

2022 SEASON WEEKLY RECAPS

WEEK #17 RECAP

"THE B TEAM BEAT DOWN"

(and by "B" I mean bench, not second rate)

It felt over after 1.

With a 6 pitch top of the first followed by a bat around 4 run bottom half, the 88s looked and felt in control from the start.

A capable WalkOffs squad threatened a number of times but the 88s bend but don't break defense stepped up to nip potential rallies in the bud.

Vern was involved in her first double play as an 88 by scooping it over to Andrew who gunned it over to an out stretched Marnie at 1B.

No other real highlights to speak of, just a lot of solid low error defense to hold the WalkOffs down to just a single run over 7 innings.

On offense it was the M&M's helping lead the way this time with Marnie knocking in a team leading 4 RBI on 4 hits and Myles hitting the boost button to scamper around for a triple and another 2 inside the parkers.

However as is usually the case there was plenty more praise to go around.

How about Joce going a perfect 5/5 with 4 runs scored? Or Josh sending a one hopper to the fence as part of his 4/5 + 3 run + 2 RBI night? Or Andrew with his strong D (teehee) at SS while recording his 100th career RBI at the dish?

This team is good!

After they sent 14 batters to the plate to score 9 runs in the 4th it was just a matter of playing it out.

The final score was 19-1 and the 88s took a 1-0 semifinals series lead.

With both of last year's MVPs and starting short stop back for game 2, it doesn't look like anything is stopping the 88s from getting back to the finals. *(knock on wood)*

WEEK #16 RECAP

“THE ROBIN GOES ‘SWEEP SWEEP’”

GAME 4 of 5:

Simply put, this was the most dominating win in 88s history.

While moving at half speed as to not pile on too much, the 88s still managed:

- Both the largest margin of victory and highest scoring game ever (35).
- 2nd shutout in franchise history.
- Scored in every single inning.
- Every player both scored at least 1 run and knocked in at least 1 RBI.

Individual accolades included:

- Nikki tying ladies record for runs in a game, again (5). #SpeedDemon
- Kylie tying her own ladies record for hits in a game (6).
- Brian surpassing the 200 run mark on his career.
- John and Josh each going 6/6, many hits of the impressive variety.

GAME 5 of 5:

After a lopsided game 1 the challenge would be for the 88s to switch gears and ratchet the intensity back up to face a strong opponent in the Walk-Offs.

Losing 2 of their most important defenders between games to deal with a 3 person OF made for an uphill climb and an auto out in the batting lineup due to playing with 9 total players was the wind in their face.

One of the biggest strengths of this team is their depth. Top to bottom on offense and left to right on defense, any player is capable of stepping up to lead the way on any given night.

Tonight it was Josh.

After a 6/6 + near record 7 RBI showing in game 1, he followed that up with an even more impressive game 2 by adding a defensive highlight to his reel (a diving stop at 3rd for an out) and launched his 2nd inside the park home run on the season to the fence as part of his 4/5 follow-up performance.

Playing Lieutenants to his Captain were the 1-2 punch of Myles (4 hits, 4 runs including his second inside the parker on the night) and Nikki (3 hits, 5 RBI which accounted for over a third of the teams run production).

Also stepping up was Jeff on the mound who splashed into a bit of early controversy at the plate but backed it up admirably by only giving up 1 walk while leading the team out of several jams in the middle innings after the 88s uncharacteristically threw the ball around a bit behind him.

With the elements working against them, it was a rare and welcomed challenge that the 88s ultimately proved up to as they somehow toughed it out for a narrow 14-10 victory.

As Andrew finished off the game with a ranging scoop, spin and toss to a stretched out Marnie at 1st, the 88s completed the round robin sweep as the heavy fog lingered in the outfield and extended their overall winning streak to 21 straight games.

EXTRA BITS

Joce went 8/12 at the plate while raising the bar for what it means to play team defense by backing up the plays at 1B from right field throughout game 2.

WEEK #15 RECAP

“ROUND AND ROUND WE GO”

After securing a first place finish in their division weeks ago, the 88s have been waiting a while for meaningful baseball.

Well they'll have to wait a little longer because first they gotta get through a rather pointless round robin schedule before a proper playoff series can get underway.

GAME 1 vs. BEER CHUGGERS

Nikki's debut in the OF included a pivotal catch deep in CF off the bat of 88s affiliate Sean Slade.

Stellar infield defense all around featured Marnie and Schumer being dual vacuums on the right side and John being in the middle of 2 double plays, one started by Sandi on a comebacker to the mound and the other unassisted.

The offense was highlighted by Marnie's 2 RBI ground out brain fart and Myles' "home run" and 5 RBI to help the 88s secure an 18-5 mercy victory to get their playoff run off to a great start.

Ok enough of that, let's talk about last night...

ODE TO CHANDLER

Chandler was in peak reigning MVP form on a night when it mattered the most with the 88s facing their toughest test of the season so far, at least on paper.

He put together a night to remember by showing off every one of the 5 tools he has in his belt.

A game ending diving catch may have been the icing, but the cake was baked with a healthy dose of 8 runs on 8 hits, a dash of 6 RBI, heaping scoops of other impressive running catches and cannon throws and even a sprinkle of a walk (his first since 2019).

No one disagreed with who got the game ball after the games ended in back to back mercies (19-4 and 22-5 respectively), but it takes a lot more than 1 player having an incredible night to win 2 games against strong opponents in dominating fashion like they did.

Defensively is where the 88s shined the brightest. Thanks in part to an error free (and at times rather spectacular) outfield, Seb being in the middle of his first 2 double plays as an 88, and Sandi not giving up a single walk despite the at times blustery winds, the 88s managed to hold a powerful Pitches lineup to just 4 runs and followed that up by keeping a 28-1 Ump Yours squad pinned down to just 5 runs.

Lately it seems different 88s are taking their turns to step up and help carry the load offensively. Other stand out performances on the night were Kylie (who also split her glove trying to catch a hard liner) and Myles (including his 400th on the career) each having 8 hits of their own, Joce being in top form (thanks in part to an enhanced ankle brace) with 7 hits and 7 RBI, Marnie knocking across her 100th career hit and Jeff and Seb leading the way around the bases with 6 runs apiece.

Every player had at least 1 RBI in game 1 (a very rare and impressive feat) and the 88s scored in every single inning except for the 1st inning of game 2 when Chandler, Joce and Jeff all hit missiles directly at fielders.

Really though the star of the night was definitely Brian. With every strong and accurate throw, every running catch, every hit and every base rounded he put together a night that may be the new standard of excellence moving forward.

Oh and just in case this is coming on a little strong and he's getting a huge head about it, Brian also got out once in both games. What a bitch.

WEEK #14 RECAP

"REGULAR SEASON FINALE"

In what was essentially an exhibition game with the playoff divisions already set, the 88s took the opportunity to bust out their secret weapon, the Linda-nator.

She graciously went hitless to keep the game fair and looked good doing it.

Post-game drinks were toasted to:

- A regular season with the most wins in franchise history
- Nikki becoming just the second lady in 88s history to surpass the 100 career RBI mark
- Seb's first homerun as an 88 and Myles' team leading 7th on the season (both inside the parkers)
- Marnie continuing her hot streak with another 4 hits and 4 runs
- Brian having a 4/4 game to finish the regular season with a cheat mode like .820 batting average
- The 88s winning streak extending to 16 straight and their 3rd undefeated month of the season

The real season begins.

WEEK #13 RECAP

"GUTTING IT OUT IN THE DOG DAYS"

Missing 3 key players and a couple others limited with injuries, the 88s were a patch work of tensor bandages and fill ins.

Game 1 was a defensive struggle early but thanks to pivotal plays like the heads up throw from Andrew at SS to Joce at home to nab a runner at the plate, the 88s kept the game scoreless and close long enough for the bats to pick up.

A 2 run double by John in the 3rd gave the 88s a narrow 3-2 lead but that was given up after the Pitches put up 4 in the 6th and another 3 in the 7th (which could have been worse if it had not been for a clutch double play by John at 3rd to put an end to the rally).

A big 6 run bottom of the 6th gave the lead back to the 88s and helped them secure the comeback.

After a solo shot shrunk the lead to just 1 in the final inning, and the tying run barreling towards 2B it was once again Andrew making the play at SS to toss it over to Kylie to wrap a bow on a narrow 11-10 victory.

The drivers of the offense were Kirby (4/4 + 1 run + 5 RBI) and Seb (3/3 + 3 runs + 2 RBI) who each also had an impressive missed diving catch.

Game 2 is when the bats came to life.

Kylie had 4 hits and a near record 5 RBI while Marnie knocked over 4 hits and 2 RBI of her own.

John blasted his 2nd inside the park home run in his first at bat when the game was still close to help the 88s build an early 4-1 lead.

Schumer - Brian - Marnie connected on one of the sweetest double plays the 88s have seen but still the play of the game defensively goes to Marnie's toenail for keeping her attached to first base long enough to secure an out.

Sandi became the first lady in 88s history to reach the century mark for RBI on the career thanks to back to back hits in the 3rd and 4th.

All of this helped the 88s roll to a comfortable 21-5 win, their 15th in a row.

WEEK #12 RECAP

"NOTHING FANCY UNDER THE FULL MOON"

The 88s had some fun and took care of business while achieving many things:

- Winning streak extended to 13
 - Every player had at least 2 runs and 1 RBI each
 - The +26 was the second largest margin of victory on record
 - The 14 run 5th was the second most runs scored in a single inning
 - Kirby adds to his career record for diving catch near misses
 - Joce (2nd career) and Kylie (4th career) both have 5 hit games
 - John reaches 100 career hits
 - Nikki reaches 300 career hits (the first gal to reach the mark)
 - Brian smacks a grand slam, the team's second in as many weeks
 - Joce participates in her first every double play in the infield (Brian – Kylie – Joce)
 - Myles reaches 300 career RBI (the first 88 to reach the mark)
 - They helped give a German exchange student another story to take home with her ("das crazy Canadians with their bat game so fun")
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WEEK #11 RECAP

"THE FRIENDLY RIVALRY SWINGS BACK"

After the 88s took them down in the 2021 finals, the Beer Chuggers (formerly known as Under Construction) got payback in 2022 by putting an end to the 88s winning streak and their bid for a second undefeated season.

Needing retribution, the 88s called on their big bats to swing the momentum and they did not disappoint.

Joce launched bombs deep into the night sky with two stand up doubles hit to the fence (not even a near death experience in shallow CF seemed to slow her down), Brian was looking like his reigning MVP self with a perfect 10/10 night including the team's first home run out of the park and several more against the fence (also put up 8 runs and 9 RBI plus a cycle in game 2), and Pope sent a towering shot over the CF fence for the team's first grand slam since Jeff's in last year's finals and his first out of the park home run during regular league play (he also went 9/11 overall with 6 runs and 4 RBI).

While the big bats took care of the fireworks, others contributed to the show including Nikki's franchise leading 5th 5 hit game on the career + 4 run game 1, Myles' second 7 RBI game of the season in game 1 and Sandi's perfect 5/5 + 3 runs + RBI game 2.

On the defensive side, other than a small handful of harmless enough miscues it was more of the usual 88s strong defense highlighted by Schumer's running catch from 2B in shallow RF, Joce nabbing several rocket liners in CF, Sandi making a heads up cover at 1B to complete a double play after Marnie made a catch and Chandlers catch and doubling off of a runner with Josh at 3B to end the night.

Jeff stood in the dimly lit RF all night looking cute as hell.

By the time the bat boy (Zach) and bat girl (Scarlett) were collecting the composite, the 88s were in cruise control on the way to their 11th win in a row, securing top spot in their division by putting more distance between themselves and second place.

EXTRA BITS

Josh hits the 100 career RBI mark with 7 on the night.

Nikki and Sandi both need 3 more RBI for 100 for their career. Who's taking bets on who gets there first?!

Brian becomes the 4th 88 to reach the 10 or more career total home run level.

WEEK #10 RECAP

"CACHE OF WEAPONS"

Despite missing their dual rapid fire pistols the 88s arsenal proved plenty deep enough to vanquish their enemies.

They used a few blunt hammers and vice grips to hold the second place team to a mere 4 runs over 9 innings in game 1.

Highlighted by Josh's crashing catch at the 3B fence, Schumer's ranging catch in shallow right field and Sandi's rock solid pitching, their defense laid down suppressing fire to limit Sons of Pitches to just 16 hits.

Enough was done offensively to secure the win with John's sniper rifle picking off 5 hits and 2 RBI, Nikki's shotgun blasting away a 3/3 + a walk and an RBI night while Andrew used a machete to hack off 3 runs scored of his own.

After a hard fought game 1, the second of the double header was a little less exciting by romping their way to a 24-1 mercy win.

John had another perfect 5/5 game with 4 runs scored, Marnie had 4 hits + 4 runs, Kylie had 5 hits + 3 runs, Jeff and Brian each had 5 hits, but taking the cake was Joice's 3 run inside the park blast in the 4th. It was her first as an 88 and the franchise's first ever female home run which also gave Joice the record for most RBI in a season (36 and counting).

With these back to back victories, the 88s have secured an undefeated July (their 2nd undefeated month of the year and 5th since the start of 2021) and have now locked up first place in their division with 6 games to go in the regular season.

EXTRA BITS:

The 8 hits allowed in game 2 were the fewest given up in a single game on record

WEEK #9 RECAP

"FORFEIT AND RAINOUT"

Enough said.

WEEK #8 RECAP

NIGHT 1: Back in the saddle again

After being bucked off their horse and landing face down in the muck to finish off June, the 88s cleaned themselves off and took back the reins with a 4-0 start to July after back to back wins on a Monday night.

In what may have been their most impressive and complete game of the season, the 88s started things off with a convincing win against a strong Sons Of Pitches team who are nipping at their heels in the standings.

They batted around the order to put up 6 runs in the top of the first inning and never looked back by holding the explosive Pitches lineup to just 3 runs over 8 innings on the back of Sandi's usual great pitching.

On the offensive side it was a total team effort with everyone producing, highlighted by Brian's 4 hits and 4 runs, Nikki's 3 hits and 3 RBI and Myles' 4 hits and 4 RBI.

Marnie did her best to extend the game by leaving a slow roller in the dirt while running to touch 1B but her efforts to let the Pitches come back were no match for the rest of the teams defense which was vintage rock solid 88s.

Game 2 was a forgettable one. However before the buzz was killed and the rain fell there was some fun had.

Marnie started off the game with a Bill Buchner impression, Shake and bake each recorded a home run (neither of the impressive variety), Sandi turned a double play while playing 2B (John - Sandi - Joce) and Myles made a nice recovery for a whacky catch deep in CF.

The game was wrapped up early with a 13-4 final.

NIGHT 2: Sweepin' together

As the golden hour sun pierced through the maple trees and a full rainbow extended out from a sky on fire, people couldn't help but notice that the most beautiful thing to see was the 88s play on the field.

Joce and Kylie both cracked the 100 career hits milestone in game 1. Joce also already broke the single season ladies run record with 38 and counting (10 games + playoffs to go).

John and Brian (who also went a perfect 11/11 with 9 runs) both smacked their first inside the park home runs on the season (John's first as an 88).

Nikki had a big 6 hit + 4 run + 3 RBI night to edge her closer to becoming the first lady in franchise history with 100 RBI.

Myles hustled his way into 2 inside the park home runs and a triple in game 2.

All of this work on offense was fun, but the real work was done on defense by holding two potent lineups to under 10 runs a piece, highlighted by a super well timed double play from Andrew - Schumer - Marnie in the 3rd inning of game 2 while the Moe's were threatening.

After getting knocked down for a stretch it feels like the 88s are back at their best with 6 straight convincing wins leading into the All-Star break and two big weapons on their way back into the lineup to help light the teams remaining pistons.

EXTRA BITS:

Jeff records hit number 400! The first 88 to achieve the milestone, cementing his trip to the 88s HOF after his career.

88s tie franchise record with 4 home runs in a single game.

Kirby (COVID) and Josh (VACATION) are both set to make their returns to the lineup next week to help the rich get richer.

WEEK #7 RECAP

"BOUNCED BACK"

After falling down to Earth with the death of their winning and undefeated streaks in previous weeks the 88s were in desperate need of a pick me up.

Thanks to back to back drubbings (20-1 vs Balls Deep and 29-5 vs Sloppy Ducks), spirits were lifted.

With little intrigue to speak of regarding the games themselves, let's have some fun and list off the individual and team accomplishments.

In no particular order...

A 15 run 6th in game 2 tied a franchise record for runs in an inning.

While playing 2B, Nikki completed a double play with a catch and toss to 1B to double off a runner.

Myles hit for the cycle in game 1, including his second inside the park home run of the year.

Josh ate his Wheaties and may have had his best night wearing the blue and white with several bombs deep to RF (including his first inside the park home run, two ground rule doubles and one foul over the fence), nifty 3B work and even pitched a two K save for good measure in game 2.

Sandi knocked in a career high 4 RBI in game 2 (more than doubling her season total) and made a nice snag of a liner while playing 2B.

Brian went a perfect 11/11 at the plate to vault him into the team lead for both hits (54) and BA (.783)

Marnie clobbered 5 hits and 4 RBI (both tied her career best) in game 2.

Joce collected an assortment of new nicknames and a bomb triple deep to LF to kick off the scoring in game 1.

John's bat bounced back with his only 2 outs being of the impressive defense variety.

Kylie knocked in a career tying best 5 RBI in game 1 (8 total on the night) and didn't have a single ejection.

And perhaps saving the best for last...

Even with a very slow aviator wearing start to game 1, Jeff managed to turn it around and still somehow:

- Tie the single game RBI record (8)
- Surpass 200 RBI for his career (only the 2nd 88 to do so)
- Hit 2 inside the park home runs, which moved him into 2nd place on the career insider the park home run list (and first place for 2022)
- Record a K while pitching 2 scoreless innings in game 1
- Make a great catch on a hard liner
- Injure his side piece girlfriend

Every 88 had a reason to smile after this one and they hope to carry the positive vibes into next week's 4 games in 3 nights stretch before the All-star break.

WEEK #6 RECAP

"RIP UNDEFEATED STREAK

(July 5th, 2021 - June 27th, 2022)"

She lived a beautiful and joyous life, much longer than most others.

Spanning across 12 months with 23 different players contributing, her greatest achievements included an undefeated championship season and a Jessica Cook tourney crown. Yet those who knew her best will credit her legacy to the people she brought together and the memories she inspired.

When she finally slipped away at the ripe old age of 358 days, tragically just 1 week short of a full year, every player in her 2022 family was there by her side to watch her go.

Coming off a disappointing tie the week prior, their first non-winning outcome since August 29th 2019, what they were hoping was just a short lived cold turned into a full blown flu when they followed that up with 2 straight defeats at the hands of the Beer Chuggers (12-18 and 12-17 respectively).

Inconsistent batting paired with the occasional Swiss cheese defense was more than enough to come out on the losing end against a strong opponent, while several pivotal head scratching calls by the umpire was the sand paper icing on top of their dog shit sandwich.

Jeff hit his 2nd inside the park homerun in as many game nights, Nikki made a great catch at home to save a run and Kirby went a perfect 8/8 with 5 runs and 4 RBI over the 2 games but the holes they were digging themselves at the same time were simply too deep to escape from.

The 88s get 8 days to rest and regroup before they look to breathe fresh life into a new born streak.

Let's sum up the night with a song...

WE'RE TALKIN' SOFTBALL

Watch this clip prior to reading below so it makes sense: <https://youtu.be/IAJHDiO8Fr0>

Well the team had finally done it,
The 88s had blown it,
With the Calvert brothers diving to no avail,
Popes purposely dropped liner made them wail,
While Schumer said "fucking horseshit" and decided to bail.

We're talkin' sooftball,
From winning streak to total shit,
Talkin' sooftball,
They couldn't throw and couldn't hit,

Coach Myles' slightly swollen thumb,
So many calls we'll politely just call dumb,

We're talkin' errorrrrs,
Marnie was still drunk on rum.

WEEK #5 RECAP

"EPIC TRILOGY"

Playing 3 games in 48 hours without a sub, the 88s knew they'd be tested like never before.

While their winning streak may have come to an end at 32 games, they were able to keep their undefeated streak intact thanks to a gritty never say die attitude.

Let's breakdown the trilogy...

Episode 1 was a story of heroic triumph.

A talented and motivated Sons Of Pitches squad came out guns blazing with a towering triple to the right field fence and an early lead heading into the 3rd inning.

Seeing this, the 88s took lessons learned in Caledonia and shifted themselves into a gear they've rarely had to use.

In a game where every hit mattered, it was Brian (5/6, 3 runs, 3 RBI) and Josh (5/6, 2 runs, RBI) who played leading roles to come through when it mattered most along with guest co-star Vern who knocked 3 hits of her own to go along with a run and a couple ribbies.

The primary storyline focused on the difference between infield defenses.

While Sons Of Pitches had a few uncharacteristic blooper reels on the gravel, the 88s infield was photogenic thanks to the on screen chemistry of DP team Kylie and John and 2 Hollywood stalwarts on the corners in Josh and Vern.

When filming wrapped after a seesaw battle, it was the 88s who found themselves in the spotlight with a well-earned 18-14 victory.

Episode 2 was a comedic romp.

Feeling that audiences may have been put through the emotional ringer in episode 1, the studio decided to change things up with a lighter tone for the next go around.

After teasing it for months with several "just about's", fans of the 88s finally got what they were waiting for, the franchise's first ever defensive shutout.

Getting top billing in this sequel was Sandi who not only pitched all 7 scoreless innings but also had her best game at the plate so far this year with 4 hits, 3 runs and an RBI.

There were a lot of other stand out performances from the ensemble cast including Joce' 5/5 + 3 runs + 3 RBI, Jeff's 5 hits and 5 RBI, Nikki's season best in runs and RBI (4 apiece), and John, Josh, Brian and Myles all having at least 4 hits, 3 runs and 2 RBI.

Audiences left theatres with the pallet cleanser they needed; a 27-0 mercy win and the 88s largest margin of victory in franchise history.

Episode 3 was a dark and ambiguous conclusion.

As the setting shifted to the cursed grounds of Memorial 1, the scene of last years brutal on set injuries, the studio decided to lean into it by giving the trilogy's finale a grim and gritty filter.

The early poor play and vibes on the field were juxtaposed with a gorgeous sunset and ideal playing conditions.

Perhaps worn out from the events of the previous 2 installments, the 88s came out very flat in part III and found themselves down 9-1 after the 5th, their biggest deficit of the year.

The 88s badly needed an act 2 turn around. Cue the music.

With 2 outs and no runs in during the 6th, and things looking as bleak as ever, it was Jeff Henderson's first home run of the year, a sharply hit opposite field inside the parker, that sparked the 88s back to life.

Following his lead, Kylie (as part of her record breaking 6 hit performance), Kirby, Sandi and Myles strung together 4 straight 2 out hits to tack on another couple runs and help pull the 88s back into a respectable 9-4 game.

Thanks in part to a negotiated adjustment to the teams defense, the 88s held onto the momentum by only letting in 1 more run the rest of the game yet they still found themselves in a 4 run hole heading into the final inning.

After John, Nikki, Josh, Joce, Brian and Kylie all came through with clutch hits to keep hope alive, Jeff stepped up again with a 2 out RBI double to score Brian and tie the game.

With audiences on the edge of their seats anticipating a joyous climax, the 88s gave them one final twist by failing to secure the lead, taking care of business on defense in the bottom of the 9th and leaving the field with a 10-10 tie.

As the season's story moves ahead to many new chapters, it seems the characters have been humanized, more vulnerable and relatable.

The final scenes of the 2022 saga have yet to be written, but one thing for sure; the franchise has never been more interesting.

EXTRA BITS

Josh surpasses the 100 career hit mark.

Jeff joins the exclusive 2022 K club.

Gold stars to Joce and James for sticking it out until after midnight waiting for a tow truck with Kirby and Myles.

WEEK #4 RECAP

"BOYS THEN GIRLS"

The 88s couldn't help but feel a little Deja vu as they repeated their success from 1 week prior.

Same game times, same field, same opponents, same results.

However it wasn't quite a reboot of Groundhog Day since the events that led to the W's were quite a bit different.

Despite the game 1 final score of 22-4 vs Balls Deep, it wasn't the same blowout they had last week. Perhaps still feeling the strain from the previous weekend's tournament, the 88s came out a little flat and found themselves in a relatively close 8-3 game after the 4th.

It wasn't until a patented big run inning where they crossed 10 in the 5th to give themselves the breathing room they're used to and they never looked back.

What led the way on defense was Kylie finding her MVP form by being in the middle of 3 separate double plays (ho hum she also knocked in a team leading 4 RBI at the plate) and Jeff in a surprise start on the mound where he didn't give up any free bases while striking out 2.

On offense Brian, Kirby and Myles each went perfect at the plate while Andrew collected a couple gold stars for not only filling in last minute but also knocking 3 hits + 2 runs and 2 RBIs while playing error free defense.

Game 2 was also far from a walk through.

Giving the 88s another scare in as many games was the upstart Flaming Moes who kept it tight throughout, including a slim 11-7 88s lead heading into the final inning where the 88s once again pulled away enough to slip away with a 17-11 victory.

In what's become the norm for the 88s during their iconic winning streak, this time it was the ladies who were the driving force behind the team's success.

They combined to go an incredible 17/21 and knocked in the majority of the runs including 4 from Marnie and another 3 from Kylie.

Joce finished the night 8/12 with 3 runs and 3 RBI and put on a show with several missiles that landed just off target.

Making sure the XY chromosomes weren't totally left out of the party; Jeff improved his season pitching record to 3-0 with another W while helping his cause in the leadoff spot with 3 hits, 2 runs and 3 RBI.

The 88s now enter what could be their toughest stretch of the season with 6 games in 6 nights, 4 of which will be played without their anchor at 1B while she gets loaded and married in Jamaica.

EXTRA BITS:

The Henderson's each achieved run milestones. Jeff surpasses 200 for his career while Nikki becomes the second lady to cross the 100 run mark (Sandi).

Kylie ties the record for most hits in a game (again) with 5.

John is the first male '0 for' since 2019 when Jamie, Steve, Matt, T.J., Brian and Myles all laid turds.

WEEK #3 RECAP

"LONG MAY THEY RAIN"

The cold steel of their enemy's blades may long for their throats, but steady precipitation and a late scare proved inefficient to threaten their crown.

After a fortnight since their previous battles, the 88s found themselves faced off against new foes.

First, the Balls Deep army was dispatched quickly, with a convincing 26-1 triumph thanks to a steady, balanced attack and a nearly impenetrable defensive strategy.

Second, the wet weather seemed to have little effect in dousing the Flaming Moe's who burned hotter the longer the fight went on. A valiant comeback effort with 17 runs over the final 3 innings came up short and the 88s escaped with a 24-17 victory.

Joce of Arc led the 88s into battle with a 9 hit, 4 run, 7 RBI barrage along with her usual stellar defensive tactics in the field.

Fellow knight of the round table Sir John Walks-A-Lot used his patience and power to put together a perfect night of 8/8, BB, 7 runs and 5 RBI. This once again puts him in the team lead for free bases and ups his career walk per game ratio to an astounding 0.46.

It wasn't just the generals with battlefield glory on this day, as several soldiers also proved their metal.

Hired sword Veronica had an impressive season debut with 7 hits, 4 runs and 6 RBI (4 of which came in game 1, the most of any player).

Young squire Jeff went a perfect 9/9 with 7 runs and 3 RBI.

Pitching wench Sandi was superb, striking out at least 8 on the night (including sitting down the side in order during the 2nd inning of game 1).

The Calvert court jesters provided some entertainment with several failed diving attempts.

Everyone played their part, helping extend their league winning streak to 27 and retaining their throne for at least 1 more week.

They now load up their horses and wagons to head out on the road to Fort Caledonia where new lands await to be conquered.

EXTRA BITS:

Pulled off the first turned 2 double play of the season, a 4-6-3 (Kylie-John-Marnie) beauty.

Myles becomes the first 88 to surpass 200 career runs

A bid for their first ever shutout sadly ended with a little league homerun in the last inning of game 1

WEEK #2 RECAP

"88s KEEP ON CHUGGIN"

During a finals rematch against a retooled and renamed Beer Chuggers squad (formerly known as Under Construction), the 88s looked to pick up where they left off after a 2 week weather related hiatus.

They didn't miss a beat.

After a relatively sluggish start in the first couple innings, it was once again a dazzling play by Jeff that seemed to shock the squad out of their lethargy.

This time it wasn't a grand slam, rather an impressive running over the shoulder snag deep in RF to take extra bases away from Schumer's lover.

After that the 88s started to put up bigger numbers, driven by the 1-2 punch of Myles (4/4, 4 runs, 2 RBI) and John 'Pope on a Rope' (4/4, 2 runs, 6 RBI) and strong performances from Joce (3/5, 2 runs) and Nikki '1 foot' (3/4, 2 runs).

By the end, the opponents side of the scoresheet looked like binary code of 0's and 1's as part of a 16-2 game 1 mercy.

Game 2 was even better for the 88s.

Even a cloudy night couldn't stop so many stars from shining.

First star honors go to Marnie. Not only did she bat 4/5 with 4 runs at the plate, she was also a key part of 2 double plays (one to double off a runner at 1B after a Josh catch and toss, and another by throwing to Nikki at home for the second out a couple innings later) and a sweet play at 1B to scoop and toss to a covering Sandi, something they made a point of doing more of this season and it showed.

Second and third stars were also handed out to Myles (4/5, 4 runs, 5 RBI), Kylie (3/4, run, 3 RBI) and Brian (4/4, 2 runs, 5 RBI) but every player performed well while the 88s fired on all cylinders, cruising to a 26-6 win to finish the opening month of the season with a perfect 4-0 record.

EXTRA BITS:

Marnie, Kirby, Joce are the first members of the 2022 K club

Travis went 2/4 with a run and 3 RBI in his farewell game before a sad goodbye as he was shipped off to Thunder Bay as part of a 3 team deal

An award ceremony was held after the game where Sandi received her 2021 championship medal

WEEK #1 RECAP

“NEW YEAR, OLD HABITS”

Dealing with a little rust and playing out of position with a 3 person OF, it wasn't the 88s on all cylinders, but could they conjure enough magic to pull a rabbit out of the hat and keep their winning streak alive?

Thanks to a strong pitching debut from Josh in a surprise opening day start and a balanced attack on offense (including matching 5 hit + 4 run + 3 RBI stat lines from Joce and Nikki and a near record high 7 RBI from John) the 88s got off to an early 4 run lead in game 1 and never looked back, cruising to a 30-9 mercy win to kick off the season.

Next up were Sons of Pitches, a team they've never beaten in franchise history but who they never had a chance to face during their undefeated run of 21'.

This modern version of the 88s found themselves in an unfamiliar position against an unfamiliar foe, down 12-6 heading into their half of the 4th driven by uncharacteristically shaky defense and a hard running, talented SoP squad.

While Joce kept them in striking distance after a bases clearing 3 run double in the 2nd, the 88s struck hard with a big 7 run 4th to take the lead 13-12, a lead they would have to capture again an inning later with another 7 runs after giving up 2 in the top of the 5th.

In a back and forth battle against a very good opponent, the 88s found themselves on the winning side of a fun, hard fought 21-18 final to extend their winning streak to 23 (27 overall including Jessica Cook).

After settling in with his new team during game 1, rookie of the year front runner Kirby stepped up with a big game when it mattered most by going 4/4 + 3 runs + 3 RBI in game 2.

Jeff found his groove on the bump by only giving up 1 early walk while doing enough in his season pitching debut to get the W.

Beans' new mama Marnie impressed the dapper looking mascot with a mid-season form 7 hits + 4 runs + 4 RBI night.

Last year's male MVP Brian picked up where he left off with a 5/5 + 4 run + 4 RBI game 2.

Kylie and Myles were also in attendance and looked very pretty.

The 88s finished the night with 2 wins to start the 22' campaign but know they'll need to activate all pistons if they want to live up to last year's incredible standard. No pressure.

EXTRA BITS:

- Nikki and Joce both tie the record for most hits in a game (this is Nikki's 4th time doing it, the most of any player)