

2025 SEASON WEEKLY RECAPS

FINALS RECAP: PIÈCE DE RÉSISTANCE

The 88s may have just painted their signature masterpiece with an incredible sweep of the 2025 Pelham League finals.

A NEW HOPE

Lightsaber battles waged behind their bench, making the 88s feel like a rag tag group of heroes trying to take down the Empire in game 1.

Brian Skywalker bombed triples to both sides of the field to help lead the team in runs (3) and RBI (3) from the leadoff spot.

Kylie Erso used a variety of weapons to lead the ladies in hits (3) and RBI (2) while playing great defense all over the field. She fit right in with the rock solid infield defense which was on its game all night (Jedi's Marnie, Naomi, Jordan, Josh).

Obi-Wan Joshobi put into practice the patience Yoda taught him on Coruscant to double his career walk total (2 -> 4), which was pivotal to help along a relatively sluggish offense.

Princess Jesa used the force to throw tricky pitches for a clutch K late in the 6th without giving up a walk all game.

During the Thunders final at bats, there were 2 outs and the bases loaded with the 88s up 5. Mylesbacca made the mistake of glancing over at Hottie Row* which distracted him long enough to miss a deep fly ball in CF that cleared the bases and closed the gap to just 2 runs.

However, sporting her husband's Weapon X jersey, Nikki Solo tapped into Jeff's Finals magic by swooping in when victory was slipping away to save the day with a catch behind home plate for the final out.

YEEEE-WOOOOOOO!

The 88s blow up the Death Star and pull out the tight 13-11 win to go up 1-0 in the best of 5 series.

STORYBOOK ENDING

If game 1 was a fun fantasy adventure, then games 2 and 3 were an Oscar worthy, drama filled cinematic epic.

Game 2 will probably be remembered for the clutch defense in the bottom of the extra inning to hold the Thunder to 0 runs and escape with the narrow 19-18 win.

Highlighted by a fantastic double play from Jordan - Naomi - Marnie, the 88s managed to keep a team who had scored in their last 9 straight innings of the series off the board when it mattered most.

A synopsis of how we got to extras:

- Josh reached base in all 5 plate appearances (4 hits + a walk)
- Naomi had 3 hits + 3 runs from the leadoff spot
- Myles blasted a no doubter into the right field trees
- Jordan knocked in 5 RBI, answering the question of “can he hold onto his team leading RBI total” with a resounding HELL YES!

Up 18-12 in the bottom of the 6th, the Thunder had their best inning of the series when they needed it, putting up 6 runs total capped off by Will’s game tying 3 run shot off the light post in centre field.

Brian led off the top of the extra inning with a double and was later knocked in by Kylie which ended up being the winning RBI after the 88s defense did their thing in the bottom half.

Now up 2-0 in the best of 5 series, the 88s knew the close out game would be even more of a challenge and it didn’t disappoint.

Game 3 was a fitting climax to the story of the 2025 88s and a perfect example of what a positive “never say die” attitude can do.

Refusing to go quietly into the night the Thunder raged against the dying of the light with a sequence of nothing to lose swings to put the 88s in a deep 10-0 hole during the 2nd inning.

Outwardly optimistic but secretly starting to think about game 4 next week, the 88s knew it would be tough to climb out.

Luckily they had a ladder expert in firefighter Tim who showed his squad the way by getting them up onto the first rung with a 2 run liner to left field.

After quickly learning the ropes, the rest of the 88s followed his lead with a 7 hit, 5 run 3rd to continue their ascension towards freedom.

Josh and Jes swapping 3B / P positions was a plot twist that seemed to help fuel the turnaround. The opponents were given a different look which doused their inferno of an offense into a more manageable brush fire.

It took all the way until their last at bats in the bottom of the 6th for the 88s to reach the surface with 2 runs that gave them their first lead of the game.

Starting the top of the 7th up 1 run and 3 outs away from a championship, the 88s defense once again showed why it's the backbone of the team with another 0 run effort to close things out.

The final out landed safely in Myles' glove, kick starting the 88s celebration of back to back PSL championships and their 5th league title in a row overall

Despite a high winning % these past few years, you can tell this team is full of individuals who have faced plenty of adversity, both on the diamond and otherwise. Their ability to handle pressure and absorb blows while time and again keeping spirits high and fighting back is a big part of the recipe that makes this group so special.

THANK YOU 88s!!

EXTRA BITS:

Hottie Row (L-R): Andrea, Linda, Lisa, James, Joce.

The total run differential between the 3 games was only 4. Can't get much better / closer than that!

Kylie led the team in playoff hits (8). Tim led the team in playoff average (.833).

Jes gets the W in games 1 and 2. Josh gets the W in game 3.

Nikki went 3/3 + 2 RBI + 2 runs in the close out game 3. She also joined the K club on the final night of the season in game 2.

As a team the 88s walked 10 times over the 3 game series, far and away an all-time record for walks.

For the second time in her career, Joce becomes the 2025 Ironwoman.

Like Thor showing up on the Wakandan battlefield during the Infinity Wars, our bat girl Maddy made her return halfway through the final game to bring us to full strength.

WEEK 14 RECAP: **RAISED**

During the final week of their regular season, the 88s weren't done raising a few things.

THE PENNANT

With a decisive 19-5 win in game 1 Monday, the 88s mathematically secured first place to capture and raise the Pelham league pennant in back to back seasons. They become the first Canadian team with blue in their logo and players named John and Willie on the roster to accomplish the feat since 1993.

Brian laced his 2nd inside the park home run from the lead off spot.

Kylie and Joce had 4 hits each. Jordan and Jeff had 5 hits each.

THEIR GAME

Game 2 Monday was the last matchup against the Thunder in the regular season, giving both teams an opportunity to prepare for their upcoming playoff series.

Josh battled a cold and navigated his first walk given up on the season to pitch a complete game W while going a perfect 4/4 at the plate with 3 runs and 4 RBI.

Speaking of walks, Joce put on boots that were made for it and took 2 of her own to even things out.

Kylie may have had an Angel on her shoulder as she made several great plays at 3B while lacing a stand up double that scored Joshyles all the way from 1st.

The play of the night came from an impressive run saving double play by (N cubed) Naomi - Noelle - Nikki to nab a would be runner at the plate.

Speaking of run saving defense, the final out of the game was also made at home after the 88s hustled in a relay from the OF fence between Myles - Jordan - Nikki that surprised the runners and wiped out the comeback attempt.

With a narrow 11-8 victory, the 88s finished the back and fourth regular season series with the Thunder in the fourth position, which they hope to maintain in the coming weeks.

THE ALARM

Missed plays and K's had the 88s in a haze, playing like the old days while the SpiderPigs came out guns a blaze.

Our researcher is too lazy to check all the scorebooks, but the 10 runs they gave up in the first 2 innings is likely a record.

Down 10-3 after 2, with all the momentum on a tough opponents side, red lights flashed and sirens blared to give the 88s a wakeup call.

They needed their offense to come alive to make up for their rare off night on defense.

John didn't hit the snooze button and used some pent up energy after a 3 game absence to blast back to back inside the park home runs, including 1 in the 88s first at bat of the game to help minimize the bleeding from the top half.

Kylie splashed some water on her face before leading the way in the comeback effort with her SECOND record tying 6 RBI game on the season to go along with more solid play at 3B.

After the strong headwind knocked down what looked to be a home run to left, Brian turned the wind in his favor by adjusting his strategy to slice a couple to the opposite field for extra bases on his way to a 4/4 + HR + 4 RBI night.

The 88s tightened up the defense in the middle innings and came all the way back to win 20-15, ending their regular season on a winning note.

EXTRA BITS

Thank you to EVERYONE for handling things Monday so I could go watch Jack strike out, get hurt and go home with grandma (otherwise known as the Myles Calvert hat trick).

Thank you Nikki for bringing the book and balls.

Thank you Jeff, Noelle and Kris for filling in.

Thank you Andrea for stepping up to score keep.

The 88s finish the regular season with 409 total runs scored, already surpassing last season's overall total with at least 3 games remaining.

WEEK 13 RECAP: HEROINES

With the 88s iron woman and reigning MVP busy being a hero elsewhere; the remaining ladies donned their capes to keep the 88s safe.

Jes filled the power vacuum beautifully by crushing a liner to the fence in right field for her first home run as an 88, and first home run in her coed career!

Kylie's smarts and hustle not once, but twice saved the team runs after the curse of left field carried over to Brian this week. The curse may be intensifying, at least Tim and Myles were able to get a glove (or leg or tit) on their errors last week.

Casey swooped in to save us from a forfeit while using science to prove that White Claw + swing = hit.

Naomi arrived with her side kick in tow to give the 88s 10 players for the first time since July 21st and to show why she's the Batman of that duo by scoring 3 times on 3 hits.

Marnie kept the troops entertained by wearing the brightest hat in the history of baseball, which back fired since it drew everyone's attention to her at bats where she joined the 2025 K club with a humiliating swing and miss in front of her aunt and sister.

THE BOYS

Not to be outdone:

Tim went 5/5 + 2 runs + 2 RBI at the plate while playing perfect RF.

Brian went 4/4 + 3 runs + 4 RBI while playing less than perfect LF.

Josh went 4/4 + run + RBI while also getting the 2 inning save on the mound.

With neither team ready to end the game early, the mercy rule was ignored to play an extra inning. The facts of what happened during the 88s bonus at bat are unclear, but there were unsubstantiated nasty rumors going around after the game about both Myles and Jordan flying out weakly, but that's all hearsay.

What's crystal clear and on the record though is how Myles (SS) and Jordan (2B) played the middle infield to perfection by connecting on a slick double play.

The 88s are now winners of 13 in a row, good for their 3rd longest winning streak in franchise history, thanks to a 19-1 final.

EXTRA BITS

Jes' blast makes her the 3rd 88 lady with a home run this season.

Brian received his 500 hit club pin after surpassing the mark back in June.

The season series with Nice Snatch ends 3-0 (66-9).

Special shout out to James for coming sans better half.

WEEK 12 RECAP: WHERE THERE'S SMOKE

The skies eerie haze compounded the already suffocating temperatures, but it wasn't clear whether the smoke was coming off the ongoing Canadian wildfires or the 88s bats.

IN THE PRESENCE OF GREATNESS

After their Lady Kahuna's team brought home the NSA Intermediate World Series trophy from Hamilton this past weekend, Joce, Kylie and Nikki kept the good times rolling.

Sporting a fresh and nasty raspberry, Joce showed why she's an Ironwoman (2022, and on pace to capture the title again in 2025) by not only playing both games of the double header, but doing it in style with 9 hits (including a 6/6 game 1) + 3 runs and 2 RBI.

Kylie carried over the momentum from her weekend at Worlds by playing excellent 2B all night with too many impressive scoops and snags to count.

Nikki returned to the 88s after a brief 2 game absence with 6 hits + 5 runs.

Marnie refused to be overshadowed by the big Kahunas and had herself a huge 5 hit + 2 run + 2 RBI game. She also made some non-error plays at third probably.

Perhaps feeling inspired, the guys had one of their best collective games of the season with a combined 20/22 (.909) including a trio of inside the park home runs from Myles, Josh (his first since July 25th, 2023) and Jordan (who also had a team high 6 RBI).

Josh finally ended his hitting streak at 15 straight at bats, good for 3rd best all time, while pitching 2 complete games.

The Swingers staved off the mercy with a clutch run in the 5th, but the 88s were able to hold the margin and come away with the 19-8 W to start August off on a winning note.

SWEAT

By game 2, most of the 88s were drenched from both sweat and a water gun fight between games which did little to douse how red hot they've been lately.

After several right field line painting hits and other near misses, John squared one up and hit an impressive opposite field liner to the fence for his 3rd inside the park home run of the season. He also played great during his first start in RF. He was the only OFer not booting around balls (sometimes literally) while hauling in a couple nice running catches, including the final out of the game that nipped a flowering comeback in the bud and extended the 88s win streak to 12.

They took a mid-game siesta by putting up 3 straight goose eggs in the 3rd, 4th and 5th, but did enough early and late to pull out the 15-6 victory.

EXTRA BITS

Marnie wrapped up her own streak with 12 straight at bats with a hit.

Tim saw what felt like a record number of balls in LF, making several running catches.

Joce was also the only player to escape the Ice Cold Pitches' black hole in left field by sending a Joce Bomb beyond its reach for a stand up double.

Under Maddy's tutelage, Jack made his bat boy debut and earned himself \$3.25, which he gave a status update about every few batters. #CapitalistPig

WEEK 11 RECAP: HOT 88s SUMMER

Dealing with a less than ideal schedule of 2 single 9:00 pm games in Fenwick, the 88s made the most of it.

DEPTH CHART

On Monday night, the 88s got into an early 0-2 hole against Ball Breakers after the top of the first but roared right back with a 0 out, 7 run max bottom half to recapture the momentum.

Before the game, the 88s army stood staring at the threat of forfeiture until two saviors rode in on horseback to save the day and keep the 88s franchise long non-forfeit streak intact.

Dame Noelle of Sage played excellent 3B on the flank and contributed 3 hits, 3 runs and an RBI at the plate.

Dame Casey of McCormick took up a position behind home plate and smacked 4 hits, a run and 4 RBI on offense.

Like a babe at a gang bang, Josh got plenty of action up the middle which he turned into outs for the most part, unconnected kick pass attempts notwithstanding. He also used his newly regained speed to come around and score on all 4 of his hits.

Giving her arm a day off, Joce got her first start at 1B and used the saved steps by not playing OF to run around the bases for her first HR of the season, a no doubter Joce Bomb deep in left center field. After the defense adjusted by moving to a 2 deep safety alignment, she dug into her bag of tricks and pulled out an opposite field liner for her 3rd hit of the night.

Having a bounce back game after a rare off night the week before, Naomi played great 2B while collecting 3 hits, an RBI and 2 runs that put her in the lead for total team runs scored.

Despite a couple awkward plays in the outfield including Myles forgetting he had a glove and Tim's muffed punt, the 88s managed to finish the game with a 2 touchdown lead (21-7).

A PERFECT JULY

Perhaps an early breath of spooky season on the horizon, Wednesday night featured a fun scare when Dilligaf rolled in hot with a 6 run 1st and a 9-8 lead after 2 thanks in part to a Renus grand slam.

The 88s found their groove on offense and put up 17 runs over their last 2 innings (including an 11 run open inning) making the final 32-11 score seem like the game was more lopsided than it was.

After first going to the wrong diamond, Marnie found her way and her swing with a record tying 6/6 to go along with 4 runs + 2 RBI at the plate while playing impressive defense during her first start at the hot corner.

Heavy winds made right field a bit of an adventure for Tim, but he still managed to be a big + on the night thanks to a record tying 8 RBI, which would have been even more had the game still been close when he bombed a would be grand slam towards the Fenwick fence with the bases loaded.

Speaking of leaving records unbroken in favor of being respectful, Kylie laced a liner deep to right center that she could have come around to score on. She still knocked in a record tying 6 RBI, which she received a heavy chorus of boo's for after stopping at 3B.

Josh continued his hot streak thanks to a perfect 7/7 night at the plate + a record tying 6 runs while also getting a 2 inning save on the mound.

The 88s have now won 10 straight games after wrapping up an undefeated July.

With the #1 seed theirs to lose, the focus now is on injury management and prevention while they look ahead to the playoffs.

EXTRA BITS

On Monday, Devil Juice (aka Cottage Springs Rocket Berry) fueled the team's second best combined batting average of all time: .828 (29/35)

On Monday, the Calvert curse got Linda (bloodied knee) and Myles (bee sting on the ear, treated with mud by Casey's witch doctoring) but luckily Jack was spared and didn't humpty himself off the back of the bleachers.

On Wednesday, Myles had a chance to tie the record for most hits in a game but decided to get on his knees and blow it instead.

The 32 runs scored Wednesday were the most in a game since the 2022 playoffs in Welland and is tied for their 3rd most ever.

WEEK 10 RECAP: A+

Facing off against their top opponents while down 3 regulars on a peak summer night was being billed as the 88s toughest test of the season so far.

GOLD STAR

The first half of the 2 part exam featured the 88s visiting the Thunder to take part in a battle for first place.

Showing little rust after missing the last couple of weeks, Jes pitched a solid game on the mound and went a perfect 4/4 with 2 RBI at the plate.

John used 2 triples and a double to lead the team with 6 RBI.

Tim crossed the plate 4 times to lead the team in runs.

The Thunder began to storm back in the final inning by putting up 7 runs, but the 88s defense battened down the hatches to come away with a 15-11 victory.

The season series with the Thunder now stands at 2-1 (+19), putting them in the driver's seat for the stretch run towards playoff time.

FLYING COLOURS

In the essay portion, the 88s opened strong with a 7 run topic sentence to build an 11-1 lead over the SpiderPigs after 2 innings and never looked back.

The body arguments consisted of solid facts like:

Marnie hitting a double.

Josh going a perfect 3/3 with 5 RBI.

Jeff and Lucas both excelling in their fill in roles by each putting up 4 hits and 3 RBI.

By the time things reached a conclusion, the readers were convinced with a 21-9 walk off mercy victory in the 6th to expand their lead in the standings.

EXTRA BITS

Kylie stayed hot by going 6/8 on the night.

Lucas' 88s season debut included 6 hits, 3 runs and 3 RBI while filling in at CF.

Naomi joined the 2025 K club!

As a team, we had 88 ABs on the night. Cool!

Huge thanks to everyone who had a hand in keeping the trains running while Myles was away!

WEEK 9 RECAP: DOG DAYS

Battling stifling heat with a lean roster of 9, the 88s unleashed their grade 8 dance style defenses with all the girls on one side and all the boys on the other.

It worked!

Behind another 0 walk pitching performance from Josh on the mound, the 88s collectively held the opponents to just 4 and 1 runs respectively.

D-FENCE! *clap clap* D-FENCE!

Like a new crush helping you forget about an old flame, Kylie's flawless performance at 1B had us asking "Marnie who?"

Like a problem dog playing fetch, Myles covering CF solo had us asking "does anyone know what's wrong with that guy?"

Finally, like a tiger attempting yoga, Brian's inning at SS had us asking "how did he get into that position?"

OPPOSITE DAY

Not exactly known for his foot speed in recent seasons, Josh scoring from 2B multiple times and over running a fly ball was giving off bizzaro world vibes.

Speaking of fun rarities, Myles struck out in hilarious fashion after swinging and missing badly then using a pathetic defensive hack to send a weak popup to the 88s bench. "It's this damn climate!" Myles said after the game. "Who can concentrate with this air quality?". He was also heard blaming the sun in his eyes, which was setting behind him during the at bat.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

The goal was to help make the games as fun as possible for both sides. Success! The bonus was climbing into a tie for first place with Thunder, who the 88s are scheduled to face off against shorthanded next week.

Challenge accepted!

EXTRA BITS

Kylie stayed red hot at the plate by going 9/10.

As a speedster, Josh ran for himself all night and scored 6 times on 7 hits.

Brian continued developing his impressive opposite field hitting by sending 2 towards the fence in right center.

Tim and Jordan's RBI production continues to be hampered by their entertaining dick move war.

WEEK 8 RECAP: NA-O-MI-OH-MY!

Jordan continued his torrid pace with 4 more hits and RBI.

Brian put on an oppo hitting display and mixed in a rare 2 RBI sac fly.

Tim used a heavy heart and heavier bat to go 7/8 in the leadoff spot.

John made a crafty double play at 3B while going a perfect 6/6 at the plate.

Myles went outside and inside the park for a home run in each game.

Josh batted in more runs (5) than he gave up on the mound (3) to lower his ERA to an outstanding 6.09

Yet despite everything the boys did, they did it all in the shadow of the ladies might, led by Naomi's monster night.

RECIPE FOR GREATNESS

Start with an evenly spread flawless 2B.

Add 1 record tying 6 hits in a game.

Mix in 1 record tying 5 runs in a game.

Top it all off with a walk off home run that clinches the mercy victory and what you get is an all time performance from first year rookie Naomi Duhaime.

BIG WILLY STYLE

Playing in front of her whole pride, another 88s lioness was on the prowl.

Kylie too had a record tying 6 hits in game 1, which was a part of her reaching base safely in all 9 at bats on the night.

She even found time to help our hindered centerfielder avoid pain and humiliation by saving him from attempting a throw from the outfield fence.

THE LEGEND GROWS

Nikki had 5 hits, 3 runs and 4 RBI in game 1.

Good for her team best 8th 5 hit game of her career. She's had at least one 5 hit game in 7 different seasons. Talk about consistency and longevity.

The 88s had themselves a night and improved their record to 11-1 while growing the distance between themselves and 3rd place.

EXTRA BITS

Finished 2 games in 115 minutes which has got to be some sort of record (the 7:45 game was done by 8:25).

The 88s farm team seemed to have some high level games of Jackpot going on behind the bleachers.

Another record: The 88s went 41/47 in game 1 for their highest team batting average of all time (.872)

Josh took home bragging rights after snagging Jo's line drive for the final out of game 1. She'll have a chance to balance the scales next week.

WEEK 7 RECAP: BILLS VS. EAGLES

In a rare Wednesday night game, two potent offenses locked horns on the iron diamond.

TRADING BLOWS

After the Eagles (aka Ice Cold Pitches) got the scoring started with a field goal on their opening drive, the Bills (aka 88s) used 7 straight gains to hit pay dirt for a 7-3 lead after the first.

The Eagles went 3 and out on their next drive thanks to great linebacker play from Jes and Marnie, which the Bills capitalized on by putting up another TD, capped off by Myles' 2nd on the season.

The Eagles answered back with another field goal to trim the lead to 14-6.

After 3 safeties gave the babes in blue what felt like a comfortable 20-6 lead, the Eagles charged back with a rouge and a score to close the gap to 20-14.

THE METAPHOR BREAKS DOWN

The Ice Cold Pitches became the Red Hot Batters in the 5th by stringing together 9 straight hits, capped off with a grand slam over the fence to do something no team has ever done against the 88s: score the max 7 without suffering an out.

The wakeup call forced the 88s to kick it into high gear to close the deal in the final inning.

A leadoff double by Brian (part of his 4 hit, 4 run, 4 RBI night) was knocked in 4 batters later by Jordan's 6th hit and 3rd RBI on the night for the insurance run.

After their stifling D did its thing, the 88s walked away with a 21-14 victory to get their July off to a good start.

EXTRA BITS

Joce didn't see much action in right field, so she used the energy reserves to lead off 3 straight innings with a hit and score, including another patented Joce-Bomb for a cruise control triple in the 4th.

John put up a near record high 7 RBI on the night, the first of its kind for the 88s since 2023.

In her first start at 2B, Kylie showed off her versatility by making several put outs on defense to compliment her great 3 hit + 2 run performance at the plate. Grayson was proud.

Jordan got his big night off to a good start even before the game by slipping out of work early to help make sure the 88s had the minimum nine.

Nikki and #6 had a strong connection. No matter where he played in the field she would find him.

WEEK 6 RECAP: HOT

The views expressed in this recap are the authors own and do not necessarily reflect the views and values of the 88s organization. To file an anonymous report, please contact HR.

Playing through the highest temperatures recorded in 2025 so far, the only thing hotter than the weather were the 88s bats and aesthetic appeal.

Jes made a power move with an intimidating "heat doesn't bother me" hoodie ensemble while pitching beautifully and going 3/3 at the plate.

Brian proved he's still a 5 star man with his 5 hits, 5 runs, 5 RBI including a homerun over the left field fence.

Naomi looked stunning in her powder blue while turning two (twice), to go along with her 2nd 4/4 game in a row.

Jon's burly beard was the right compliment for his burly smashes at the plate on way to 5 RBIs.

Joce's braided pony playfully bounced in the air as she glided into 3rd with a stand up triple.

Jordan's 1950s sultry smoking movie star look had him center stage for much of the defensive action.

Kylie's leading lady looks complimented her on field production well by scoring twice and knocking in 2 more.

Summoning Picasso, Myles used a janky right arm to paint his first home run of the season.

Marnie delivered the swag with hoodies before the game and attitude during by putting up her first perfect 4/4 game at the plate.

Nikki had flashbacks to high school with so many guys throwing their balls her way. (I had an internal debate about including this one but it made me laugh too damn hard so I rolled the dice).

Collectively, this group of smoke shows ended the hot summer night with a 22-9 mercy victory to get back on the winning track.

EXTRA BITS

Even the junior 88s were looking fly in their spiffy new 88s jerseys.

88s scored 2+ in every inning.

WEEK 5 RECAP: THUNDERSTRUCK

After a final score that no one predicted in their first match up, the 88s knew they had to bring their A game if they were going to come out on top against a motivated Thunder squad looking for revenge in round 2.

Spoiler alert; they did not.

SHELTER FROM THE STORM

Tim made an impressive running catch down the RF line look easy, M&M connected on an unpretty but effective double off at 1B, Joce hauled in a key 3rd out deep in CF, and Josh pitched a solid 7 innings on the mound.

The 88s strong defense showed up and did the job of keeping a dangerous Thunder lineup relatively contained with 9 runs, but it was the offensive side of the ball that failed them tonight.

TWO CYLINDERS

Stranding Tim's lead off 1st inning triple was the first sign that the 88s were not firing on all cylinders tonight, but they had a couple going.

An inning before Thunders bambino launched as close to a no doubter inside the park homerun as you can hit in the 3rd, our own right handed slugger Brian showed why he's a 2 time MVP by cracking a 2 run shot to open the scoring for the 88s. He followed that up with an RBI triple in his next at bat to personally account for the 88s offense early in the game.

Another star shining through the storm was Naomi and her incredible 4/4 night including a stand up double and the 88s' second ever female home run; an impressive bomb deep to LF which gave the 88s a spark in the bottom of the 7th that they nearly fanned into a comeback.

STREAK SNAPPED

Down 9-4 heading into their last at bats, they needed to do something special to keep their winning streak alive.

Naomi got the inning started with her homerun, Josh hit a clutch RBI double, Marnie smacked her 2nd hit in a row and Jeff shrunk the margin to 2 with a sac fly but that's as close as they would get as they fell both 9-7 and out of 1st place.

With the season series now tied at a game apiece it's going to be a fun match up every time these two titans face-off this summer.

EXTRA BITS

Jeff filled in and contributed a hit, run and RBI.

Noelle filled in and had one of the most impressive 0/4's you'll ever see with 4 great shots but nothing to show for it.

88s trailed start to finish for their lowest scoring L since May 2023.

The 11 game winning streak that was snapped matches the 4th best in franchise history.

Two hours later, the Oklahoma branch of Thunder also came away with a big win in game 5 of the NBA finals, which nearly had as many viewers as the 88s/Thunder game.

WEEK 4 RECAP: BRUISED NOT BROKEN

While the important streak continued Monday night with back to back W's stretching the 88s run to 6 straight to start the season, two lesser streaks have fallen.

TOIGHT LIKE A TIGER

In a rematch of last year's finals, game 1 was a close back and forth affair that gave the 88s their first big test of the season.

After 5 lead changes during the first 4 innings, one of those the result of a 2 run bomb by John in the 4th, the 88s put up a 7 spot in the 5th to help build a 20-8 lead, but it was far from over.

Impressive connections from Jordan / Marnie and John / Kylie ended with difference making outs in the field, but it was an uncharacteristically gentlemen like defensive miscue that was almost the TSN turning point.

With the 88s +12 after the top of the 6th and flirting with a mercy, the SpiderPigs cockblocked by extending the game with a clutch run in the bottom half.

The 88s opened the door further with a goose egg in the 7th, ending their streak of scoring at least 1 run per inning at 20.

When you give a good team extra chances they tend to make you pay and the 88s nearly forked over the cash.

A huge 8 run bottom of the 7th by the SpiderPigs forced the 88s to sweat out a narrow 20-17 final, ending their streak of keeping opponents to under 10 total runs at 7 games (going back to last year).

POT OF GOLD

What started as a damp, drizzly, gray evening turned beautiful with the arrival of a rainbow in right field to help celebrate pride month and a new 88s record.

Game 2 ended with the 88s' 5th ever shutout, their first in the PSL, and the lowest number of hits ever given up in a game (3).

Josh pitched the complete game shut out in front of a shuffled defense that included Brian and Myles getting their first innings up the middle and connecting on a put out at 2B to end the game.

EXTRA BITS

88s got scored on in every inning of game 1 for the first time since July 25th, 2023.

Naomi's 6 hits + 4 runs on the night have her rounding into mid-season form.

Jordan's perfect 7/7 + HR + 6 RBI have him within reach of leading all statistical categories, something no player has ever done and something Tim will continue to do his best to prevent.

Joce crosses the plate 7 times to take over the team lead for runs.

Jeff took the score keeping lead to complete the season hat trick of 1 game played, 1 game umpired and 1 game score kept.

WEEK 3 RECAP: VAULTED

The 88s hot start to the 2025 campaign continued with a sweep of their first double header of the season to vault them into first place.

88s IN A NUTSHELL

Game 1 was:

Female led (Jes great on the mound and perfect at the plate, Nikki 4/4 + 4 runs, Joce 4/4, Naomi scoring 3 times in the leadoff spot, Kylie doing great in all positions, and Marnie)

Blessed with timely power (led by Jordan going 5/5 with a near record 7 RBIs)

Rock solid defensively (an average of 4.7 batters faced per inning)

2 OUT MAGIC

The crux of game 2s story was told in the first inning.

The 88s were staring at a 1-2-3 in their top half on offense but Tim and Naomi refused to let the 88s go that quietly with back to back impressive liners to get things started.

Feeling the momentum, Jordan stepped up and cracked a double, followed by a hit from Nikki. Before they knew it they had 7 straight 2 out hits and 5 runs on the board.

The Thunder responded with a leadoff double that came around to score 2 batters later in their half of the 1st, but the 88s defense was able to hold strong after that.

Highlighted by a lead off rocket by John in the second inning, the 88s would go on to put up another 4 and 6 runs over the next couple of innings to extend their lead to 15-1 after 3.

CALLING CARD

On the defensive side, the 88s most photogenic side, it was the starter / closer combo of Jes and Josh leading the way on the mound to help limit a very potent offense to just a single run over 5 innings.

Behind them was the Swiss Army knife (AKA Willy) doing her thing all over the field, Naomi playing incredible 2B, and Jordan and Marnie wrapping things up with a double play to end the game (while a smattering of early season "MVP" chants from the crowd could be heard).

Some tough breaks on defense early in the game may have taken the wind out of the Thunder sails a bit while the 88s were able to capitalize with the momentum.

The final score was not indicative of how close these squads are, if a few things bounced the other way in those early innings the story of the game could have turned out differently.

EXTRA BITS

The cavalry rode in between games to give the 88s a full squad for the first time this season.
#TeamPicOpportunity

Joce continued her hot streak, now batting .882 (15/17) over the first 4 games.

Nikki finished the night flaming hot as well, going 8/9 with 6 runs and 6 RBI. Who says you need 2 functional shoulders to play great?

Jeff umpired a perfect game 1, which was an impressive way to manage an awkward position he was put in.

88s have scored 88 runs this season so far.

Going back to the end of last season, the 88s have now won 9 games in a row.

WEEK 2 RECAP: DEBUT DELIGHTS

After an unexpected Mother Nature related hiatus, it was the 88s who brought the rain this week.

In front of a season best crowd of 12 (13 including the unconscious attendees), the 88s finished their abbreviated May with a perfect 2-0 / +35 record.

Nikki, ignoring doctors orders and valiantly playing through an injury, kicked off her season with a solid 2/3 + RBI performance.

Josh, looking spiffy in his new 88s branded cleats, was superb on the mound while adding a couple runs and 3 RBI at the dish.

Brian showed why he was thrown into the leadoff role in his first game, with a perfect 4/4 + 2 run and 2 RBI performance along with a great catch deep in left field.

IMPRESSIVE "ROOKIES"

While they're new to the 88s this season, they're clearly not new to the game.

Kylie took the leadoff role and ran with it, with 3 hits, 3 runs and an RBI.

Tim went a perfect 3/3 with a run and RBI before making the highlight of the night with a running catch in the gap for the final out of the game.

Naomi scorched a few balls, scored and knocked in a run, and played lock down 2B all game long.

Jordan saw a lot of action at SS, time and again making the right play to control base runners. He even had time for a mid-play nap before waking up in time to complete the put out.

Everyone's contributions helped the 88s secure a win against a very talented team, setting up a clash of the undefeated next week against the Thunder.

EXTRA BITS

It seemed like an all or nothing kind of night for the 88s by either scoring 7 or 0 runs in their first 4 innings.

Naomi got down and dirty while narrowly missing out on an early season highlight.

Marnie had one of the most impressive 0/4's you can have with 4 great swings and nothing to show for it thanks to Myles pushing out on what could have been a sac fly.

Jose went a perfect 4/4, putting her at a bananas .889 average so far. Sustainable? If anyone can do it it's probably her.

WEEK 1 RECAP: LIGHTS OUT

An off season highlighted by stud free agent signings doesn't always translate into on field success and 1 game is far from a large enough sample size to judge a team, however the positive signs during the season opener can't be ignored.

IMPRESSIVE DEBUTS

The newest 88s didn't waste any time showing off their talent.

Naomi started off her 88s career with a hit, RBI and a run scored in her first plate appearance.

Kylie showcased her versatile defense in the field while knocking 3 hits and 2 RBI at the plate.

Tim left us in stitches and awe with a foul out to the catcher and a deep bomb to the left field fence.

Jordan (technically a rookie), sent one off the top of the fence in center field as part of his 4 hit night.

VETS DELIVER

Several returners mixed perfectly with the rookie's stand out performances.

John blasted an opposite field home run over the fence while batting a perfect 5/5 with 4 runs and 5 RBI.

Marnie's apparent off season steroid habit led to 4 hits and 4 runs.

Joce picked up where she left off in her 2024 MVP season with 4 hits and 4 runs of her own while playing a couple flawless innings at 3B.

Jes pitched beautifully (only let in 2 runs over 3 innings) and used her recovering quads to leg out 3 hits, 4 runs and 3 RBI.

BURYING THE LEAD(OFF)

The play of the night may have come before the first pitch was thrown when Jeff valiantly filled in at the last minute to give the squad their 10 players.

He could've gone 0/5 with three errors and still been a contributor yet he exceeded expectations by leading off the game with a stand up double and closing out the game with two innings of solid pitching.

EXTRA BITS

The field lights went out during the top of the 3rd, causing a 15 minute delay. During which Maddy rounded the bases in an impressive 15 seconds.

88s hit the jackpot with 7/7/7 during the first 3 innings.

John and Myles saved a mutant moth with a death wish.

Brian score kept a perfect complete game.

2025 SEASON PREVIEW

Can you sense it?

Feel the warming breeze.

See the lengthening days.

Hear the singing birds.

Smell the growing grass.

These sure signs of spring mean a new baseball season will soon be upon us and fans are starting to wonder: “how are the 88s looking this year?”

GIRL POWER

With the signing of two highly touted female rookies, the organization finds itself in an unfamiliar yet very pleasant situation.

With Naomi and Kylie coming into the fold, the 88s family enter the new season with 6 full time females on the roster for the first in their modern era.

The 88s welcome back Jes for what she hopes will be a full season of health after the Superstar missed out on the middle part of 2024 with a nagging injury.

After years of shouldering a heavy load, returning icons Nikki, Marnie and Joce look to take advantage of a bit more rest so they can stay as healthy and productive as fans have come to expect.

Being known by many as a female led team, the 88s finally look the part on paper.

FRESH INJECTION OF MALE TALENT

After Jordan impressed during his fill in duties last season, the slugger looks to do even more damage in his new full time role. Vegas already has him as one of the contenders for male MVP in 2025.

As if all that wasn't enough to get season ticket holders excited for opening day, the off season success can officially be classified as an embarrassment of riches with the signing of Tim as the newest stud in the 88s lineup.

With veterans Brian, Jeff (primary fill in), Josh, John and Myles also returning, these legends look to blend with the new players to help make the 88s stronger, faster and even sexier in 2025.

We caught up with coach on his way to a spring training session: *"Winning isn't done in the off season, but I'm obviously as excited as anyone about who we have on the squad, both new and returning. Can't wait to share the field with these beauts soon."*

The 88s have signed on with the Pelham Slo-Pitch League to try their luck at running it back through a gauntlet of very strong teams.