



The Sports Page



Off Key

The Zombies, George Pierce, 10/24/17, 10:00pm

So far, **The Zombies** had shown they could crush the easier teams and split with the better ones. An extra inning win over **Alpha Elite Softball** and a loss to **Jaamarti**, plus some big wins over the lower levels teams had us sitting at 5-1, tied with **Jaamarti** and one behind the undefeated **Red Devils**.

Tuesday night our thrown together **Zombies** team was tested again against the **Red Devils**. **Jaamarti** had already lost their second straight game well before out 10:00 start, so a win over the **Red Devils** would put us in first place, all alone.

The **Red Devils** tend to tear it up in the lower division, but struggle up the hill. Our teams beat them more often than not, but it's never a gimme. They are a good team, who's been improving from season to season.

We were visitors and as such, started the game with our bats in our hands. We didn't use them, though, going down 1-2-3 in the top of the first inning. The **Red Devils** scored one in the bottom half and it seemed that a defensive game might be in the offing. That was half right.

We threw another donut on the board in the second inning, but the **Red Devils** came up with five in the bottom half to lead us 6-0. We got a pair in the top of the third, on back-to-back two-out RBI singles from "Oil" **Derrick Quarles** and "Papa" **John Culligan**, but the **Red Devils** kept right on hitting and put four runs on us to take a 10-2 lead through three.

It was more of the same misery in the fourth inning. We scored one run on a two-out single from **Jerry Smith** "& Wesson", but the **Red Devils** threw five on the board in the bottom half and beat us, by run-rule, 15-3.

Run rule	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
The Zombies	0	0	2	1	-	-	-	3
Red Devils	1	5	4	5	-	-	-	15

It was just an ugly game right from the get go. Our defense was iffy as we had a few bobbles and panic throws to the plate and every time we messed up one of our opponents took advantage by swiping another base. Our hitting, well, shucks, our hitting never really showed up. It's nice that all our runs scored with two down and kudos to the guys who came up big, but three runs in four innings against anybody is just a shame. I'd rather see the two-out hitting after we've put three or four on the board before two outs. We were as flat as a failed American Idol audition and never got on track. Shake that on off, **Zombies**.



Jon "Cougar" **Laporte** was 2-2 and **Andrew** "Ender" **Hess** was 0-0 with a walk.

Blood in the Water

Motörhead, Bethesda, 10/25/17, 7:30pm

Motörhead was 6-2 and we were in the running for First Place. After an 0-2 start in a tough division, we'd plowed through some of the better teams to get back in the running, and while we were at it, we'd gotten most of the tiebreakers breaking in our direction. We knew that if we won our final two games all the tiebreakers would lean our way... except for one.

Motley Crew had given us our second loss at the beginning of the season and, at 7-1, owned us all up and down. We also knew that if they lost their last two games, while we won them, that they'd have three losses and fall behind us. We were not just whistling in the dark, either. **Motley Crew** faced two of the better teams in the division in **Wild Wing** (7-2) and **The Wash Ups** (6-2).

Motley Crew played their game against **Wild Wing** at 6:30 then we played the **Sons of Pitches** at 7:30, so we got to see if we'd stay in the running or be eliminated. **Wild Wing** defeated **Motley Crew**, 8-6, to go 8-2 and 7-2, respectively, so we were still alive!

The **Sons of Pitches** are a .500-ish team who are getting better and better every season. We've generally handled them, but we've never been able to dismiss them. For a **Motörhead** team bent on winning out after the one loss we needed, the **Sons of Pitches** could be very dangerous indeed. I made sure we all knew what kind of team we faced and what our chances for a Championship were. We were ready.

We were also Visitors. We led off the game with a single, but a fielder's-choice and fly-out gave us two down. **Andrew Hess** singled for a clutch run, but a fly-out stopped us. The **Sons of Pitches** came out hitting and dinked and dunked us for four runs and a 4-1 lead after an inning. One thing that is always true about the **Sons of Pitches** is that they always

have a rally in them. Every game, it seems, they get on a roll and make you think twice. We hoped that the four spot had been their rally.

We did some rallying in the second inning, though we started slowly with two singles, sandwiching a ground-out and a fly-out. With two on and two down, **Marshall Shepard** "Abiding in the Fields by Night" stroked one off the CF fence for a triple and, just like that, the score was 4-3! **Rock** "Paper, Scissors" **McCoy** singled to tie the game, 4-4 and another single followed. "Bow" **Tyler Edema**'s base hit put us up, 5-4, before a fly-out ended our four-run rally. The **Sons of Pitches** still had plenty of fight in them and scored two runs to get back on top, 6-5, after two.

We put guys on base with leadoff doubles in the third and a walk loaded the bases. We scored a run on a fielder's-choice to tie the game, 5-5, then "Scary" **Larry Civelli** untied it with a double to make it 7-6! A fly-out gave us two down, but once again **Marshall Shepard** "in Wolf's Clothing" came through again, this time with a two-run base hit and we led 9-6!



A single followed then "Absolute Zero" **Kelvin Rachu** singled home a two-out run before a B.O.O.B. near 3B ended the five-run rally. We dropped a hole on the **Sons of Pitches** and held our 10-6 lead through three.

In the fourth, we led off with a ground-out and a single. For some reason, the scoreboard showed two down, when there was really only one. The scorekeeper on our field Wednesday night is one of the best in Gwinnett County, but everybody has a brain cramp. Then brains just kept cramping. Our first base coach saw the two outs can told the runner to take off on the fly ball that came next. The fly-out gave us two down and the runner was way past second with no chance to get back once we realized what we'd done. The runner had trusted the base coach, who had trusted the scoreboard and nobody in the dugout had said a word until it about over. Anybody on the team could have noticed and stopped it, but we all brain cramped and trusted. The **Sons of Pitches** took advantage of the mistake, but we held them to just two runs and led 10-8 through four.

Fortunately, **Motörhead** has had its share of misfortune and general goofiness this season and we didn't let it sink us. In fact, it made us bear down. We started the fifth with a single and a line-out then a walk and fielder's-choice left us with two on and two down. "Once Upon a" **Tim McCoy** was the first to deliver a two-out single for a run then "We Are!" **Marshall Shepard** and "Buffalo" **Rocky McCoy** followed suit with RBI singles and the three clutch runs swelled our lead to 13-8.



Kelvin Rachu "Pichu" and **Tyler** "Durden" **Edema** kept making it swell with two-out RBI singles of their own, before a fielder's-choice finally stopped us. The clutch five spot had us holding a 15-8 lead. The **Sons of Pitches** took two off our margin and it was 15-10 through five.

With the clock nearly gone, the **Sons of Pitches** had made an intentional out to end the fifth inning, so we played a sixth and hoped to throw some insurance on the board. We started off: ground-out, walk, fly-out then "Lieutenant" **Dan Covault** drove in a two-out run on a single and **Larry Civelli** "War" added another with a double. A line-out ended the mini rally, but the two new runs had us up 17-10. We dropped a bagel on the **Sons of Pitches** and won the game, 17-10!

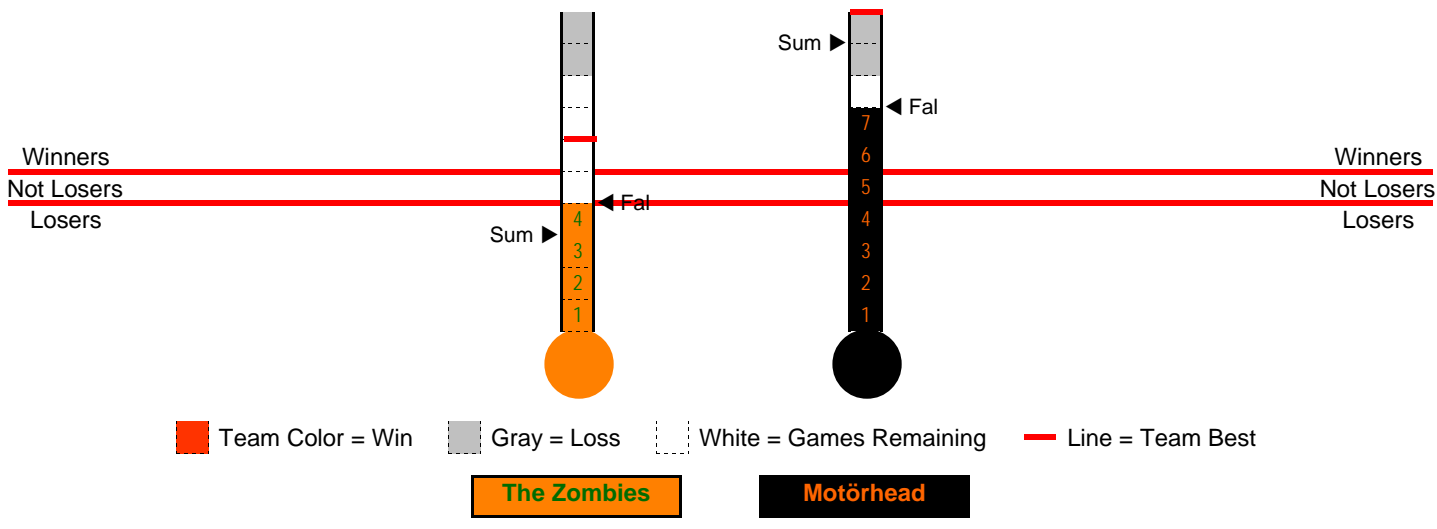
Time limit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Motörhead	1	4	5	0	5	2	-	17
Sons of Pitches	4	2	0	2	2	0	-	10

It was a good game and no so good a game. It was not so good because we had two B.O.O.B.s and it was not so good that we'd failed to know the outs. How often to I tell players not to trust the scoreboard? We had another brain cramp where an opposing runner did not go all the way to first base on a walk when he was getting a pinch runner. Only one guy noticed it and we didn't do anything. We also didn't pay as much attention to the clock as we might have, when there were fewer than thirty seconds left and guy hit a good pitch, with a foot on the plate for the intentional out. Those are all weird things and I never see them happening again, but a better team might have made us pay.



It was a good game as far as the game went, you know the hitting and fielding and all that. We scored in five out of six innings and had multiple runs in four of six. We were focused and hit the ball well and score a staggering fifteen of our seventeen runs with two down! Our defense wasn't perfect, but darn near. I think **Motörhead** is a hungry shark and there's blood in the water with the loss by **Motley Crew**. Stay hungry for one more week, **Motörhead**!

Kelvin Rachu "bacca" was 4-4 with two RBI, **Marshall Shepard** was 3-3 with five ribs and **Rocky McCoy** was 3-3 with two ribbies.



Rain Numbers for Each Park

George Pierce	Bethesda
(770) 822-8882	(770) 822-8882

“When in doubt, come on out.”

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	
Red Devils **	6-0
Alpha Elite Softball	4-2
Jaamarti	4-2
The Zombies	4-2
Caught Looking	2-4
Wolverton Wolverines **	2-4
<i>QTS Eagles</i> **	1-5
Scuf Gaming	1-5

overall
record

0-1

1-0

0-1

n/a

1-0

0-0

1-0 ←

1-0

The Zombies play the **QTS Eagles** next. This is the team we blew up on Opening Day, but they are a better team now than they were in their first ever game together.

We should handle them, but we can't take any chances with two losses on our record.

Keep playing and having fun, guys. We play better when we're having fun!



Wednesday - Bethesda Men's - Recreational, No Homers No PST	
Wild Wing Bar & Grill	8-2
Motley Crew	7-2
Motörhead	7-2
The Wash Ups	7-2
<i>Royal Flush</i> **	6-3
Sons of Pitches	5-5
Los Menores	3-7
Maxxi's Creepy Crawlers	3-7
Victory Eagles	2-8
Smash & Dash	0-10

overall
record

7-4

20-6

0-0

1-0

25-3 ←

14-0

2-0

1-0

3-0

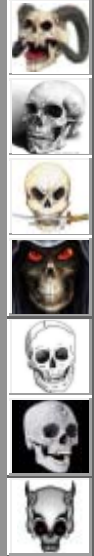
6-2

Motörhead plays its last game of 2017 with something left to prove against **Royal Flush**.

All the tiebreakers lean in our direction with a win Wednesday. With a win, we'll wind up in a three way tied with **Wild Wing** and either **Motley Crew** or **The Wash Ups**. In either scenario, we would wind up on top of the three-way.

We are not playing an easy team, though **Royal Flush** has fallen to 6-3. They have become a very solid team and not one we can take lightly, as if we would take anybody lightly with a Championship on the line.

We need to score early and keep putting up runs, to keep the momentum in our dugout. Relax, focus and have fun, guys. The hitting and fielding will take care of itself.



Birthdays & Batting Titlists

October Birthdays

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

November Birthdays

GERSHOFF, GARY	11/1
DENNIS, MIKE	11/3
KELLY, TROY	11/3
FRANKLIN, JAWSH	11/4
Hess, Andrew	11/6
Shelburne, William	11/6
STEELE, EDDIE	11/7
STEWART, ROB	11/8
ROBINOWICH, HOWARD	11/9
LANGLEY, RYAN	11/11
WHITE, MARK	11/11
COBLE, CODY	11/12
LYLES, BOB	11/12
BRACKMAN, MATT	11/14
CARPENTER, MIKE	11/14
PALERMINO, TONY	11/14
GILBERT, COREY	11/15
HUDNALL, BUBBA	11/15
DAVIS, CURTIS	11/16
MORELAND, JOHNNY	11/18
WILLIAMS, MATT	11/18
BREHM, RICH	11/19
BURSON, MARIE	11/20
FISHER, DAVE	11/20
AHRENSTEDT, KRISTIE	11/22
DREW, RODNEE	11/22
EPSTEIN, ALAN	11/22
McCoy, Tim	11/22
PINTO, TONY	11/22
ARNOLD, MIKE	11/24
CUILLI, SAL	11/25
HARTMAN, KYLE	11/26
RUBINO, STEVE	11/26
BALL, MIKE	11/27
HUMPHREY, GARY	11/27
CRAWFORD, SEAN	11/28
LITRELL, JOSHUA	11/30

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



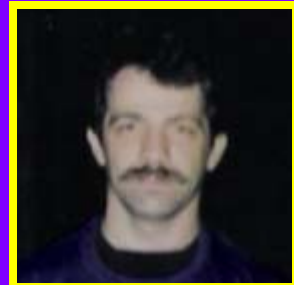
Jerry Smith **0.607**

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.