning as **Los Menores** dinked and dunked us to a four run inning. We walked to start our half of the inning. Three singles cut the lead in half, 4-2, and a fly-out let a third run score to make it 4-3. "EI" **Tim McCoy** singled for a tying run, 4-4 and a walk put a second man on

base. A single from "EI" **Andrew Hess** made it 5-4 and a walk loaded the bags. A single drove in a run, 6-4, then "EI" **William Shelburne** shot a gap and ran a lap for a one-out, inside-the-park, grand salami and we led 10-4! We made our second out on our twelfth at bat then "EI" **Tyler Edema** shot one to the fence for a two-out, inside-the-park homer! A fly-out ended our fourteen at bat inning and we led 11-4 after one. **Tyler Edema** was 2-2 in the inning.

Only one run scored in the second inning and "EI" **Larry Civelli** drove it in with a two-out double and we led, after two, 12-4. **Los Menores** scored the lone run in the third to make it 12-5.

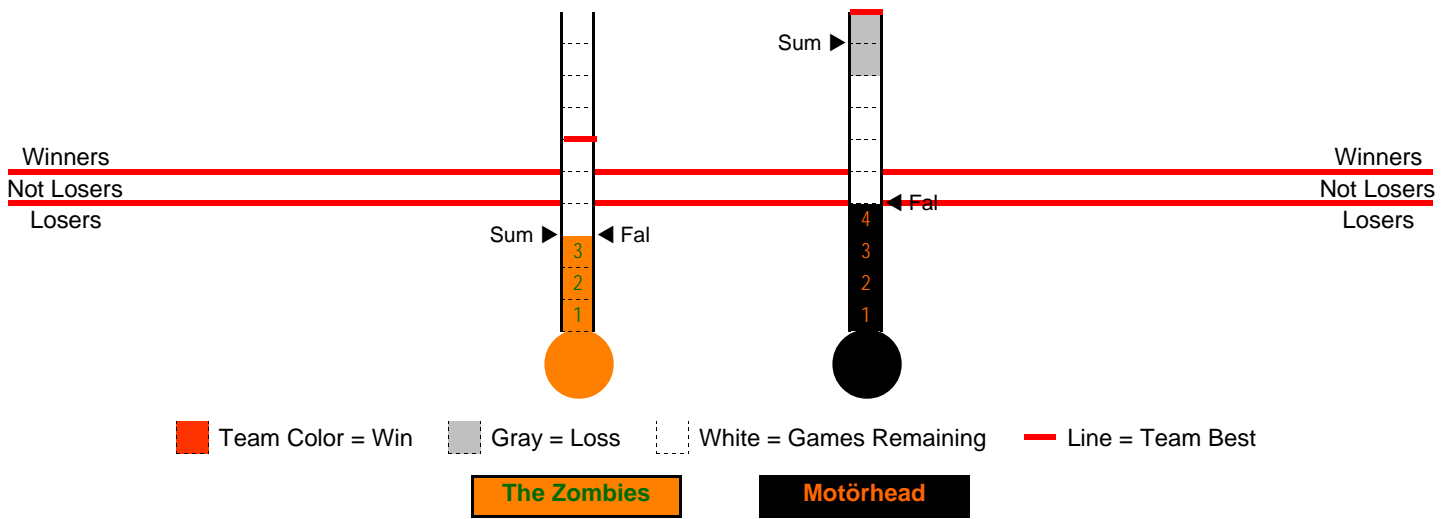
We shutout **Los Menores** in the fourth inning then went to work on the whole twelve runs after four innings thing. We led by seven, so we knew a fiver would win the game early. "EI" **Clayton Cox** led us off with a triple and scored on a single to make it 13-5 and we were on our way. A single put a second runner on, but not for long. "EI" **Larry Civelli** tripled for two and we led 15-5! A pair of walks loaded the sacks and a fielder's-choice let a run score then "EI" **William Shelburne** singled home a run and we won the game, by el run rule, 17-5!

Run rule	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Los Menores	4	0	1	0	-	-	-	5
Motörhead	11	1	0	5	-	-	-	17

Our defense was a little iffy in the first inning, but we smoothed out and shut 'em down after that. Meanwhile, we helped ourselves with a big ol' eleven spot in the first inning then waited around until we smelled run rule and dropped a handful for the early win. **Motörhead** plays very, very well when we aren't a hot mess. We came (all together and on time), we saw (what we needed to do and adjusted well), we kicked tails (all over two fields)! Good game, "EI" **Motörhead!**



"EI" **William Shelburne** was 3-3 with five RBI, "EI" **Larry Civelli** was 2-2 with a walk and three ribs and "EI" **Tyler Edema** and "EI" **Tim McCoy** were each 2-2 with a walk and a ribbie.



Rain Numbers for Each Park

George Pierce

Bethesda

(770) 822-8882

(770) 822-8882

“When in doubt, come on out.”

Tuesday 10/10/17 at George Pierce Park - Fall 2017

ZM 10:00 - 1V vs. Jaamarti

Wednesday 10/11/17 at Bethesda Community Park - Fall 2017

MH 6:30 - 9V vs. The Wash Ups

Tuesday 10/17/17 at George Pierce Park - Fall 2017

ZM 7:00 - 1V vs. Scuf Gaming

Wednesday 10/18/17 at Bethesda Community Park - Fall 2017

MH 9:30 - 8H vs. Smash & Dash

Tuesday 10/24/17 at George Pierce Park - Fall 2017

ZM 10:00 - 1V vs. Red Devils

Wednesday 10/25/17 at Bethesda Community Park - Fall 2017

MH 7:30 - 10V vs. Sons of Pitches

Tuesday 10/31/17 at Halloween - Fall 2017

ZM Off Day - No Games

Wednesday 11/1/17 at Bethesda Community Park - Fall 2017

MH 8:30 - 8V vs. Royal Flush

Tuesday 11/7/17 at George Pierce Park - Fall 2017

ZM 10:00 - 1H vs. QTS Eagles

Tuesday 11/14/17 at George Pierce Park - Fall 2017

ZM 9:00 - 1V vs. Wolverton Wolverines

Tuesday 11/21/17 at George Pierce Park - Fall 2017

ZM 9:00 - 1H vs. Red Devils (makeup from 9/5/17)



Tuesday 11/28/17 at George Pierce Park - Fall 2017

ZM 7:00 - 1H vs. Wolverton Wolverines (makeup from 9/12/17)



Standings & Scouting Reports – Fall 2017

Bold Italics = Our team. *Normal Brown Italics* = Our next opponent, **PST** = Post Season Tournament. **TBD** = To Be Determined. Asterisks after an opponent's name represents how many times we play that opponent if we play them more than once. A team in "< >" is a team we do not play during the season. The far right column shows our overall record against that opponent.

Tuesday - George Pierce Men's - Recreational, No Homers No PST	
<i>Jaamarti</i>	3-0
Red Devils **	3-0
The Zombies	3-0
Alpha Elite Softball	1-2
QTS Eagles **	1-2
Wolverton Wolverines **	1-2
Caught Looking	0-3
Scuf Gaming	0-3

overall
record

0-0 ←
0-0
n/a
1-0
1-0
0-0
1-0
0-0

The Zombies play *Jaamarti* next. This is a good team, who is 3-0 and battle tested. They have won this division before and have had a turn up the hill now and then, so they can be tough.

We just have to do what we've been doing. We have to score early and keep *Jaamarti* from getting any momentum, but mostly we need to keep having fun and playing like we love it.

Go get 'em **Zombies!**



Wednesday - Bethesda Men's - Recreational, No Homers No PST	
<i>The Wash Ups</i>	5-1
Royal Flush **	5-1
Motley Crew	5-1
Sons of Pitches	4-2
Motörhead	4-2
Wild Wing Bar & Grill	4-2
Victory Eagles	1-4
Maxxi's Creepy Crawlers	1-5
Los Menores	1-6
Smash & Dash	0-6

overall
record

0-0 ←
25-3
20-6
13-0
0-0
7-4
3-0
1-0
2-0
5-2

Motörhead plays a very good team next in *The Wash Ups*. Or, as the *Walking Dead* and almost everybody else thinks of them: *Those Damn Kids*.

They surprised everybody on Mondays in the Summer and beat the *Walking Dead* early, but we later gave them their only loss of the season.

They are 5-1 right now, so a win will put them behind us in the standings and we won't play them again. They are kids right out of high school, mostly, and play great defense, but they're learning to hit a big, slow softball. They hit okay, but if we keep them in check with our gloves, we can make them nut up. That's what the *Walking Dead* did.

As far as the standings go, if we win the rest of our games, we clinch second place. All those wins will set us up nicely for tiebreakers. The problem is *Motley Crew*, who has a one game lead on us and the tiebreaker. So, they would have to lose two of their final four games, though they still have to play *The Wash Ups* and *Wild Wing*.

Just keep playing and having fun, guys. Ya never know...!



Birthdays & Batting Titlists

October Birthdays

ROGERS, JASON	10/1
SHREVE, STEVE	10/2
NORTON, DAWN	10/4
BINDER, DEAN	10/5
MCCORD, KYLIE	10/5
NGUYEN, DIEP	10/5
UMPHENOUR, DARIN	10/5
BRUMLEY, DENISE	10/6
COVAULT, DAN	10/6
BOGDAL, KYLE	10/7
WHEELER, DENA	10/8
HERMAN, MATT	10/9
MARQUEZ, DAVID	10/10
AHMED, AMMAR	10/11
SETZER, PHIL	10/11
SUGGS, STEVEN	10/11
SHEA, SHERYL	10/14
REILLY, MARK	10/15
ORTIZ, JHONATAN	10/17
SPIVEY, HEATHER	10/17
ZIENKO, LAURIE	10/17
GONZALEZ, XAVIER	10/19
KOPSHO, MAX	10/20
MANDEL, MATTHEW	10/20
ANDERSON, NELS	10/22
JONES, WAYLON	10/23
LEWANDOWSKI, MARTY	10/24
LYLES, CINDY	10/24
NATIONS, MARK	10/24
LECROY, STEVEN	10/25
ELLIS, DEBBIE	10/26
PRACHYL, STEVE	10/26
CONKLIN, RYAN	10/27
JOHNSON, DON	10/27
SHARP, MIKE	10/28
OTTINGER, JASON	10/30
PAYNE, DAVID	10/30
ALLEN, SHERRI	10/31
BUTLER, CATHERINE	10/31
GREENWOOD, NICHOLAS	10/31
QUIGLEY, LOGAN	10/31
SHUMAKER, MICHAEL	10/31
WRIGHT, BOBBY	10/31

Spring 2017



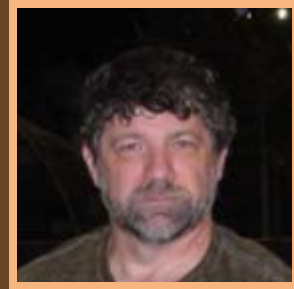
Kelvin Rachu **0.771**

Tyler Edema **0.733**



0.667

0.621



Tim McCoy **0.743**

Kyle Shelton **0.618**



Above team average:

B.Shumaker 0.581

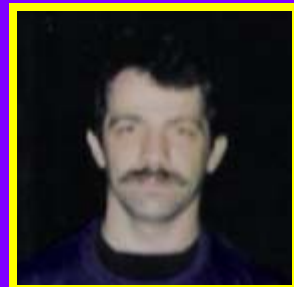
M.Reilly 0.559

B.McElhaney 0.533



Jerry Smith **0.607**

John Culligan **0.462**



Tim McCoy **0.706**

Keith James **0.679**



0.600

0.567



Bat Certification Testing



From now on Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation will use a new procedure for certifying Softball bats used at Bethesda, George Pierce and Best Friend Parks.

Before a bat can be used in a game it must be tested to verify that it conforms to ASA guidelines regarding compression.

It's a simple test. The barrel of the bat is placed into a fixture to steady the bat and position it at the proper location on the barrel. The handle rests on a pad to hold the bat level. A gauge with a dial is screwed down onto the barrel of the bat. This does not damage the bat and only takes 20-30 seconds.

If the reading on the dial shows a legal bat then the person testing the bat will affix an orange sticker (pictured on the left) just above the tape on the handle.

If a bat fails, it's no problem, but no sticker, either.

To use a bat in a Gwinnett park you need the sticker, regardless of the manufacturer's stamp, or list of bats on a website, or a note from your Mom or the Pope, or any other form of verification. No sticker, no bat.

Bat testing will begin before the first game every night and end sometime before the first game starts. Bats may also be tested at the GCPR office during regular business hours as long as you make an appointment.

Any player using an illegal (non stickered) bat will be called out. If a player steps in the batter's box with a non certified bat, he's called out. If he gets a hit with that bat and somebody notices after the fact, he's out.

All bats must be tested before the first game of every new season.