



## Middle of Life

### Motörhead, Bethesda, 11/1/17, 8:30pm

For most of the season, **Motörhead** was the first line of "Middle of the Road", by the **Pretenders**, because the middle of the road was definitely trying to find us. After a 9-1 second place Spring season, where we'd started out 9-0, followed by a 9-1 First Place Summer season, where we started 0-1, we were at the end of another wild ride.

We started Fall 2017 0-2, losing games to **Royal Flush** and **Motley Crew**, only to get on a roll and wind up 7-2 with a "win and in" for the last game of the season. We had rolled over the so-so teams and the bad ones, winning games in short order and we blasted our way past the better teams in a tough division. The team we most had to contend with, however, had been **Motörhead**. We had fought through player losses, through injuries, a job change, a suspension and general bone headedness and we'd walked through all of it. Tim and I were often scrambling to fill holes and get the right guys in the right spots for the right games, but through it all our core guys kept the beat going and we kept winning games. Now, we just had to win the last game of 2017 to make it worthwhile. With a win, we would be 8-2 and there would be a three-way tie at the top with **Motörhead**, **Wild Wing** and either **Motley Crew** or **The Wash Ups**, who were playing on another field. In either scenario, the tiebreakers were leaning our way.

Now all that noise was behind us and we had one to go. A win would make our Fall odyssey worth all the effort, though a loss would drop us to fifth place. To borrow from the **Pretenders** again, we were standing in the middle of life with our plans behind us. Everything was in place. Now we had to just win one final game.

Our opponent was **Royal Flush**, who sat at 6-3, and who, incidentally, had beaten us to begin both our Summer and Fall seasons. In the Summer we'd beaten them later in the season en route to a come from behind Championship and we wanted to do it again in the Fall.

We were Visitors and started the game off with a double and a ground-out that moved the runner to third. A fly-out made it 1-0 and a single followed. Then the clutch hitting began. **William** "the Conqueror" **Shelburne** tripled home a two-out run to make it 2-0 then **Andrew Hess** "Express" added a run with a single and **Brian** "Big" **Byrdsong** added one more on a double before a fly-out finally stopped us, leading 4-0 in the middle of one. **Royal Flush** put a run on the board in the first to make it 4-1 after an inning.

We kept on hitting the ball in the second, and quickly added three runs to our total on with a bunch of singles a fielder's-choice and a double. A fly-out scored a run and we led 8-1 then we did some more clutch hitting. **William** "Munny" **Shelburne** drove in a two-out run with a double and "Hurricane" **Andrew Hess** added one more with a single, but a fly-out ended our six run rally that had us on top, 10-1. **Royal Flush** came up with a run in the bottom half, 10-2, through two.

We started the third inning with a pair of ground-outs, but we scored three runs anyway. "Invader" **Tim McCoy** drove in a two-out run with a single and **Larry Civelli** "War" added two more with a base hit and we had a 13-2 lead, mid way through the third. Once again, **Royal Flush** was good for one run and we held a 13-3 lead through three.

It was getting to be run-rule time and both teams felt the urgency, especially the team who'd come so far and really needed to bring home the win for a Championship. We faced a new pitcher in the fourth inning and led off with a walk. A fly-out and fielder's-choice came next, then a double, but a ground-out ended the top of the fourth. We blanked **Royal Flush** in the bottom half and still led 13-3, but were one inning closer to run-rule territory.

We led off with fifth inning with a single, but went down 1-2-3 for a second goose egg and it was back the wall time for **Royal Flush**, down ten in the fifth. All they needed was one run to stay alive, but they pushed three across the plate and cut our lead to 13-6 after five.

In the sixth, it was the clock that was our ally more than the run-rules. We also had a big ol' seven run lead. That was definitely an ally. We needed insurance in the top of six, as we knew we would not play a seventh, with the clock barely alive. We also knew that the Horse Award would be earned, unless **Royal Flush** tied us in the bottom of six. We led off with a ground-out and a fly-out. A walk kept the inning alive and the HA Award out of one man's hands, but **Andrew Hess** ended the run with a technical strike out. Now it was up to **Royal Flush** to score eight for the win, seven to force another inning or less than seven to let the big boy T-shirts land in our dugout. We threw them a donut and won the game, 13-6!

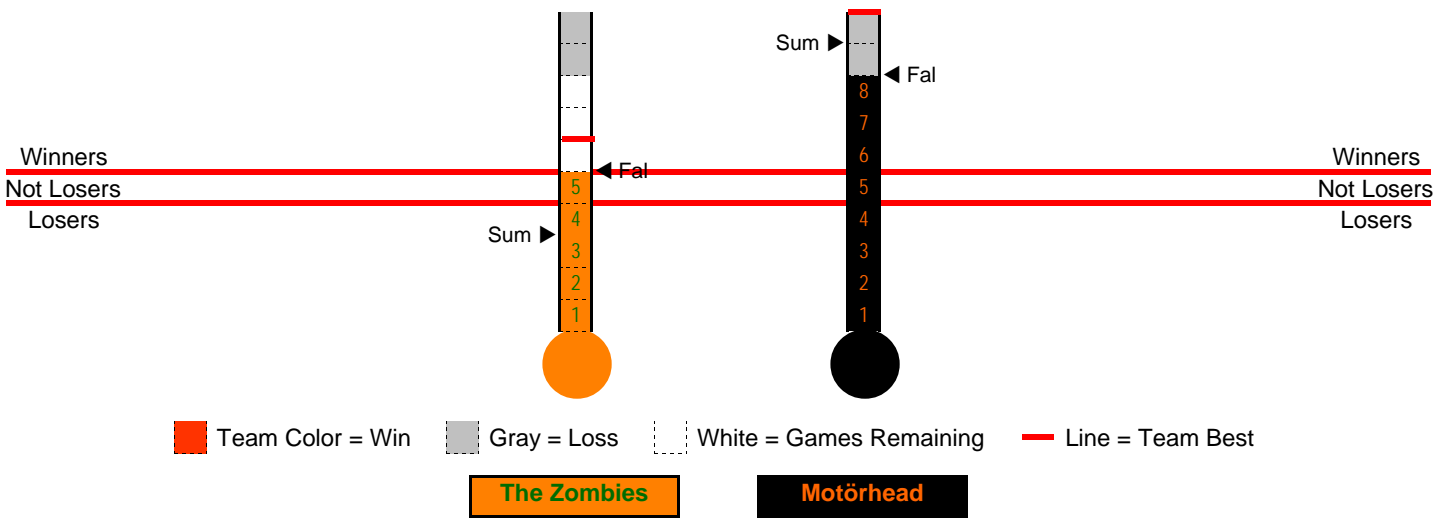
Time limit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
<b>Motörhead</b>	4	6	3	0	0	0	-	<b>13</b>
<b>Royal Flush</b>	1	1	1	0	3	0	-	<b>6</b>

We were stunned when we started Fall 2017 0-2 and we were stunned again when we ended 8-2 and those Championship T-shirts arrived. They were completely different kinds of stunned, though. We handled **Royal Flush** in the final game the same way we'd been taking care of business for the seven games prior to the finale. **Motörhead** is no

stranger to big games that decide Championships, but we'd just played seven of them before that last game. We blew past corrugated tin shacks full up with kids and it seemed we couldn't get from the cab to the curb without some little jerk on our backs, but here we were,...right on top,... in the middle of life. Great game, **Motörhead!**

**William Shelburne** "Baby Burn" was 2-2 with two walks and two RBI, **Kelvin** "Absolute Zero" **Rachu** was 3-4 with a rib, "Just a Matter of" **Tim McCoy** was 2-3 with a ribbie and **Clayton** "Wild Bill Hik" **Cox** was 2-3, too.





**Rain Numbers for Each Park**

<b>George Pierce</b>	<b>Bethesda</b>
(770) 822-8882	(770) 822-8882

**“When in doubt, come on out.”**

- 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	
<i>Red Devils</i> **	7-0
Alpha Elite Softball	5-2
Jaamarti	5-2
The Zombies	5-2
Caught Looking	2-5
Wolverton Wolverines **	2-5
QTS Eagles **	1-6
Scuf Gaming	1-6

overall  
record

0-1 ←  
1-0  
0-1  
n/a  
1-0  
1-0  
2-0  
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	
<i>Motörhead</i>	8-2
Motley Crew	8-2
Wild Wing Bar & Grill	8-2
The Wash Ups	7-3
Royal Flush **	6-4
Sons of Pitches	5-5
Maxxi's Creepy Crawlers	3-7
Los Menores	3-7
Victory Eagles	2-8
Smash & Dash	0-10

overall  
record

0-0  
20-6  
7-4  
1-0  
26-3  
14-0  
1-0  
2-0  
3-0  
6-2

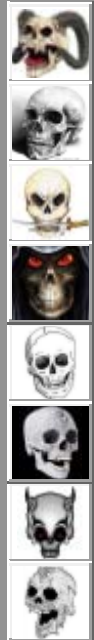
*Motörhead* finished Fall 2017 at 8-2, owned all the tiebreakers in the three way and took the Championship, after starting the season 0-2.

After that 9-1 second place finish in Spring 2017, we rebounded to take First in the Summer, also with a 9-1 record and we felt good about finally getting a Championship for 2017.

Now that we've just won a second Championship in the Fall, that tenth game loss in the Spring hurts ever more. If we'd scored one more run in that tenth game, we'd have pulled a 2017 three-pete.

It was a heck of a year, *Motörhead!* We fought and struggled and got everybody out of our way, including ourselves.

Congratulations, guys!





# Birthdays & Batting Titlists

## November Birthdays

GERSHOFF, GARY	11/1
DENNIS, MIKE	11/3
KELLY, TROY	11/3
FRANKLIN, JAWSH	11/4
<b>HESS, ANDREW</b>	<b>11/6</b>
<b>SHELburne, WILLIAM</b>	<b>11/6</b>
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
<b>McCoy, TIM</b>	<b>11/22</b>
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



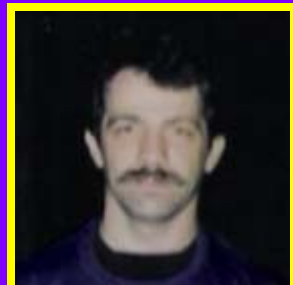
**Jerry Smith** ..... **0.607**

**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.