

# 2026 SEASON WEEKLY RECAPS

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## WEEK 3 RECAP: LUXURIOUS

A word kept coming to mind last night: Luxury.

What a luxury it is to have 2 aces to put on the mound on any given day. Jes who, before receiving her 2025 Championship pin proposal style, also played silky smooth at third base and scored on all 5 of her hits and Josh who, even with a sore hammy, also crushed his 2<sup>nd</sup> home run on the season; as close to a no doubter homerun as you can get without leaving the park.

What a luxury it is to have a player like Kylie who makes the 88s versatile and dangerous by thriving in any position on the field, leading to coach asking “Marnie who?” as she filled in beautifully at first base.

What a luxury it is to have a guy like Brian, who’s been on a streak of sparking new life lately, triggering a crucial 2 out rally when we found ourselves trailing 5-1 in game 1.

What a luxury it is to witness one of the baddest bitches in the league not letting a rare off night at the plate impact her defense, reeling in the most flies in the outfield on the night, including an important first out in the final inning of game 1 after the Walkoffs threatened a come back with their first two batters reaching safely.

What a luxury it is to have someone of Nikki’s calibre behind the plate, turning a position where some teams are weak into a strength for the 88s, as she went 7-for-10 with 4 runs scored and 3 RBIs on the night.

What a luxury it is to have Jordan, someone so good that even him at 60% while managing a back injury is able to make play after play in the infield... only missing one through the 5 hole to be a gentlemen and prevent the shutout.

The 88s finish May with a perfect 5-0 record thanks to velvety smooth defence and opulent offense.

### EXTRA BITS:

Tim with the walk off mercy hit in game 2, adding to his very impressive start to the season.

Brian being a good big brother by letting his sister catch his line drive for a crowd pleasing out.

Myles nearly hit one out of the park, only 35 feet short. “Is it out?”

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## WEEK 2 RECAP: LADIES NIGHT

The 88s turned heads when they rolled up to the hottest night club in town, “The Diamond”.

For the first time in franchise history they sent out an all-female infield and to absolutely no one's surprise they completely owned the dance floor.

Several slick plays were made on the corners by Marnie (1B) and Joce (3B) and the middle infielders of Naomi (2B) and Kylie (SS) busted out some smooth moves of their own.

Nikki strutted to the plate to become the first 88 to reach 1,000 career at bats and did it in flying style by ripping a patented liner into right field to cash in her coach from third.

Marnie was getting looks all night as she sent liner after liner into the grass on her way to a 4/4 night and coming around to score every time while knocking in 3 ribbies.

Joce was so hot with the bat that the bouncer was worried she might be a fire hazard after going 5/5 with a team high 5 runs knocked in.

While the ladies drew most of the attention, the boys couldn't resist joining the party.

Josh was living the dream: surrounded by girls in the middle of all the action, so he bought everyone 2 rounds of shots. The first was served up as an impressive opposite field solo on the first pitch of the game, then he returned the favor in the bottom half with a leadoff home run of his own; the first from any 88 on the year.

Tim and Brian popped their collars with matching 5/5 performances while Brandon, playing in just his second game as an 88, bumped and grinded his way to 3 hits, 3 runs and 2 RBI.

Defensively the 88s turned away unwanted advances with at least 3 double plays by various combinations of Josh, Naomi, Marnie and Kylie.

The One Hit Wonders proved why they're defending champions by jumping out to an early 2-0 lead, but the 88s hot offence was too much to overcome as they now start the year with an average of 20 runs per game, a combined .703 batting average and a 3-0 record.

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## WEEK 1 RECAP: COMISERY

A cold, rainy opening-night doubleheader would have been a miserable slog in most scenarios, but going through it with such a great group of people made it fun and memorable; a little comradery to start to the year.

## WOBBLY

Perhaps influenced by their new opponent's team name, the 88s looked like a baby deer at times while they tried to find their footing after a long off season.

They let the first 3 opponent batters reach base to find themselves down 1-0 to start the game.

The ball felt dead off their bats and the right field of Myles and Tim couldn't solve the Wobblers' power lefty who got 3 hits and scored half of his team runs.

They quickly found their balance.

Brian and Tim set the tone offensively with five hits apiece. Marnie came around to score on each of her 3 hits. Naomi went a perfect 4/4 and after getting a lead off pop-up out of his system, reigning male MVP Jordan's meds kicked in and he found his power stroke with multiple extra base hits.

Kylie started the game looking hot at the corner with her mis-matched shoes while making play after play at 3B and she finished the game with a walk off RBI to complete the opening game mercy W.

## **BASES INVADED**

Feeling loose after game 1 and invigorated by the arrival of one of their power bats, the 88s battled through the rain and a bit of throwback defense in the 6th to keep the good times rolling.

Jes was the undisputed K Queen of the night. Flirting with a double digit strikeout total over the 2 games while getting on base 5 times and scoring on 4 of them.

John and Myles combined to go a perfect 11/11 with 6 RBIs in game 2 and thanks to a classic 88s avalanche in the final open inning they put up 7 runs to blow it open, making the final 21-7 score appear more lopsided than the game felt.

When the night was over, the 88s went home soaked, sore and undefeated to enjoy a defrosting shower and a 2-0 start to their 2026 campaign.

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## **2026 SEASON PREVIEW**

### **THEY'RE COMING HOME**

After spending their previous two campaigns going 50-3 with back to back chips as part of the Pelham Slo-Pitch League, the 88s are flying back south to the WSL where they were born, raised and grew up to capture 3 straight titles between 2021 – 2023.

*Editor's note: the team's accumulative run differential over the past 5 seasons has been redacted due to public safety concerns.*

Their return was announced with the following press release:

WELLAND, ONTARIO (March 11th, 2026) – The following statement was released today by the Welland 88s, through their franchise attorney and business manager located in Welland, Ontario in response to questions about their future career plans:

**“We’re back.”**

They enter 2026 with the same starting lineup as last year plus a reloaded and bolstered bench after several high priced free agent signings this past off season:

- Cindy “Bullseye” Brooks
- Andrea Finamore (a hottie row vet)
- Michelle Borgatti
- DJ Borgatti
- Brandon MacKay

They’ll need all the help they can get against a loaded Welland league featuring proven foes who have taken them down before along with 7 brand new opponents looking to take their crack at the blue and white.

On top of the upstart squads and familiar rivals, one of the toughest opponents the 88s will face this year is father time as their average age is now well past what human life expectancy has been for much of the races existence. He’s famously undefeated but one anonymous source says; “we’re not looking to beat him, only hold him off as long as possible.”

Inside the clubhouse, ice packs now outnumber bats and at least one player has referred to the idea of 9:45 PM start times as “aggressive” but they head into the season as young as they’ll ever be and excited for hot fun in the summer time.

There are a ton of unsold season memberships still available and single game tickets go on sale May 10th, 2026.