



The Sports Page



Wild

Jets, George Pierce, 11/1/16, 8:00pm

Tuesday night marked the end of the 2016 for our teams as the **Jets** and **Cowboys** would close things out. With only the two game remaining, one of our teams still had one card to play. It wasn't an ace, because neither team had a shot at a Fall Championship, but the **Jets** were at least holding a deuce.

The 6-3 **Jets** faced **Short Bus Softball**, also 6-3, for second place, with the 6-3 **Bombers** waiting in the wings to screw things up. The winner of our game would take home the little T-shirts, done and done, but the loser would fall to a different spot in the final standings, providing, of course, that the **Bombers** beat the 2-7 **Swamp Donkeys**, a practically foregone conclusion. Since **Short Bus Softball** had beaten the **Bombers** twice, they would wind up third and push the **Bombers** to fourth. The **Jets**, on the other hand, would fall to fourth with a loss, since the **Bombers** owned us head-to-head.

We wound up fourth.

It wasn't even close.

We scored our only run on a fielder's-choice in the first inning and had a 1-0 lead in the first inning. Then **Short Bus Softball** batted. They dropped seven runs on us in the first and eleven more in the second and we took a 2-1/2 inning run-rule loss, 18-1.

Run rule	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Jets	1	0	0	-	-	-	-	1
Short Bus Softball	7	11	x	-	-	-	-	18

I'm not sure we were really into it that game. It was the last game of the year, we'd blown first place the week before and we seemed kind of emotionally checked out. We did "rally" in the third inning, about to get run-ruled and with a Horse Award awaiting some lucky **Jets** player. We actually loaded the bags before **Andrew Hess** took home the award. We owned **Short Bus Softball** for a long time, but they've had our number lately and brushed us off the field in only fourteen plate appearances. We had the last deuce, but it turned deuces were wild. Nasty, nasty game **Jets**.

Kelvin Rachu "Pichu" was 2-2, **Larry Civelli** "War" was 1-1 with a walk and "Big" **Jon Vanderveen** and **Kyle Shelton** were each 1-1.

Q: How many **Jets** does it take to score one lousy run. **A:** Eleven, but three of them have to bat three lousy times.

Saad

The Cowboys, George Pierce, 11/1/16, 10:00pm

At 7-2, **The Cowboys** were not going to take down **One Bad Inning II** nor **Alpha Elite Softball** to take either first or second places, respectively. **One Bad Inning II** was 9-0 and had wiped us off the map in game 7. **Alpha Elite Softball** blew us out in week 9 to tie us, but take over the tiebreaker. As expected, **Reeves Young** forfeited to **Alpha Elite Softball**, while the **Jets** were getting blistered at 8:00 on the other field, to go 8-2 and knock us out of the T-shirts.

Our final game was against **Jaamarti**, a team we'd handled of late, and a win would get us third place. A loss would get us third place, too, as the 6-3 **Hit Squad** was a game behind us in the standings and we owned the tiebreaker. We still had our pride and a Horse Award to play for and a couple of guys were battling for a Batting Title, so it wasn't like we had nothing.

Before the game we couldn't find **Chris Johnson** anywhere. We were concerned, too, as Chris is not the kind of guy to just miss a game. **John Culligan** figured that Chris had smoked his lei and was home "mellowing out". (?) **Mike Mauk** suggested we take off our clothes and search for him, but I said maybe we should do just the search thing. **Rocky McCoy** suggested we search, but **Tim Rice** stayed put and looked up at the dark sky waiting for Chris to come floating down from above. **Jason Stull** made a beeline for the swamp as he untangled his net and **Eric Wesner** ran after him, but re-stubbed his toe and sat this one out. **Jerry Smith** and **Andrew Hess** went looking down the hill where the big open area is near Field 2, Jerry down on all fours sniffing for droppings and Andrew close behind. Andrew actually made it down the hill first, but nobody was sure whether he fell all the way down or was break dancing. Nobody asked. Personally, I thought he'd tripped. Rocky told me he thought he recognized a couple of the moves, though. I saw **Tim McCoy** out past the fence behind Field 2, trying to keep his knees apart, but still making the occasion spark. I thought he was searching for Chris, but Rocky suggested he was probably looking for softballs we might have hit out in Winter 1999. **Larry Civelli** was looking up all the trees for **Adam Aleweidat** and I let him, but Rocky told him better and that he was actually subbing for Adam.

So, we had some extra excitement before the game, but we never located **Chris Johnson**. We played the game with just eleven guys.

None of that mattered, however. We got run off the field with plenty of time left on the clock.

We didn't get bent over and spanked quite like the **Jets**, but we definitely went home with a burning sensation where our feathers were thinnest.

We led, 1-0, after an inning, on a two-out single from "Hurricane" **Andrew Hess**. We were blanked in the second, but scored two runs in the third, on the two-out single from **Eric "Wild, Wild" Wesner**. We added one more two-out run on a single from **Jerry Smith "Barney"** in the fourth. While we were dinking and dunking our little two-out nightmares, **Jaamarti** was put up totals of three, seven and six to send us home early, in a 16-4 run-rule.

Run rule	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
The Cowboys	1	0	2	1	-	-	-	4
Jaamarti	0	3	7	6	-	-	-	16

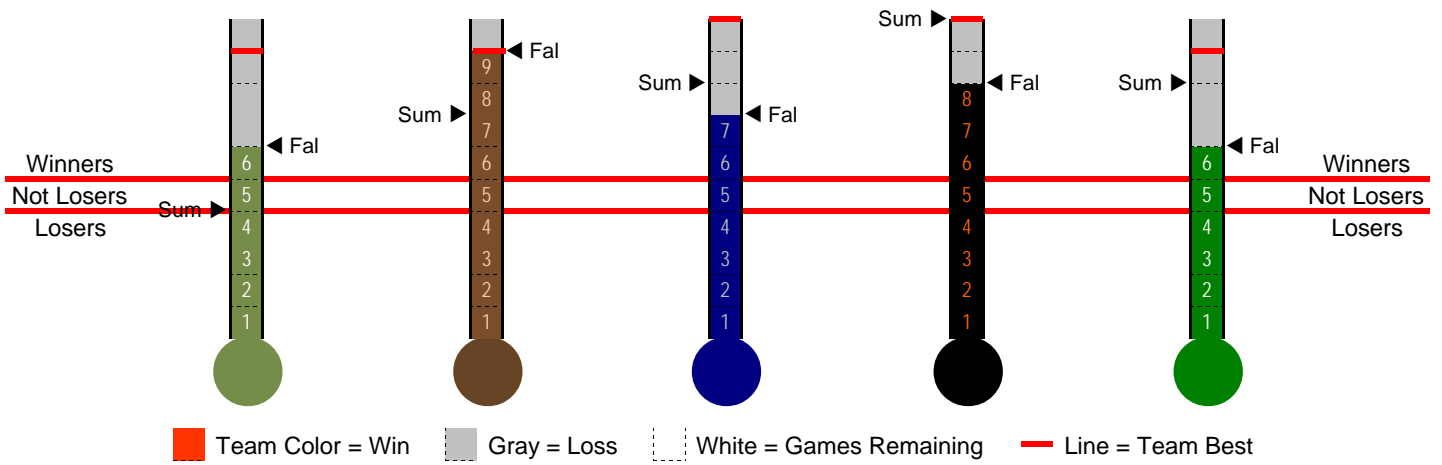
We just never showed up for the final game of 2016 and the loss hurt. A lot. I was surprised to find out how much I still cared after it was over. **Larry Civelli** subbed for us and earned the final Horse Award of the year. We were out hit, out fielded and out smarted. Sad way to end 2016, **Cowboys**.

"Very" **Jerry Smith** was 3-3 with an RBI, **Tim "Three Legged" Rice** was 2-2 and **Andrew "Loch" Hess** was 1-1 with a walk and a ribbies.

Q: What would have happened of **The Cowboys** had scored one more run? **A:** We'd have lost 17-5.

We finally found **Chris Johnson** in the fourth inning when **Rocky McCoy** hit a double and everybody smelled a rat. I was even beginning to wonder at this point. Standing out on second base, Rocky called time and started tearing at his neck. He ripped up the skin to reveal **Chris Johnson in a Rocky McCoy mask!!** It was the best Halloween practical joke ever and we'd all been fooled! (The field umpire fainted.) Chris said he'd set a record for candy, wearing the mask the day before on Halloween, a record for *eating* candy, that is. He said people threw rocks at him when he knocked on their doors.

Oh, well...



Dirty Dozen **Walking Dead** **The Cowboys** **Motörhead** **Jets**

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






“When in doubt, come on out.”

- Monday** **3/6/17** at Bethesda Community Park - Spring 2017
 MS ??? vs. Opening Day
- Tuesday** **3/7/17** at George Pierce Park - Spring 2017
 MS ??? vs. Opening Day
- Wednesday** **3/8/17** at Bethesda Community Park - Spring 2017
 MS ??? vs. Opening Day

Standings & Scouting Reports – Spring 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.

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

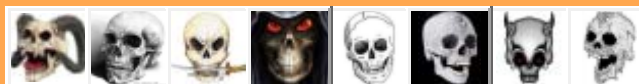
overall
record
5-3
0-0
18-5
22-1
4-2
1-1
2-0
12-0
1-0

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	10-0	0-1
Alpha Elite Softball	8-2	1-3
The Cowboys	7-3	0-0
Hit Squad	6-4	4-4
Jaamarti **	5-5	5-4
Wide Right	4-6	1-0
Dem Dawgz	3-7	4-1
Pitches Be Crazy	3-7	2-3
Reeves Young	3-7	1-0
AKA Tree Removal	1-9	1-0

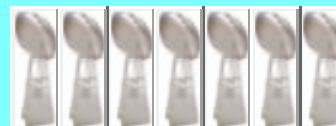
The Cowboys ended Fall 2016 with a 7-3 third place finish.

We were on top at 6-0, but got beaten up by **One Bad Inning II**, also 6-0, then got bruised all over by Alpha Elite Softball to drop out of the T-shirts.

The loss to **Jaamarti** was one we were really due. We'd been holding that team in check for a while.

Third place out of ten wasn't bad, especially considering the horsepower the top two teams had. Our little division was really tough in the Fall.

Let's go get 'em in 2017, **Cowboys**.



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

Hammerheads **	9-1	6-15
Short Bus Softball **	6-4	11-7
Bombers **	6-4	2-4
Jets	6-4	0-0
Swamp Donkeys **	2-8	2-0
Red Devils **	1-9	6-0

The **Jets** came crashing to a fourth place finish in a three way tie at 6-4. It was a tough division, with just six good teams and we had the second best record, but tiebreakers drove us to fourth place.

We'd had a shot at 6-2 and had we won those last two games, we'd have been reading about First Place instead of fourth.

Better luck in 2017, **Jets**.



The DL

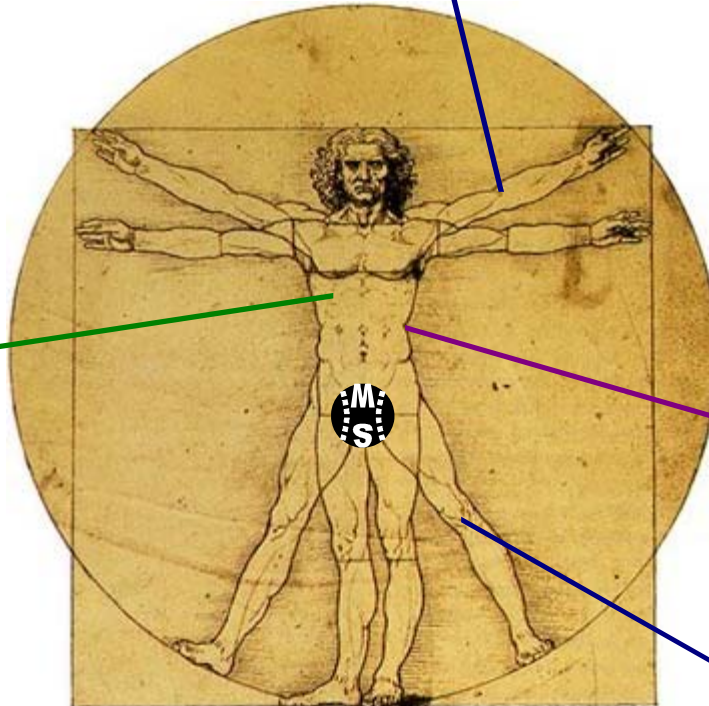


Elden Kasmier will miss Summer 2016 with an elbow injury on his throwing arm

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.