# The Sports Page 

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## The Cowboys, Bethesda, 11/8/01, 8:30pm

Third place was the best The Cowboys were going to rise in Fall 2001, but there was no chance of falling to fourth as we played Warner Vagas Thursday night. The only other time we played them they had a horrible record and beat us, 20-0, with that never ending third inning. We planned to even that up Thursday night. We lost the coin flip and were Visitors, like in the last time we played them.

We got a double in the top of the first inning, with two down, then Jared Self "Styled" hammered a triple and we led 10 . Russell " $X$ " Ray singled and we led 2-0. A pair of walks loaded the bases, but a ground-out ended the inning. Warner Vagas came out hitting like they'd left off the last time we played them, but we limited them to a five spot, 5-2. Brian Oringderrf ripped a triple with one down in the top of the second and a singled plated him, 5-3, then Tim "ber!" McCoy roasted an outfielder and touched 'em all for a two-run tater to tie the game, 5-5! An out later, "It Could Only Be" Jared Self ** hit another two-out triple and, again, Russell "XX" Ray singled for a run, this time for a $6-5$ lead! We handed Warner a knot hole and held our 6-5 lead. Solid "D" handed Warner a donut and we held our slender lead.

We got a deuce in the top of the third when Lee "Clickety" Clackum hit a two-out double then "Life of" Brian Oringderrf ripped a ball over the centerfield fence for a two-run tater and an $8-5$ lead! Warner came charging right back at us with another five spot in the bottom of three to retake the lead, 10-8. We led off the fourth inning with a fly-out, then we got all over 'em! A single and a double made it 10-9, the Russell "Sting" Ray shot one into the corner for a triple and the game was tied, 10-10! Rocky "Road" McCoy singled Russell home and we had the lead back, 11-10. Four more singles got us two more runs and we expanded our lead to 13-10 and a fly-out made got us 14. A two-out single from Tim McCoy gave us a final run in the inning and we led 15-10 in the middle of the fourth. We batted twelve times in the inning, scoring seven run, mostly on eight straight hits. Leading 15-10, we didn't feel too safe as we'd seen what Warner Vagas could do with the bats. They kept hitting seeds and pretty soon they built another five spot to tie the game, 15-15.

In the top of the fifth, and what was sure to be the final inning we led off with three straight singles, then Robbie "Apple" Crider busted the tie with a two-run single, 17-15! Two straight fly-out's followed, then "Pinky \& the" Brian Oringderrf strode to the plate with two men down and runners on second and third. Many of the Warner Vagas players, having seen Brian hitting rips the whole game, were hollering, "Walk him!" He hit the second pitch over the trees in center field and his three-run homer gave us a 20-15 lead! A single and ground-out ended the inning, but not before we'd answered Warner's five spot with one of our own. Warner Vagas was up to a challenge in the bottom of the fifth and final inning, but so did we as we held them to three runs and hung on to win 20-18!

| Time limit | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ | $\mathbf{7}$ | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The Cowboys | 2 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 5 | - | - | $\mathbf{2 0}$ |
| Warner Vagas | 5 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 3 | - | - | 18 |

Well, The Cowboys' final game of 2001 was a good ol' big one! We went toe-to-toe with a good team and wound up with a couple more toes. We also evened up that $20-0$ loss to those guys! We played pretty good "D" and so did our opponent, but we had just enough when all was said and done. Good win, guys!

Brian "Golden" Oringderrf was $4-4$ with only five RBI, Russell "Hustle" Ray was $4-4$ with three and Jared "J-Rod" Self was 4-4 with a pair. Robbie Crider "Shade of Pale" ** was 2-3 with a walk and two ribs, while "Igneous" Rock McCoy was 2-3 with a walk and an RBI.
** this nickname courtesy of Tim McCoy

## The Cowboys, Fall Summary

The Cowboys were playing at a new park and new night in Fall 2001, so we expected to see new teams. We heard that a team called Mizuno was the local Big Dog and that they played A/B tournaments and hadn't lost a league game in six years. We expected to win First Place anyway.

We started the season off strong against IDC. We didn't know anything about them, so we hit the ball like wild men and won 20-0. The next team we faced was Redline, another unknown. We recognized a couple of them from our past Briscoe Park leagues and they had a handful of pickups from Mizuno. Our bats went flat and we didn't put up much of a fight as we lost 17-5. The following week we played Mizuno. They were definitely a bunch of big guys and even their "little" guys could hit 'em out. Since we were playing in an equalizer league they could only hit one more homer than we did, though. They pounded on us, all right, but we pounded right back at them. We lost 24-20, but they were worried, saying that it was the closest anybody had played them. So, we'd gone toe-to-toe with a great team, but we were sitting at 1-2.

Our fourth game was against Outback Tan who'd won only one game and we hammered them 21-9 to square our record at 2-2. Then we played Warner Vagas, another one-win team. They looked like a college frat team and they had big young guys. We batted first against them and failed to score and they got three runs. Neither team scored in the second inning and we failed to score again in the top of the third. Then Warner Vagas scored 17 runs in the bottom of the third with only one out and beat us, by run-rule, 20-0. That inning just would not end until the run rule stopped 'em. We changed pitchers, swapped fielders and nothing worked. They hit short, long, hard, soft and everything in between. Our only error in the inning was made after a hit had already landed, so it wasn't like we gave them extra outs. The next week we played IDC again and won 13-10 and once again we crawled to the 0.500 mark at $3-3$. Mizuno was $6-0$ and Redline (who picked up a bunch of Mizuno guys every week) was 5-1, losing only to Mizuno. The rest of the division was beating the tar out of each other.

The seventh week of the season saw us play Redline at 7:30, but Mizuno didn't play until 8:30, so they didn't have their regular source of pickups. They were still scrounging when the umpires called, "Ballgame" and we won by forfeit, so Redline slid to 5-2 and The Cowboys went to 4-3, with Warner Vagas a game behind us and Outback Tan and IDC dwelling in the cellar. The next week we played Mizuno again and we were planning on taking that six year winning streak down. We gave up a seven spot in the top of the first as we missed four balls that could have been outs, but we didn't just lay down as we closed the gap to 14-10 after three innings. Then they caught on fire and put 13 on us in the fourth. We wound up losing 27-17. We tried four different pitchers and several infield and outfield arrangements, but Mizuno just kept hitting ropes. So, there we were at 0.500 again, one game behind Redline. The following week Redline played Mizuno again. Once Mizuno beat Redline we'd be tied with them as long as we beat Outback Tan and we'd be tied for second. Only five Mizuno players and three Redline guys showed up, so they scoured the park for enough guys to field ten men apiece and "Redline" won, killing our shot at second place. So we took out our frustrations on Outback Tan 20-8. For the tenth game we were already locked in third place with no chance of moving up or down. Our opponent was Warner Vagas and we'd been looking forward to it. We brought our bats to that one and we out slugged Warner 20-18 to even the score with them.

The Cowboys scored 136 runs in nine games played, but we allowed 133 for an average score of 15.11-14.78. That's a pretty lackluster defensive performance looking at that 14.78 , but we really played better than that. There were a few teams that could really swing the bats out there on Thursdays. Our 15.11 runs per game scored was the tenth best offensive season in The Cowboys' thirty season history. The 14.78 was the second worst defensive season the Cowboys every played. What's the worst? Summer III 1994, the first Cowboys team ever. That 15.11 ranks 15th in 101McCoy Softball Men's seasons. (Pretty impressive!) The 14.78 ranks 93th out of 101. (Pretty rough.)

We hit a combined 0.603, a very good Men's team average. The Batting Titleist was Tim McCoy with a 0.710 and Norman S. Mapp, Jr. finished at 0.667 . Rocky McCoy also finished over the team average with a 0.643 . Injuries wiped out three of our guys, so we only wound up with six men with enough games to qualify for the Batting Title, but our subs came up with big sticks and kept us scoring runs along with the regular players. (Thanks for subbing, guys!)

Russell Ray drove in 20 runs to lead the RBI race. The Cowboys scored 134 runs, or 12.18 per player. Nobody else got over 12.

See: http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~dmcco01/Softball/Stats/2001/Cowboys/CB01F.PDF for the final stats.
We were 1-2 in 6:30 games, 3-0 at 7:30 and 2-2 at 8:30. We were 1-0 in August, 1-2 in September, 2-2 in October and 2-0 in November. The Cowboys were 1-3 as Home Team, but 4-1 as Visitors.

It was a bumpy ride for The Cowboys in Fall 2001. Redline and Warner Vagas snuck up on us and Mizuno beat us twice, but otherwise we played pretty well. We kept hanging around 0.500 until we surged at the end to make us 6-4. At least we got even for that Warner Vagas game.

## Next Game Times

DZ = Dirty Dozen at Bethesda
JT = The Jets at Bethesda
CBT = The Cowboys Tour


| Saturday <br> MS | ?:?? | 12/1/01 at - 3 Dollar Café in Snellville |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| McCoy Softball Banquet |  |  |

The entire Fall 2001 Schedule can be found at: http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~dmcco01/Softball

## Standings \& Scouting Reports - Fall 2001

Bold Italics = Our team, Normal Brown Italics = Our next opponent, Red Teams have clinched First Place. (0) = the number of runs the leader beat the next highest team by, for tie breaking purposes. PST = Post Season Tournament. TBD = To Be Determined. An " $x$ " before a team name indicates a team that has clinched a berth in the PST. A " + " after a name indicates a team we play, or have played, more than once during the current season. A "-" indicates a team that we do not play during the current season. The far right column shows our overall record against that opponent.

| Begins on 8/27/01 |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Monday - Bethesda Men's-No Homers |  |
| No PST for Fall Season |  |
| Relentless -8 | 8-1 |
| Dirty Dozen | 8-1 |
| Outlaws +1 | 8-1 |
| Mayer Electric +28 | 4-5 |
| Reds +15 | 3-6 |
| Salsa +11 | 2-7 |
| Buck Fifty +7 | 1-8 |
| Chameleons +1 | 1-8 |

know what the poop is before we play our game. Place!

The first Tundraball game will be on 12/3/01 at Bethesda Park. I'll have schedules next week some time.

| Begins on 8/30/01 |  | 0-2 | Seaso <br> Tha |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Thursday - Bethesda Men's-Equalizer <br> No PST for Fall Season |  |  |  |
| Mizuno -14 | 9-1 |  |  |
| Redline -5 | 7-3 | 1-1 |  |
| The Cowboys | 6-4 | n/a |  |
| Warner Vagas -18 | 3-5 | 1-1 |  |
| IDC +23 | 1-6 | 2-0 |  |
| Outback Tan +24 | 1-8 | 2-0 |  |
| Began on 9/7/01 |  |  |  |
| Friday - Lucky Shoals Coed-No Homers <br> No PST for Fall Season |  |  | 12-6 |
| From Enterprises -2 |  | 8-1 |  |
| The Jets |  | 6-3 | n/a |
| With Ourselves -7 |  | 5-4 | 9-2 |
| Bad News Bankers +12 |  | 6-3 | 29-8 |
| Stone Mountain Park +10 |  | 1-8 | 2-0 |
| Toyo Techs +14 |  | 1-8 | 2-0 |

Begins on 8/30/01

The Dirty Dozen plays Buck Fifty next. Those are the clowns who no-showed us for a Saturday rain makeup. Not one of them showed up. They could have called Gwinnett and told them they weren't going to make it. Gwinnett would have called me and we'd have done something else with that Saturday. We have to beat the snot out of 'em.

Relentless beat Salsa Monday night and the Outlaws beat Buck Fifty, so there is still a three-way tie for First Place. If the season ends in a three-way tie we come in third, because of tie breakers. If the Outlaws lose, it doesn't help us, because Relentless owns us and we own the Outlaw. However, if Relentless loses to Mayer Electric Monday night AND we beat Buck Fifty then we win First

Relentless plays Mayer at 6:30 Monday, right before our game at 7:30, so we'll

The Jets play the With Ourselves to end the Fall 2001 season. They beat us $14 / 7$ back on 10/5/01 to start us on a slide. I say we owe 'em one.

I called Gwinnett. From Enterprises beat With Ourselves Friday night and clinched First Place. Nuts.

The first Tundraball game will be on 12/3/01 at Bethesda Park. I'll have schedules next week some time.

| Began on 1/27/01 | 52-42 |
| :---: | :---: |
| SaturdayISunday Various Parks - Men's-DE |  |
| ISA-E State: 7/21-22/01 ISA-E World: $8 / 31-9 / 2 / 01$ |  |
| The Cowboys Tour |  |
| A.L. Grading (Potts) | 2-0 |
| Aces | 8-2 |
| AGCO Rebels | 1-0 |
| Alpha Rugs | 1-0 |
| American Tree Bulldogs | 1-0 |
| Ball Hawgs | 1-0 |
| BC Dragons | 1-0 |
| Blue Ballers | 0-2 |
| Bulls | 1-0 |
| Canton Trophy Palace | 0-1 |
| Centex | 1-0 |
| Complete Lift Services | 1-1 |
| Devil Dogs | 1-2 |
| Devil Rays | 1-0 |
| Diversified | 1-0 |
| Duke's Creek Cabins | 0-1 |
| Faith Baptist | 1-0 |
| Fully Loaded | 1-0 |
| GA Outlaws | 0-1 |
| Georgia Storm | 1-0 |
| Hutta Hitters | 0-1 |
| Intimidators | 0-2 |
| Jokers | 1-0 |
| Just Rookies | 1-3 |
| Knights | 1-0 |
| Leven's Baptist Church | 1-2 |
| Lightning | 0-2 |
| Metro Merchants | 0-1 |
| Mixups | 2-0 |
| Mizuno | 0-1 |
| Mudcats | 1-0 |
| No Limit | 1-0 |
| On Deck | 1-0 |
| RAW (Rent-A-Wreck) | 1-0 |
| RC's | 3-1 |
| Regulators | 1-0 |
| Scorpions | 1-0 |
| Screamin' Demons | 0-1 |
| Shockers | 0-2 |
| Smashers | 1-0 |
| Sport Stop / Hale Storm | 0-1 |
| Stars Softball | 0-1 |
| Steamrollers | 1-0 |
| Stick Mojo | 0-2 |
| Team NAZ | 1-0 |
| Tennessee Ten | 0-1 |
| Titans | 0-1 |
| Tuxedo Coffee \& Vending | 3-1 |
| Under/Over | 0-1 |
| Underdogs | 0-1 |
| Unknown Express | 1-0 |
| USA Productions | 1-1 |
| Venom | 0-1 |
| Vineyard's Heating \& Air | 0-1 |
| Vista RMS | 0-1 |
| Woodstock A's | 4-2 |
| Wrecking Crew | 0-1 |
| Xtreme | 1-0 |

The teams in Green we last played in ISA, while the teams in Red we last played in USSSA. The other column is our record against that team in 2001.

The Cowboys Tour continues on 11/10/01 and finishes on 11/17/01.

## Tundraball

The Winter 2001 Season is upon us! Tim and I went to the meeting and The Jets and Dirty Dozen are both registered for Tundraball! We were unable to get The Cowboys in at George Pierce like last year, but that was unusual anyway.

The games will be one-pitch, meaning, essentially, that there's a full count when you step to the plate, but you get one more swing if you foul off the first one. They are using equalizer home run rules, so teams can hit all the homers they want, provided neither team is allowed to hit more than one more than the other team has hit. Any homers over the limit will be outs. All games will be at Bethesda Park on Mondays, Men's and Coed both, starting on $12 / 3 / 01$. The time limit for games will be 45 minutes or seven innings.

It will cost you $\$ 32$ per person, per team. Get with Tim and write him a check while you can still feel your fingers.

## Events and Announcements

Bob "\& Weave" Lyles parties on 11/12/01.
Tim "Turkey" McCoy marks another one on 11/22/01.
Kristie "Cranberry" Ahrenstedt has a birthday on 11/22/01.
Alan "Pumpkin Pie" Epstein marks another one on 11/22/01.
Mike Arnold "Ziffel" adds another one on 11/24/01.
"Autumn" Steve Rubino rolls over his odometer on 11/26/01.
If you know of something that should be mentioned in the TSP as an Event, give me a holler. If you have a birthday, wedding announcement, birth of a baby, the day the UFO abducted you or some such, concerning a McCoy Softball player, past or present, just let me know so I can mention it. An email is best.

## The DL

Bobby Wright is still in a cast, but expects to be back for Tundraball in December.
Dave Yekell, who was taking Tundraball off to rest his throwing shoulder, decided to shut it down for the last couple of Fall games, too. Take it easy and come back string in 2002, \#77!

## Trivia Challenge

Old Q: Which McCoy Softball team had the longest streak of consecutive First Place seasons? Answer for Coed and Men's. What's the longest current streak? This is Leagues, only. PST's do not count.
New A: The Jets won first place all four seasons on 1999, four more in 2000 and one more in the Spring of 2001, for a total of nine straight First Place finishes. The Dirty Dozen has the best ever Men's record with three straight: Summer, Fall and Winter 2000.

New Q: As of September 30th 2001, who has played the most McCoy Softball league games that never played a McCoy Softball game at the Softball Country Club? Name the top man \& top women. How many games?
Extra credit: Can you name the top 5 men \& top 5 women?
Super duper bonus question: Who was the 1st person to join a McCoy Softball team after the Softball Country Club went out of business?

This question and answer were sent to The Sports Page by Tim McCoy.
If you have a trivia question, reply to this email and you might see it in Trivia Challenge. If you think of a stumper, I'll research it and come up with the answer, unless you already have the answer.

## Rain Info

Bethesda and Lucky Shoals (DZ, CB \& JT) (770) 822-8882

## How to get us

If you need to ask about league fees or if you must miss a game, call Tim a few days before the game at (770) 9783799 and leave a message if he's not around.

If you need Game Times or stats information call Rocky at (770) 465-0274 or just reply to The Sports Page via email.

## As always...

Snazzy McCoy Softball stuff can be found at: http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~dmcco01/Softball

