

2019 JESSICA COOK WOOD BAT TOURNAMENT

THE BEST OF THE 2ND WORSTS!

As the calendar officially flipped over from Summer to Fall, the 88s reunited 3 weeks after their last game for a good cause and to try and get rid of the sour taste in their mouths left by the 0-2 pounding they took to end the 2019 season.

Playing in their first Jessica Cook tournament since they won their division back in 2017, they started off cold going 1-2 with a -4 run differential in the round robin portion, which strangely enough was the exact same situation they faced in the 2017 tournament. However also like in 2017, the 88s would get rolling on Sunday in the elimination bracket.

After a scare in game 1 that had them trailing 4-1 before exploding for 10 more runs (including the tournament turning point bases clearing triple by Brian in the 4th to tie it, followed by the same from Jeff in the 5th to extend the lead) for the 11-5 win, the 88s never saw another deficit, leading wire to wire in each of the next 3 games for a convincing Silver division championship.

After their first two wins something special was in air, it was around then when sacrifices had to be made. Whether that be missing a Sunday afternoon of football, not attending a family event, postponing important work or giving up the ability to walk properly for a couple days, each of the 88s went all in, knowing they're stronger together.

Overall the 88s finished with a batting average of only 13 points less than their normal season (.526 vs .539, which seems really impressive considering wood bats were used) and nearly had as many walks during the 7 game tournament (10) as they did in the 32 game season (15), which seems a little less impressive considering the constant wind on Sunday.

They entered Sunday as the 4th seed, and had to go through the 5th seed (11-5), 3rd seed (15-8) and 2nd seed (11-5) before getting their chance to take down the 1 seed in the final game 8-4. Thanks to great all around defense and a few clutch batting performances including ROY Katelin's 4/4 + 2 runs and Jeff's 3/3 + 3 runs, the 88s were able to assemble one last time for a victory photo behind home plate.

As the legend of the 88s wood bat prowess grows, so has the desire to make it an annual tradition to send out the summer.

On behalf of everyone here in the 88s front office, I'd like to thank you all for your time and effort this season. It was truly the best year we've had so far and we can't wait for 2020!

This is senior writer Chum Flowers signing off, saying so long and God bless.



1ST Red Wind Jokers
and BATTER Power Pack

Coed Silver
3rd Place Teams from Round Robin Play

1st Seed	WIND JOKERS Ump Yours
2nd Seed	WIND JOKERS MAD BATTER
3rd Seed	CROP DUSTERS
4th Seed	88's
5th Seed	QUIT YOUR PIRCHIN
6th Seed	SUB PAR ATHLETES

Teams are seeded based on plus/minus
From Round Robin Play
Higher Seed is Home team

Ump Yours

1st seed WIND JOKERS	1)		W1	Ump Yours
Sun 11:30 Memorial#4				
2nd Seed WIND JOKERS MAD BATTERS				
✓ 3rd Seed CROP DUSTERS 3	2)		W2	6)
Sun 9:00am Plymouth				Sun 5:45 Complex#1
6th Seed SUB PAR ATHLETES 1		4)		88's
		Sun 2:00pm Memorial#4		
4th seed 88's W			W3	Sun 3:15 Memorial#4 5)
Sun 11:30 Treelawn	11-5			88's
5th Seed QUIT YOUR PIRCHIN L	3)			L1 MAD BATTERS

FROM SATURDAY