

The Sports Page



Deuces Gone Wild

Dirty Dozen, Bethesda, 10/27/14, 6:30pm

Win or lose, the 4-5 **Dirty Dozen** would end Fall 2014 with a whimper, but hopefully not a thud. We faced the 4-5 **Batmen** for the second time in a battle for fourth place. We had beaten them 19-9 on 10/6, a ten run victory, meaning they would have to beat us by more than ten to take fourth place and leave us fifth. That would have been the thud.

The whimper was the fact that we'd lost to the three teams ahead of us in the standings and could not rise higher no matter what happened I our last game. *Team Latinos* had already clinched the top spot at 8-1 and their 8:30 game against *Breaking Bats* meant nothing to them. *Deep Web Roots* and *Johnny's Kids* had already finished 6-4 the week before and at 4-5 we had no shot at climbing over them.

So, we faced the *Batmen* with a Batting Title and pride on the line. We also had one more thing on our list, though, and it involved the end of a horse without the personality. Yes, it was the final game of 2014 for the *Dirty Dozen* and we would be awarding the first Horse Award of the year.

We were Visitors and seized the opportunity to bat first by throwing a bagel on the scoreboard. We loaded the bases, after a leadoff ground-out, but back-to-back fly-outs stopped us. We threw a bagel on the *Batmen* and it was 0-0 after one. It was 5-0 after two, however. We led off with a single then two outs, but rallied. A single put a second man on base then the *Batmen* started throwing doubles. Taylor "Tot" McCauley was the first recipient of our opponent's unexpected generosity, doubling home the first run to make it 1-0. Kelvin Rachu "Pichu" doubled for a pair, 3-0 and Josh Carper "Diem" and "Scary" Larry Civelli each added RBI doubles to make it 5-0. The *Batmen* were unable to turn a two-out walk into a double with a wild throw to the plate, so nobody scored. A fly-out ended the run in the top of the second. We dropped another inedible boiled pastry on the *Batmen* and had a five run lead after a pair of innings.

We scored a run in the top of the third on a fly-out with the bases loaded, put another dose of bagel on the **Batmen** and led 6-0 after three. In the fourth, we started off with three more wild-throw doubles then a pair of more sedate singles for three runs. Then we went down 1-2-3, all fly-outs. Another bagel for the **Batmen** and we led 9-0 after four.

As flat as our opponents were, it seemed unlikely they would throw a ton of runs on the board, so it seemed very likely that the fifth would be the final inning, especially if we scored some runs and since nobody wanted to take home a gold, plastic nether end of a horse. We rallied in the top of the fifth inning. We rallied hard. A walk and three singles quickly made it 10-0, enough for a bare minimum run-rule, before a fly-out gave us one down. We went single, walk double for four more and led 14-0 before a fly-out gave us two down and the table was set. **Quentin Cowans** walked to load the bases then **Rocky** "Top" **McCoy**, **Norman** "Rockwell" **Mapp** and **Ervin Cruz** "Missile" each banged RBI singles. **Taylor**

McCauley finally ended our eight run rally with a fly-out representing the fourteenth plate appearance of the inning. **Ervin Cruz** was 2-2 in the fifth and **Norman Mapp** was on base twice with a walk and a hit. Now leading 17-0, it would take an eight run rally from the **Batmen** to make us bat in the six and get Taylor off the hook. Try as he might in the bottom of the fifth, Taylor was unable to boot enough balls to do the trick. The **Batmen** finally hit a bit and scored three runs, but in the end we won the game, by run-rule, 17-3.

Runrule	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Dirty Dozen	0	5	1	3	8	-	-	17
Batmen	0	0	0	0	3	-	-	3

It was a good way to end a bad season as we thoroughly trounced our opponent in every aspect of the game. We would not have gone down with a whimper had we played that way all season, but, of course, we hadn't played the **Batmen** every week. Good game, **Dirty Dozen**.

Larry Civelli "Vanilli" was 4-4 with four RBI and "Slim" Tim McCoy was 2-2 with a pair of walks and a ribbie.

Flying Dead

Walking Dead, Bethesda, 10/27/14, 8:30pm

The **Walking Dead** were in a familiar situation. Once again we were in second place with a shot a first in the last game of the season. We were 7-2, a game back of the **Legion Airs** at 8-1. We had lost to the **Legion Airs** by a score of 11-1 a

few weeks previously, so if we beat them in the final game by more than ten runs, to own the tiebreaker, we would take our first Championship.

Some of the usual felons who played with the *Legion Airs* the last time, we missing, most likely locked up in various jails or prisons. Or maybe they were passed out in their trailers having forgotten they had a game Monday night. Either way, we faced a few of *The Dead Lois's* and a few of the usual carloses you see shadowing Bethesda Park, trying to latch on as illegal pickups.

We also had some unfinished business of a horse's derriere nature, since we were playing the last **Walking Dead** game of 2014.

We had nutted up, big time, the other time we faced the **Legion Airs**, but we hoped that this time we would show up a play like we know we can. We were Visitors and grabb ed our sticks to do some damage against a slim, fast outfield and a fat, slow infield. All we got in the first inning was a two-out single, but the **Legion Airs** scored five to lead by a handful after one.

Our first two batters in the second inning flew out to the slim, fast outfielders, a base hit followed then we hit one more to the slim, fast outfield. The *Legion Airs* scored six more and we were all but gone. We were down 11-0 and the *Legion Airs* had us so intimidated we were unlikely to ever fight our way out.

We led off the top of three fighting with a single, but two fly-outs to the slim, fast outfielders gave us two down. The next guy stroked a single between a couple of the fat, slow infielders the Taylor did the same and we were on the board, 11-1. A single loaded the bags then **Josh Carper** made it 3-0 with a base knock. A single reloaded the sacks, but a fly-out to, guess who, a slim, fast outfielder ended our half of the third inning. The **Legion Airs** answered our three with three of their own and we trailed 14-3 after three.

We were one run shy of a run-rule we needed some runs in the top of the fourth to hang on and keep playing. We led off with a base hit then followed with two fly balls to slim, fast outfielders and a LO ended the inning. The **Legion Airs** quickly scored a run in the bottom of the fourth and we lost the game, by run-rule, 15-3.

Run rule	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Walking Dead	0	0	3	0	-	-	-	3
Legion Airs	5	6	3	1	-	-	-	15

It was a horrible game as we really didn't do much of anything in any phase of the game. Our "D" was okay, but could have been better, but out bats just never showed up. We kept hitting fly balls instead of taking advantage of slow infielders who only got us out one time, a fielder's-choice to end the first inning. It was a tough season at the end, because we couldn't overcome that one team and that last game just underlined it. Tough loss, *Walking Dead*.

Oh, by the way, **Dave Fisher** had the only line-out of the game and took home the Horse Fly trophy.

Tim "tation" McCoy and Norman Mapp "quest" were each 2-2.

Too Legit to Quit

Jets, George Pierce, 10/28/14, 8:00pm

The **Jets** had our work cut out for us. We were sitting at 5-3 and tied for second place with **Iron Sharpens Iron**, though they owned the tiebreaker, having beaten us earlier in the season. We were sitting behind the **Hammerheads** who were on top at 8-0, already having clinched first.

Iron Sharpens Iron had two more games left against Parma Tavern and the Hammerheads, two good teams who could help us out. Our final two games were against the Hammerheads and ViaSat a very good team and the divisional 0-8 bottom feeder. We had to win both games to take second, a tall order, but doable, while Iron Sharpens Iron faced an even higher uphill battle to keep us at bay. A loss by the Jets would all but give Iron Sharpens Iron the only spot left.

We were Home team on a cold Tuesday night and took the field to fend of the *Hammerheads*' usual first inning flurry,



but some slick defense kept them scoreless. We, on the other hand, had a flurry. Back-to-back double led us off. A line-out froze the runners then "Ruth's" **Chris Barker** bested a deep one and both runners scored on his triple! A single picked up the spare, 3-0 and two more singles made it 4-0, but we had a B.O.O.B. at third on a close play and had two down. A single followed the B.O.O.B., but a line-out ended the first inning with the **Jets** in the lead, 4-0.

The *Hammerheads* scored one in the second and we answered it on a two-out, RBI single from "Invader" *Tim McCoy*, 5-1 after two. The *Hammerheads* woke up fully in the third inning, scoring four runs and erasing our perfectly good four run lead. We started the bottom of the third with a pair of ground-outs then plunked three singles, but a fly-out ended the inning before it could get going and it was 5-5 after three.

The *Hammerheads* put up a run in the fourth to lead us 6-5, but we had an immediate answer for that. After an initial flyout, **Kelvin Rachu** tripled then scored on a single from **Larry** "on My Wayward Son" **Civelli** and the score was knotted at

six apiece. A single put a second runner on base and a fly ball advanced them then **Chris Johnson** "& Johnson" stroked a single, both runners! A ground-out ended the fourth inning, but we led by a pair, 8-6.

We held the *Hammerheads* scoreless in the fifth, but they returned the favor and it was still 8-6, but after five. In the sixth, the *Hammerheads* struck for a run, 8-7 and, again, we had an answer. We started the bottom of six: single, fielder's-choice, single, then *Chris* "Carnival" *Barker* struck deep again for another tripled and we were up 10-7. Chris scored on a fly-out and a line-out ended the inning, but we led 11-7 with an inning to go.

We dropped a final donut on the *Hammerheads* in the top of the seventh and won the game, 11-7!

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Hammerh eads	0	1	4	1	0	1	0	7
Jets	4	1	0	3	0	3	х	11

That was the kind of game I wish the **Jets** would play all the time. We took on the only undefeated team in the division, one who'd been running rough shod over everybody, clinching two games early and beat them solidly. Trouble is we have an unfortunate habit of losing to teams in the middle of the pack in the middle of the season. We played a great game when it counted toward the end, though, hitting and fielding like we've done it before or something. Great game, **Jets**!



Kelvin "Garnett" **Rachu** was 4-4 and "Lieutenant" **Dan Covault** was 3-3 with an RBI. "In the Summer" **Tim McCoy** was 3-4 with a ribbies and **Jason** "Friday the 13th" **Tyler** was 2-3.

Showed Up & Bowed Up

The Cowboys, George Pierce, 10/28/14, 10:00pm

It was in our hands and we wanted to keep it there. There was no room for error, mind you, but it was in our hands. We stood at 6-2, just ahead of three 5-3s and other records south of that. All we had to do was win our final two games and take home the Top Toilet Shirts. It was in our hands.

We'd already defeated the *Wolverton Wolverines*, dropping them to 4-4, and *Scared Hitless*, *Caught Looking* and *The Good Fellas* all lived south of there, well out of the running. Right behind us at 5-3 were *The Hammy's*. We owned them head-to-head, so it would take us only one win to knock them out of the running. The *Bombers*, also at 5-3 owned us, having beaten us in our only meeting.

The other 5-3 team, another one that currently owned the tiebreaker on us was **EMMAUS**, the team that dropped fifteen on us in the bottom of one bad inning to run-rule us 17-5. We had all mentally circled the date of our next meeting, because we wanted payback from that monumental fluke. Any win would eliminate them. Since we still had to win out to get rid of the **Bombers**, we didn't worry so much about how much we beat **EMMAUS** by.

We were Home and took the field and that's not all we took as **EMMAUS** put five on us before we batted. We didn't panic, though, and got busy cutting into that five spot. We led off with a base hit then got on the board, 5-1, when **Dave Fisher** tripled. A single made it 5-2 and another put runners on the corners and one scored on a fly-out. Unfortunately, we went down 1-2-3, but we'd cut the lead to 5-3.

EMMAUS didn't score in the second and, being gracious hosts, we didn't score either, still 5-3 after two. **EMMAUS** scored one in the top of the third, 6-3, and we came right back with a pair of base hits, sandwiching a fly-out. Back-to-back base hits drove in two, 6-5, then we made it 6-6 when we scored a run on a fielder's-choice. A ground-out ended the inning, but it was a brand new ball game after three.

Our opponents were undeterred by our three runs and posted three of their own in the top of the fourth inning to regain their lead, 9-6. We began the bottom half of four with a single and a couple of walks to fill the sacks and made it 9-8 on a single and a fielder's-choice. **Jerry** "Curl" **Smith** made it 9-9 with a base knock and a walk ensued to reload the bases. "Papa" **John Culligan** drove in our tenth run to give us the lead and a double brought home a pair and we led 12-9. A single followed, but a B.O.O.B. at the plate gave us two down. Yet another base hit reloaded the bags then "Moon" **Rock McCoy** and "Seldom" **Elden Kasmier** each stroked two-out, RBI singles and we were up 14-

9! **Mike** "Linebacker" **Mauk** double drove in two more to put our lead at 16-8! A fly-out ended the inning, but not before we'd batted fifteen times and scored ten. **Rocky McCoy** was 2-2 in the inning and **Elden Kasmier** and **Mike Mauk** were each 1-1 with a walk.

Now down 16-9, **EMMAUS** bowed up and put two on the board, closing our gap to 16-11. We answered with a deuce on a two-out, two-run double from **Tim** "Monkshaven" **McCoy** and our lead was back up to seven, 18-11. We held **EMMAUS** scoreless in the top of the sixth and now had a golden opportunity to pile up some Aflac in the bottom of six. We piled up a two-out walk and it was still 18-11.

EMMAUS had one more shot at us in the top of the seventh and it would take them seven runs to ante up for extra innings. We held them to a single run and won the game, 18-12!

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
EMMAUS	5	0	1	3	2	0	1	12
The Cowboys	3	0	3	10	2	0	Х	18

The Cowboys showed up and bowed up Tuesday night and dropped the hammer on a team that had beaten us early on in that huge inning. Our defense was pretty good that game and we made some nice plays, but we did had a boot or two. Our hitting lifted us through any defensive issues we might have had, though. Every time **EMMAUS** put runs on the board, we were right there chewing their lead away. Finally we put the hay maker on '**EMMAUS**. It wasn't a fifteen spot, but that big ten sure drove our point home. Great win, **Cowboys**!

Tim "Marches On" McCoy was 4-4 with five RBI and John "Deere" Culligan was 4-4 with three ribs. Dave "Cod" Fisher was 2-3 with a walk and a ribbie, "Garden of" Elden Kasmier was 1-2 with a walk and another walk and a rib and "Mr." Joshua Littrell was 1-2 with a walk and an RBI.

Missiön Accomplished

Motörhead, Bethesda, 10/29/14, 6:30pm

Motörhead was leading McCoy Softball in goof crap. We led McCoy Softball in subs this season and we'd had the most no shows and we'd played the last two games with only ten guys, because our subs finally started saying no. We were on a mission. A mission to what, exactly, was unclear.

We had clinched First Place before the tenth game of the season, but we'd missed our 10-0 mark when we melted down in the ninth week, backing into the Pooper Shirts. Yeah, we led our other teams in complaining, too, but we were actually ahead of *The Cowboys* in meltdowns.

About an hour before game time, **Norman Mapp** called and told us there'd been an emergency at work and he would have to work late, missing our 6:30 game. Fortunately, Tim and I had decided we really needed to play this last game with eleven guys, so we'd gotten a sub. With Norm out, we'd have ten. Then we got Rodnee'd again. **Rodnee Drew** no showed and we would be playing the game with nine, like we had the second game of the season. GOOD thing we'd called that eleventh guy!

Our opponent was the *Reds*, a hungry team that knocked us out of first place and into third in the final game of Summer 2014. We had since beaten them 17-5 the third game of Fall 2014 and we planned to beat them again, even short a man in the outfield.

We were Visitors and got to make a statement and we did. After a double and single to start us off we went up 1-0 on a deep fly then we score two more on singles before going down: fly-out, line-out. We hung a donut on the *Reds*, 3-0 after one. They had played the first inning with nine as well, but their tenth man arrived for the second inning. We still don't know where Rodnee went and Norm was still at work.

We kept on stroking the ball in the second inning, putting up four more runs in the second. The *Reds* answered with another donut, 7-0 after two. We failed to score in the top of three, but the *Reds* got a run to make it 7-1 after three. Neither team was able to push a runner across the dish in the fourth and we went to the fifth leading 7-1.

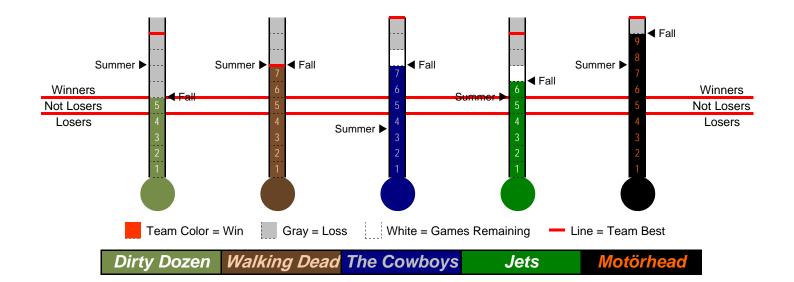
We put up three in the top of the fifth, the last two on a two-out single from "Bad" **Brad Mace** and we ended the rally with a B.O.O.B., but we'd increased our lead a bit. The *Reds* came up with two and it was 10-3 after five. "Bad, Bad" **Leroy Frazier** drove in the only run that scored in the sixth inning on a two-out single and we led the *Reds* 11-3 with an inning to go. We put up one more run in the top of the final inning, despite a one-out B.O.O.B. Now it was up to the *Reds* to throw nine run past us or go home wondering. We dropped a donut on them and won the game 12-3.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Motörhead	3	4	0	0	3	1	1	12
Reds	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3

It was a big, fat cluster-frack before that game and it could have sunk us, but it didn't. It was because we were on a mission that we were able to focus. We had a lot of goofy stuff happen, but we rose above it and took home the Terrible Toilet T's with a shiny new 9-1 record. With just nine guys we beat a team that wants to beat us and hard. We played amazing "D" and **Brad Mace**, **Bob Borsom** and **Tim McCoy** played like a five man outfield, instead of three. Meanwhile our defense put on a clinic as well. Our base running, especially toward the end of the game was rough, but what the heck. The rest of the game was beautiful and I'm proud of my guys. Great game, **Motörhead**!

The last out of the game was accomplished by **Rocky McCoy** who made the last out of 2014 for **Motörhead** and earned a Horse's Butt.

Brad "Medieval" **Mace** was 4-5 with four RBI, "Sponge" **Bob Borsom** was 4-5 with two ribbies and **Andrew** "Unleaded" **Hess** was 3-4 with a walk.



Rain Numbers for Each Park							
Bethesda	Bethesda	Geo. Pierce	Geo. Pierce	Bethesda			
(770) 822-8882	(770) 822-8882	(770) 822-8882	(770) 822-8882	(770) 822-8882			

"When in doubt, come on out."

Tuesday 11/4/14 at George Pierce Park - Fall 2014

JM 8:00 - 2 vs. ViaSat (makeup from 10/14/14)

CB 10:00 - 1 vs. The Good Fellas (makeup from 10/14/14)

Standings & Scouting Reports – Fall 2014

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.

Monday - Bethesda Men's - No Homers, No Steals No Spring PST					
Team Latinos **	8-2	3-5			
Johnny's Kids	6-4	3-2			
Deep Web Roots **	6-4	1-1			
Dirty Dozen	5-5	n/a			
Breaking Bats	4-6	1-0			
Batmen **	4-6	2-0			
Mud Dogs **	2-8	2-5			

The **Dirty Dozen** plays our next game on 3/2/15.

See ya in March!

Monday - Bethesda Men's - No Homers, No Steals No Spring PST					
Legion Airs **	9-1	0-2			
Walking Dead	7-3	0-0			
Dirty Ducks	7-3	7-3			
Get Dirty	4-6	2-3			
Smash & Dash **	3-7	2-0			
DUCK! **	3-7	8-1			
The Big Bat Theory **	2-8	2-0			

The Walking Dead plays our next game on 3/2/15.

Have a nice break!



Wednesday - Bethesda Men's - No Homers, No Steals No Spring PST					
Motörhead	9-1	0-0			
Cool Breeze	8-2	5-5			
Wild Wing Bar & Grill **	7-3	1-2			
Motley Crew	6-4	12-1			
Reds **	4-5	10-3			
Sons of Pitches	3-7	4-0			
Bandoleros	2-7	1-1			
Royal Flush **	0-10	13-0			

Happy Holidays!















Tuesday - George Piero Men's - No Homers, No St No Spring PST	overall record	
The Cowboys	7-2	0-0
The Hammy's	6-3	1-0
Bombers	6-3	1-3
Wolverton Wolverines **	5-4	2-0
EMMAUS **	5-4	2-1
Scared Hitless	3-6	2-2
The Good Fellas **	2-7	2-0 \Leftarrow
Caught Looking	2-7	1-0

The Cowboys play **The Good Fellas** next. If we win it, we take the Championship.

Let's go get it!!



Thursday - George Pier Men's - No Homers, No St No Spring PST		overall record
Hammerheads **	8-1	3-9
Jets	6-3	0-0
Iron Sharpens Iron	6-3	2-1
Luxury Landscape	5-4	7-3
Just the Endcap	5-4	4-4
Parma Tavern	4-5	1-0
One Bad Inning **	2-7	2-1
ViaSat **	0-9	6-0

The *Jets* play *ViaSat* next. If *Iron Sharpens Iron* loses to the *Hammerheads* at 7:00 and we win at 8:00, we take second place.

Who wants it?



The DL



Nels Anderson cut his hand and needed a bunch of stitches, so he had to miss his 10/28 game

Hang in there, #2!



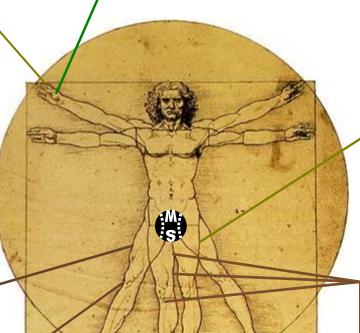
Robbie Crider broke his trigger finger Friday, 8/22/14, and had surgery the following Thursday. He'll be missing the rest of 2014.

See ya in Spring 2015, #1!



Daniel Whang injured his leg and had to come out of his game on 10/20. He just got of crutches, but won't be back the rest of 2014.

Hang in there, #11!





Fred Reynolds injured a knee and had to miss his last games on 10/27.

See ya in 2015, #73!



Jonathan Rivera bl hamstring subbing i Walking Dead game 10/20 and will be missir final game of 2014.

Welcome back, #9!



Keith James tore his rig hamstring in two places of 8/25/14, subbing for the *Dir Dozen*. He is out for the re of 2014. He just found of this week that he has a to MCL, too.

Birthdays & Batting Titlists

Summer 2014

<u>October birtinga</u>	<u> 175</u>
AHMED, AMMAR	10/11
SETZER, PHIL	10/11
Suggs, Steven	10/11
SHEA, SHERYL	10/14
Ortiz, Jhonatan	10/17
SPIVEY, HEATHER	10/17
Zienko, Laurie	10/17
Gonzalez, Xavier	10/19
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
Navanahar Dirtha	

October Rirthdays

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
ARNOLD, MIKE	11/24
CUILLI, SAL	11/25
HARTMAN, KYLE	11/26
Rubino, Steve Ball, Mike	11/26
HUMPHREY, GARY	11/27 11/27
CRAWFORD, SEAN	11/27
LITTRELL, JOSHUA	11/20
LII I KELL, JUSHUA	11/30







Tim McCoy0.743

Kelvin Rachu......0.690





Above team average: **K.James** 0.553





Above team average: **R.McCoy**...........0.519





Tim McCoy0.639

Above team average: None





Above team average: **D.Covault**......613

Horsing Around in 2014

Dirty Dozen - 10/27/14

"Wait a minute. This doesn't apply to rookies, does it?"



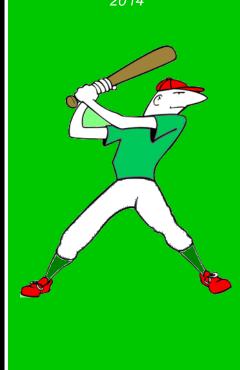
Walking Dead - 10/27/14

"Hold it! I was just subbing!"

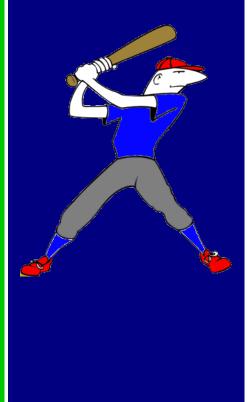




Jets - 11/4/14 "2014"



The Cowboys – 11/4/14 "2014"





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.