



The Sports Page



Roebuck

Dirty Dozen, Bethesda, 10/24/16, 6:30pm

Monday night the **Dirty Dozen** was closing out 2016. We were 5-4 and playing **DUCK!** to clinch second place and hang onto a last infinitesimally small chance at first. Had we beaten **DUCK!** a few weeks before, having scored only three runs, we'd have been playing the last **DUCK!** game with a slightly better chance.

We were 5-4 with **Dillon's** on top at 5-3. We faced **DUCK!** at 6:30 then **Dillon's** faced **Shake -N- Bake** and **Gwinnett Community Church**. **Gwinnett Community Church** had a shot, but **Shake -N- Bake**, not so much. Who knows, though? **Shake -N- Bake** had beaten us once in three tries.

DUCK! had beaten the **Dirty Dozen** for the first time, after we'd won the first eleven. This time we were Visitors and got started on that climb to get higher than three runs. **Kyle Shelton** and **Chris Harwell** had trouble with the half hour for the 6:30 game

We got a third of our projected run total in the first inning, on a two-out, RBI single from **Brad "Little Nail" Mace**. We fed **DUCK!** a donut and led by a run after one. We scored another of our three projected runs in the second inning, this one scoring on a two-out triple from "A View to a" **Kyle Shelton**. **DUCK!** answered with a deuce and it was 2-2 after a pair.



In the third, **Andrew "Bless this" Hess** drove in our third run with a one-out double, not realizing that we'd emptied our clip, because he was a sub. **Brad Mace "Bannon"**, also a sub, drove in an unprecedented four run with a two-out single. Okay, it was unprecedented if you base it on just this past **DUCK!** game. We didn't score any more, probably because of a lack of oxygen at that altitude. We dropped a cookie on **DUCK!** and led 4-2 after three.

Shockingly, we were unable to score against **DUCK!** steel trap defense in the fourth inning, but we held them scoreless as well and led 4-2 after four. We were definitely playing without a net in the fifth when **Tim "Buick" McCoy** drove in a run in the top of six, with a two-out single. **DUCK!** laid an egg in the bottom half and we held a 5-2 lead through five. I guess, since we were playing the final game of the year, there was no point holding back, offensively, right?

One of the biggest offensive motivators in the history of McCoy Softball was on hand for the final game of 2016, namely the dreaded Horse Trophy. In the sixth, we really started to hit the ball. You never know which inning will have the new Horse Award winner. We started with a double and ground-out, then **John "0.316" Culligan** tripled to put us up 6-2. After a short fly, John scored on a two-out single from "Gomer" **Kyle Shelton**. "Ruth's" **Chris Harwell** doubled Kyle home then two singles loaded the sacks for "Hurricane" **Andrew Hess**, who walked home a fourth and final run in the inning and we led 9-2. Then our gloves fell off and **DUCK!** scored four to match our sixth inning total, so we led 9-6 with one inning left, for the game and the year.

The Great Motivator was awaiting its new owner in the dugout, so we hit again. The first seven guys singled and doubled their way to four runs before we made an out. A fielder's-choice, and a bad throw drove in two more guys and a ground-out followed. **Andrew Hess "Truck"** singled to keep the inning alive and postpone the inevitable but "Colonel" **Tim McCoy** lined out to end the offensive part of the game. Hopefully. Unless **DUCK!** put exactly nine runs on us. We led 15-6 and **DUCK!** had but one more shot. We handed them a donut and won the game, 15-6!

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Dirty Dozen	1	1	2	0	1	4	6	15
DUCK!	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	6

It took a few innings, but we finally put some room between us and **DUCK!**, but we got it done. Our defense kept things close for five innings until our bats could wake up and as soon as the bats awoke the gloves took a nap. That game clinched second place and hoped for a double loss from **Dillon's** for first. We didn't get it. The wore out both opponents, neither of them close, so we took second. Good game, **Dirty Dozen**.



John "Cougar" Culligan was 3-3 with a walk and three RBI. **Andrew "Unleaded" Hess** was 2-3 with two walks and two ribs, **Kyle Shelton "Cooper"** was 3-4 with three ribbies, **Brad "Medieval" Mace** was 3-4 with two and **Chris "P. Kremer" Harwell** was 3-4 with one RBI.

Q: How do you spot a guy who can hit on the **Dirty Dozen**? **A:** Look for the ones who don't own **Dirty Dozen** shirts.

Benz

Walking Dead, Bethesda, 10/24/16, 8:30pm

The **Walking Dead** was in second place and would stay there. We were 8-1, but in second place behind the 8-1 **Waffle Batters**, because they drilled us the previous week, much, much harder than we'd beaten them in game two. Behind us were the **Dirty Ducks** at 6-3 and unable to catch us, even though we played them Monday night.

It had been a while since the **Dirty Ducks** had beaten us and the last time we played them, they let us know they were aware of it as well. A couple of them mentioned it to me before and during the game. We'd been down a lot of runs early in the game and one of them started talking smack about finally beating us. We dropped thirteen runs on them in the last two innings, a six and a seven, to beat them.

This time there was no such talking at the coach's conference with the umpires before the game. Boo yah.

So, the **Dirty Ducks** couldn't catch us for second, but we had a slim hope for first place. If the **ACC Ballers** beat the **Waffle Batters**, a highly unlikely event, then we'd be playing the **Dirty Ducks** for a Championship. Sadly, albeit predictably, the **Waffle Batters** won going away and clinched the top spot, so our game would be for fun with second place already in the bag.

The late **Spencer Maddox** was running late again, even though our game was at 8:30. Go figure.

We came out of the gate stroking the ball to start the first inning, three straight singles loading the bases, then went up, 1-0, on a fielder's-choice. A single made it 2-0, but a fly-out and single reloaded the bags with two down then **Eric "Wez" Wesner** busted a triple and we led 5-0! **Jason "Teeter" Tyler** added a two-out run with a base knock before a fielder's-choice ended the rally and we were up 6-0 before the **Dirty Ducks** batted. Boy did they bat! They threw eight runs at us, but, honestly, at least half the runs were unearned as we had trouble settling in, in the field. The **Dirty Ducks** led us 8-6 after one.

We knew we'd hit the ball really well in the first inning, earning our six runs, so if we kept hitting and could stop the bleeding in the field we'd be fine. We put two singles aboard to start the second inning then Justin Allen tripled and we had a new ball game, 8-8! "Slim" **Tim McCoy** singled us into the lead, 9-8 and a single followed. A fly-out gave us one down then a double put us up 11-8 and a single added another run to our total. A fly-out and double followed, but a fly-out ended the run, but not before all eleven of us had had a swing. We had started the game with two six spots, so we might have half expected the **Dirty Ducks** to add another eight, but we played solid "D" and shut them out to lead 12-8 after two.

Then nothing. For the next three innings, nobody on either team crossed the plate. We continued the not-crossing-the-plate for a fourth inning as time ran out in the sixth. The **Dirty Ducks** scored one in the bottom of the sixth, but we won the game, 12-9!



Time limit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Walking Dead	6	6	0	0	0	0	-	12
Dirty Ducks	8	0	0	0	0	1	-	9



We were living high on the hog for two innings, even coming back from that eight spot in the first, then we were dry as the high Atakama. We didn't have anything to play for, divisionally, but we had a lot of pride on the line. We could not let the **Dirty Ducks** think we'd lucked into a win the game before. Oddly enough, the Horse Award was not enough to inspire us to great, and a few runs, in the final time at the plate and **Nick Olmsted** won the award with a ground-out.

Kyle "Red" Shelton was 3-3 with an RBI, **Jason Tyler "Durden"** was 3-3 with a rib and **Spencer "for Hire" Maddox** was 3-3, too. **Tim "MAY!" McCoy** was 2-3 with a ribbies and "Limestone" **Rock McCoy** was 1-2 with a walk and two RBI.

Q: What do the **Walking Dead** and Glenn Rhee have in common? **A:** Last week was eye popping for both.

Garfunkel

Jets, George Pierce, 10/25/16, 8:00pm

Next on the **Jets'** agenda was a second game with the **Hammerheads**. We'd had an unprecedented three game win streak and hoped to run it to four in a row. We were one behind the 7-1 **Hammerheads** at 6-2, but since we'd beaten them earlier in the season a win Tuesday night would put us on top by tiebreaker. Then a win the following Tuesday would put us in some brand new Championship T-shirts.

But first things first. The **Hammerheads** were, without a doubt, the team to beat in our division. We also knew that, despite our three game streak, they owned us. We were not taking them lightly.

We were playing with ten guys Tuesday night. We had a sick player missing and no legal subs said yes, to make eleven. **Kyle Shelton** was running sort of late, despite the later 8:00 start time, but we had everybody ready to go when we hit the field.

We were Visitors and threw a hole on the scoreboard to start the game, but the **Hammerheads** dropped a fiver and led us 5-0 after one. The **Jets** have a habit of patiently coming back after enduring first inning rallies, so we didn't freak out that we were down a few early.

We put two on the board in the second and held the **Hammerheads** to cut their lead to 5-2 after a pair. We put up three in the third, "Dear" **John Culligan** providing the game tying run on a two-out single. The **Hammerheads** answered with a run in the bottom half and led us 6-5 after three.

We got two in the top of the fourth inning, tying the game, 6-6, on a fly-out the going up 7-6 in a two-out single from **Andrew Hess**. The **Hammerheads** put seven on the board in the bottom half to lead us 13-7 and, suddenly, we had our work cut out for us again. We started chipping away in the fifth and scored two, the last one on a two-out single from **Kyle Shelton** "Shock", but we were going to run out of innings, chipping that slowly. We'd cut the lead to 13-9, but the **Hammerheads** put four more on us in the bottom of the inning and led us 17-9.

The wasn't much time left when we batted in the top of the sixth and we knew this would be our final stand to score at least eight runs or go home disappointed. We began the inning with a pair of doubles, scoring a run to make it 17-10. After a fly-out, a pair of singles closed the gap to 17-11. After a fly-out, we stroked two more singles, the last one from "The Wrath of" **Jon Vanderveen** ** for a two-out run, but a final fly ended the game and we lost 17-12.



Time limit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Jets	0	2	3	2	2	3	-	12
Hammerheads	5	0	1	7	4	x	-	17

We gave the top team in the division our best shot and came up short. It happens. We played a clean game in the field, after helping them with a couple of their runs in the first inning. They just hit late in the game. Meanwhile, we were putting up twos and fives, but the **Hammerheads** dropped a couple of crooked numbers on us late and we never came up with the big numbers. We just got outhit, guys. We're still in the running for the #2 shirts. Hang in there, **Jets!**



"Trapper" **John Culligan** was 4-4 with an RBI and **Andrew** "Another Fine" **Hess** was 3-3 with a walk and two ribs. "Scary" **Larry Civelli** was 3-4 with two RBI, **Jon** "May the Odds be Ever in Your Favor" **Vanderveen** was 3-4 with one and **Chris** "Clive" **Barker** was 2-3 with a walk and an RBI.

Q. What do the **Jets** and a stewardess have in common? **A:** Both make a living flying out.

** this particular nickname courtesy of Tim McCoy

That Guy from that Thing...

The Cowboys, George Pierce, 10/25/16, 10:00pm

Two games ago the then 6-0 **Cowboys** dropped a had loss to the also 6-0 **One Bad Inning**. Even at 6-1, we were still a game up on **Alpha Elite Softball** and our destiny, for second place, anyway, was in our hands. We beat the **Hit Squad**, 11-10 the next week and now faced **Alpha Elite Softball**, was still just one game behind us.

A win over **Alpha Elite Softball** would chinch se cond place, but a loss would put us right out of the running for T-shirts. Since we only played **Alpha Elite Softball** once this season, a loss would give them the head-to-head tiebreaker and we'd be outside looking, especially since they would face **Reeves Young** the last game of the season and they'd been forfeiting games of late.

Jason Stull was on time for his game, which surprised us a little, but we found out why. Jason had actually gotten to the game early and was hunting bullfrogs in the swamp between the parking lot and the outfield fence on Field 1. He tends to do that, apparently, as relaxation and gets caught up in the hunt, often losing track of time. Then we runs up to the dugout late, but this time he was struck by lightning, panicked and headed up the hill early. He was sitting on the hill between the fields, still smoking and mumbling something about a mermaid, and looking through his net at what he'd caught when we arrived. The two bullfrogs were small, but Jason insisted, still edible. The two thirds of a **Dirty Dozen** softball, the Band-Aid, the sports bra, the bent dipstick, **Andrew Hess'** car key and what most of us agreed was half a squirrel, were not.



We batted first Tuesday night and put two runs on the board in the first inning, both on a one out single from **Andrew** "Ender" **Hess**. **Alpha Elite Softball** answered with two runs, 2-2 after one. We had though that **Alpha Elite Softball** was just **Scared Hitless** with a different name, but not so much. They had the same pitcher and catcher that **Scared Hitless** had had, but the similarities stopped there. This team was young, strong, fast and experienced.

We kept on hitting in the second inning and quickly loaded the bases on back-to-back-to-back singles. **Chris** "Tragic" **Johnson** put us up 3-2 and we scored two more before we made the second out. "Matthew, Mark, Luke and" **John Culligan** drove in two more runs with a single, but a B.O.O.B. ended the rally. The five spot had us leading 7-2 and we were doing what we do: hitting the ball. Then **Alpha Elite Softball** hit the ball. Boy howdy, did they hit the ball!

They burned us for a couple of inside-the-park homers and stroked liners and hot grounders all over the field and we helped them immensely with a ton of errors in the field. When it was finally (mercifully!) over, they'd put fifteen runs on us and led us 17-7 after two.

The Cowboys were ready to implode. A long, long inning in the field will test even the best teams and the errors had us starting to break apart. A quick pep talk before we batted in the third fired us up to the point where we loaded the bases. We didn't score any runs, by, by golly, if loading the bases counted for something, we'd have been set. **Alpha Elite Softball** scored two more and led us 19-7 through three.

We started the fourth inning with back-to-back fly-outs, a page out of the **Jets'** playbook, but quickly singled twice to stay alive. **John Culligan** "Better Water, Pure and Simple" capitalized by gapping a triple, both runners scored and we were moving in the right direction. **Andrew** "Don't Mess with" **Hess** moved John in the direction of home plate and a third run scored. A ground-out ended the run, but not before we'd shaved that lead down a little, 19-10. I wouldn't say it was a foregone conclusion or anything, but it didn't take long for **Alpha Elite Softball** to shoot three runs on the board and we lost, by run-rule, 22-10.

Run rule	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
The Cowboys	2	5	0	3	-	-	-	10
Alpha Elite Softball	2	15	2	3	-	-	-	22

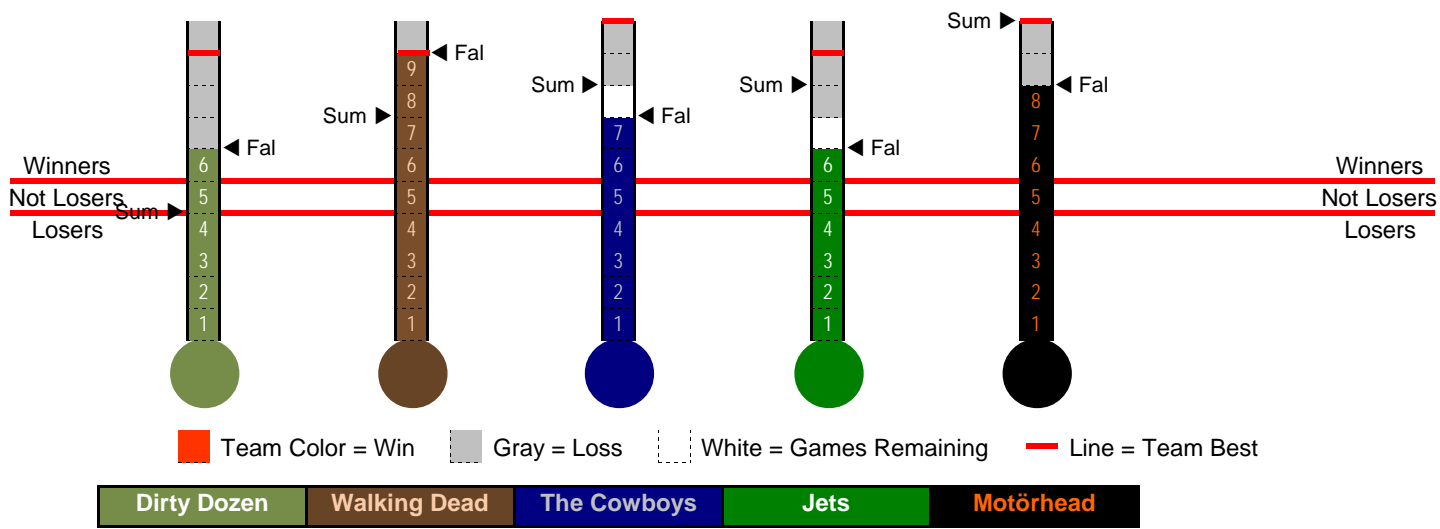


Well, we clinched third place. If second place is like kissing your sister, then third it like making out with your uncle, but shoot, it's better than fourth place in a ten team division. Seven other teams would take it and run. I'm not trying to put lipstick on a pig, here. I'm just saying.

We started that game pretty well. We made some bang-bang plays in the field to stop some good hits and we put seven runs on the board in two innings, but once our opponent found some cracks they exploited us big time. It was like a feeding frenzy and we were the chum. The fact is, we got beat by a better team Tuesday night. They out hit us, out fielded us and probably even smelled better than we did. All we can do now is put it behind us have some fun in that last game, with no place to move up or down in the standings. Shake that one off, **Cowboys!**

Andrew "Merrill" **Hess** was 3-3 with three RBI, **Jerry** "Springer" **Smith** was 3-3, "Triple" **Rocky McCoy** was 2-2 and **Tim** "Rat" **Rice** was 1-1 with a walk.

As we were leaving the fields one Tuesday night, walking down the long walkway, Tim and I happened to be walking right in front of a bunch of **One Bad Inning** and **Alpha Elite** players. Going the other direction, a little kid pointed and asked his dad, "Who are those guys, Dad?" The dad, said, "Those are the owners of **The Cowboys**. The other two are Rocky and Tim."



Rain Numbers for Each Park				
<i>Bethesda</i>	<i>Bethesda</i>	<i>Geo. Pierce</i>	<i>Geo. Pierce</i>	<i>Bethesda</i>
(770) 822-8882	(770) 822-8882	(770) 822-8882	(770) 822-8882	(770) 822-8882






“When in doubt, come on out.”

Tuesday **11/1/16** at George Pierce Park - Fall 2016
 JM 8:00 - 2V vs. Short Bus Softball
 CB 10:00 - 1V vs. Jaamarti

Standings & Scouting Reports – Fall 2016

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.

Bethesda Park Teams

Monday - Bethesda		
Men's - No Homers, No Steals		
No Spring PST		
	Dillon's **	7-3
	Dirty Dozen	6-4
	Innett Community Church *	5-5
	DUCK! **	4-6
	Shake -N- Bake ***	3-7

overall
record
6-6
n/a
3-0
12-1
2-1

The **Dirty Dozen** stumbled to a second place finish in a five team division, a weak division, no less. The **Dirty Dozen** in Fall 2016 was lashed together as best we could, but that was no excuse for the 6-4 finish, since we played in such a weak division.

We could have taken First, despite two losses to Dillon's if we'd taken care of business against **Shake -N- Bake** and **DUCK!** The team we had should have been able to wade through that division with big boy shirts.

Monday - Bethesda		
Men's - No Homers, No Steals		
No Spring PST		
	Waffle Batters **	9-1
	Walking Dead	9-1
	Dirty Ducks **	6-4
	Live Oak **	3-7
	ACC Ballers **	2-8
	Next Level **	1-9

overall
record
1-1
0-0
16-3
2-0
2-0
2-0

The **Walking Dead** ended Fall 2016 with a disappointing 9-1. Hard to believe we were not happy with a 9-1, but since the other 9-1 whipped the snot out of us in the ninth game to take the tiebreaker, we were pretty let down.

We'll take it, though. A lot of teams behind us would have killed for our record.



Wednesday - Bethesda		
Men's - No Homers, No Steals		
No Spring PST		
	Wild Wing Bar & Grill	8-2
	Motörhead	8-2
	Motley Crew	8-2
	Royal Flush	6-4
	Smash Tribe	5-5
	Wolverton Wolverines **	5-5
	Victory Church **	3-7
	Sons of Pitches	2-8
	State Property	0-10

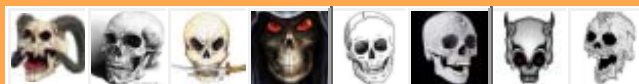
overall
record
5-3
0-0
18-5
22-1
4-2
1-1
2-0
12-0
1-0

Motörhead finished Fall 2016 with an 8-2 record that nobody was happy about. Such is our situation that an 8-2 makes us feel like losers, but there it is.

Wild Wing Bar & Grill won the thing and we took second, just ahead of **Motley Crew** and all three teams were 8-2. We so could have won this division.

We had **Wild Wing** beat on Opening Day and couldn't score just one, lousy run in the final two innings, so we went to an extra inning and got shelled. Our other loss was 11-10 against the **Wolverines**, who we destroyed in the final double-header.

We were that close to a Spring/Summer/Fall three-peat...



George Pierce Park Teams

Tuesday - George Pierce
Men's - No Homers, No Steals
 No Spring PST

One Bad Inning II	9-0	0-1
Alpha Elite Softball	7-2	1-3
The Cowboys	7-2	0-0
Hit Squad	5-4	4-4
<i>Jaamarti **</i>	4-5	5-3 ←
Dem Dawgz	3-6	4-1
Pitches Be Crazy	3-6	2-3
Reeves Young	3-6	1-0
Wide Right	3-6	1-0
AKA Tree Removal	1-8	1-0

The Cowboys finish Fall 2016 against **Jaamarti**. We win gets us third place, but then, so does a loss. This game only matters two whomever has a shot at the Batting Title. Personally, I hope they all go 0-4, but we win anyway.

Seriously, though. Let's have some fun and get some of those bad tastes out of our mouths.

Play good. Go get 'em. Boo yah.



Thursday - George Pierce
Men's - No Homers, No Steals
 No Spring PST

Hammerheads **	8-1	7-14
Jets	6-3	0-0
Bombers **	5-4	2-4
<i>Short Bus Softball **</i>	5-4	11-6 ←
Swamp Donkeys **	2-7	2-0
Red Devils **	1-8	6-0

The **Jets** play **Short Bus Softball** to wrap up Fall 2016. A win gets us the second place shirts and a loss get us cussing while we drive home.

This is a good team that we used to own, but they've knocked us off twice in a row now. Bow up one more time, **Jets!**



The DL

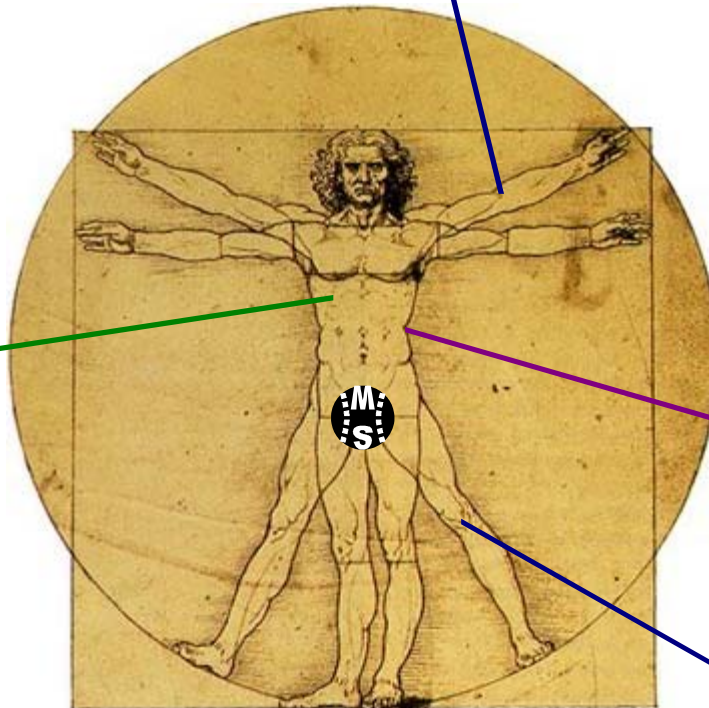


Elden Kasmier will miss Summer 2016 with an elbow injury on his throwing arm

We miss you, #53!



Brandon Gilbert will be missing the rest of Fall 2016, due to a cracked rib, suffered in a play at the plate in his last game.



David Kim had back surgery and has to miss Summer 2016.

Hurry back, #27!



Jason Gravitt injured his left knee in a car accident and will probably miss all of Summer 2016.

Hang in there, #99!

Birthdays & Batting Titlists

October Birthdays

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
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
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
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

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.