

2026 SEASON WEEKLY RECAPS

WEEK 9 RECAP: IMPERFECT

They know the agony of defeat will come for them eventually, and when that day arrives, they'll accept it with grace.

Until then, they'll claw and fight to stave it off as long as possible which they were able to do on a sweltering Tuesday evening by escaping with 2 narrow wins.

DIAMONDS IN THE SAND

When you're used to feeling more like a slab of granite, the feeling of being porous and vulnerable can be unsettling but it also offers an opportunity: to show you can still win when you're not at your best.

With shades of 2018 creeping in, the 88s looked more like sand than rock at times but they threw enough diamonds into the mix to become impenetrable:

With the 88s down 12-9 in the top of the 5th, the Jagerbombs were on the brink of breaking it open. With just 1 out, the bases loaded and a dangerous hitter who hit a homerun in his last at bat looming on deck, Josh, Jordan and Kylie combined to pull off a HUGE double play to end the threat.

The Chuggers were looking to add to their 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning, but Joce covered a ridiculous amount of ground to haul in a fly ball and take away what looked like a sure hit and run.

The Chuggers failing to secure the 3rd out of inning 3 in a 4-4 game loaded the bases for Myles who made it hurt by hitting a gapper to CF for his first home run of the season and his first grand slam in 8 years.

Jes seemed nearly automatic at the plate, leading all players with 6 hits on the night.

CINDYS STELLAR SEASON DEBUT

With Naomi missing her first games of the season, Cindy stepped in to fill the enormous shoes at 2B.

She had 3 hits, scored a run, played solid defense at 2B, recorded the final out of game 2 to nip a rally in the bud and even had time to join the 2026 K club after a nasty wind aided curveball caught her looking on a 3-2 count.

WHERE WOULD WE HAVE BEEN WITHOUT TIM?

Several times Tim came up big with clutch hits.

He finished with a 6/7 + 2 runs + 5 RBI stat line that included the clutchiest hit of the season so far: a 2 out 2 run triple in the bottom of the 7th to give the 88s a 1 run lead heading into the final inning vs. the Jagerbombs.

They were sore and tired but remained standing after surviving the best night of 2026 so far.

Painful battle wounds stole sleep from some, but restless nights are a fleeting sacrifice for glorious victory.

Imperfect yes, but beautiful.

EXTRA BITS

Zach made a tree friend.

Myles picked up Nikki.

Maddy took Lillie on as an apprentice who quickly graduated to the top of her bat girling class.

Look good, feel good, play good. The Chuggers looked phat in their new swag.

Josh and Jes shared the burden of pitching through a fierce wind, both managing it very well.

For the first time this season, the 88s fail to hold their opponents to under 10 runs.

WEEK 8 RECAP: HISTORY IN THE HEAT

Little did they know that having their originally scheduled matchup against last years league champs postponed would give them an opportunity to make history against the worthiest of opponents.

At the peak of the summers first major heat wave, the franchise's all time win streak record was on the line.

Sitting at 32 straight wins dating back to June 23rd, 2025; getting to a record 33 would mean getting through a loose and dangerous Jagerbombs squad who were coming off a convincing victory in game 1 of their double header.

As the temperatures rose, would the 88s be able to handle the heat and rise to the challenge or succumb to the pressure and leave the kitchen?

Despite getting off to an early 9-0 lead after 3 innings, it never really felt comfortable.

The offense was spotty (even Mr. Batting .900+ doubled his out total on the season, now up to 2) but it still managed to grind out 14 hard earned runs, which was enough because their defense was as rock solid as ever, once again giving up less than 10 runs.

A few of the defensive highlights:

- Brian battling the left field sun to make a couple impressive catches
- Relay between Myles, Josh and Nikki to take away a run at home
- Naomi and Kylie had the right side of the infield on lock down
- Jordan's reaching snag at short to take away a run
- Josh leading an unorthodox 1-5-3 double play where Jes tagged the runner trying to advance to 3B before throwing it across the diamond to Kylie at 1B

The Jagerbombs lived up to their namesake in the bottom of the 9th by doubling their run total and giving the 88s a scare after bombs from Kyle (no doubter solo shot) and Bre (John didn't let the cookies cool long enough and got burned) but the 88s were able to hold on for the 14-6 victory.

With their first half of the regular season now a wrap, the 88s look forward to a challenging and exciting second half when the divisions get re-aligned and they play nothing but the best of the best.

EXTRA BITS

Their previous record win streak of 32 began during their undefeated 2021 season and ended 6/23/2022 when they tied Flaming Moe's 10-10 before losing back to back games against Beer Chuggers.

Brian led the offence with a perfect 5/5 from the leadoff spot.

WEEK 7 RECAP: FIRSTS

With a franchise history filled with legendary moments and players, it's pretty incredible that we are still getting to enjoy so many firsts in our 9th season.

It goes without saying that the first first that comes to mind from last night is the performance everyone is talking about around the water cooler this morning.

That would be the first triple play pulled off by the modern 88s thanks to the Jordan/SS - Brian/2B - Myles/1B tag, toss and turn in the 5th inning of game 1. The same trio also connected on a double play later in the night.

After that though, the other first that led the A block of most sports talk radio shows this morning, comes from the offensive side of the ball.

Of course I am referring to Jes tying the record for most hits in a game with her first 6 hit performance from the lead off spot in game 1.

Oh, were you thinking of a different offensive first from last night?

That would probably be Brandon's first entry into the 88s record book thanks to scoring all 6 times on his 6 hits.

Ok let's stop messing around and get to something that truly has never happened before and may never happen again...

Jordan's foul out.

For the first time in his 88s career Jordan has joined the K club (*) by going down on strikes in the 4th inning of game 1.

By now reader, you're probably wondering how I can bury the most obvious lead so deeply, so can we finally talk about the female legend who pulled off an impressive first last night?

Yes we can.

For the first time this season, Linda made an appearance at an 88s game and kept flawless scorekeeping, even after a couple cold beverages.

Or were you thinking of another female performance by a younger member of the 88s family?

Then you must be thinking of Olivia who, also making her first appearance this season, pulled off an epic comeback.

After an uncharacteristic melt down in game 1, a break for some McDonalds and Gramma time helped her return in better spirits to wrestle with the older kids along the third base fence.

Speaking of those older kids, I could not finish this writeup without a big shout to the platoon of Maddy, Jack and Austin for their excellent bat retrievals during game 2.

That seems to cover everything major that happened last night. Did I miss anything?

Just to be thorough I'll throw in a mention about Joce knocking in an all-time record 10 RBIs in game 1, shattering the previous bests of 6 for ladies and 8 for men and setting a mark that may never be sniffed at again.

I can be forgiven for almost forgetting about that because after so many record-breaking performances and so many special moments, is anyone really THAT surprised that it was Joce to be the first player to put up double digit run production in a single game?

Would anyone even be surprised to know that she accomplished the feat on only 5 hits, because several of them were bases clearing doubles? Or the fact that she also scored 5 times on the night and had an outfield assist by nabbing a runner trying to extend his hit into a double?

Like wtf, can we pause and salute the sustained excellence from this chick?

All these firsts led to the 88s' 13th straight win to start the season.

WEEK 6 RECAP: WINS BLOWING

During a bit of a down stretch of their regular season, the 88s are finding new and fun ways to challenge themselves.

SHIT SANDWICH

After Naomi's quick thinking to soak her toddler shit stained jersey rescued her uniform, the 88s collectively stepped into a fresh pile of it during game 1 on Thursday night.

Luckily two outstanding slices of bread made it palatable enough.

The game began with a classic 88s barrage, with their first 6 batters hitting and scoring in the top of the 1st.

After that quick start, the Misaligned Mitts proved they are more aligned than their record indicates, as they put up a good fight during the middle innings.

Green shirt sent a bomb to the fence, leading to their first 2 runs of the game, and their infield turned a double play, a rare occurrence against the 88s that seemed to have them rattled during a poop stretch where they failed to cross the plate in 3 straight innings.

A 9 run open inning outburst in the 6th, where both Brian and Joce hit and scored twice, doubled up their run total making the 18-2 final seem less close than it actually felt.

A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING

The skies and 88s were all over the place in game 2.

The winds gusted, making Tim's running grab in the gap to take away extra bases even more surprising impressive.

Underneath threatening clouds, Brian journeyed across the diamond from LF to 3B to 1B, making plays at each stop along the way.

During a light mist, an all lady infield gave up 0 runs.

The tricky weather didn't turn into a storm so Joce filled in to supply the thunder with an epic Joce Bomb deep against the Complex fence for a base clearing stand up triple.

She also showed off a flash of lightning at short stop with a splendid play up the middle that she turned into 2 by doubling off the runner at first to end the game.

The 88s improve their hot start to 11-0 as they look forward to a tougher second half of the season.

EXTRA BITS

No turned double plays in the infield tonight, but there were 2 relays from the OF to nab runners at the plate (Brian - Jordan - Nikki, Tim - Jordan - Nikki)

Kylie was snake bit in game 1 with 3 liners caught but still managed to tie the team lead in RBI on the night (6) and battled the high winds for a very effective pitching debut.

John tossed 3 scoreless innings in relief, recording many of the outs himself thanks to fast reflexes.

Jordan's back was feeling good and it showed as he sent rockets into the gaps from the plate and accurate missiles to 1B and C from short stop.

The 88s are even deep at the scorekeeper position with Jeff filling in admirably when Myles was busy at the plate hitting dying quals or benefiting from errors.

WEEK 5 RECAP: STRANGE NIGHT

It started off relatively normal.

We quickly got out ahead 12-2 then held on for a 14-4 victory in game 1 against an undefeated Angels squad.

I remember clearly that the infield made 2 bases loaded double plays in back to back innings that prevented the game from being a lot closer than it turned out.

Then somewhere around the time Johns at bat hit streak finally ended at 18 (the 3rd best such streak all time going back to his final at bat in 2025), it started to become obvious someone had spiked my drink with an hallucinogenic because from then on things got weird.

I swear at one point I saw Joce and John throwing pitches on the mound. Bonkers.

I have memory of Marnie playing the outfield and Tim making outs behind the plate while we were served hot dogs and pizza from the Jackfish game next door.

I was tripping so many balls that it started to feel like I was batting from the wrong side of the plate.

Magically two guys batting behind each other in the lineup each went 6/6 with 7 RBIs apiece (Brian, John). Mathematically speaking that's seems unlikely and can probably be chalked up to drug induced make believe.

When I woke up with a clear head to see the scorebook saying we won game 2 with our second highest margin of victory ever (29-1 / +28) I was convinced all of those memories must have been false because there's no way any team can actually be that deep and versatile.

Whatever really happened will forever be a mystery to me, but one things for sure: the 88s are in first place with a 9-0 record.

EXTRA BITS:

John surpasses 300 career RBIs.

We had a combined 69 hits as a team. teehee

The outcome of game 2 led to the establishment of an official lop-sided matchup protocol to hopefully make similar games in the future more fun for everyone involved.

WEEK 4 RECAP: LUCKY 7

The 88s passed their toughest test of the young season by overcoming opponents who came into the night with a combined 8-2 record to stretch their hot start to 7 straight, and it was all complete luck.

Yup, I'm saying it. The success they enjoyed last and many nights before it is because they're flat out lucky.

They're lucky to have Jes, a pitcher who is equal parts beloved and feared throughout the league, keeping strong hitters off balance all night to induce a lot of weak contact.

When opponents were able to square up a few of her pitches, they're lucky to have talented defenders settled into their roles behind her to keep the damage to a minimum. Naomi plucked several out of the air that had outfield grass written all over them, Jordan risked further injury to chase a few others down and Brian handled the lions share of catches in the outfield during an especially eventful game 1 in left field.

After sh*tting all over Nikki's nimble effort behind the plate by missing a gimme put out at first to start game 1, Marnie had her team missing Kylie early on. However, that moment of terrible was quickly buried under a pile of tremendous. After she took a sharp hit off the body to prevent a double down the line, turned a throw in the dirt into an important out and went an impressive 7/10 at the plate, it was clear she more than redeemed herself, turning that early blunder into a thing of the past, only to be chronicled here so it can be remembered forever.

They're lucky to have the option of thawing out an 88s legend from cryo-sleep when needed so Jeff could collect the 6 hits needed to become just the second member of the 600 hit club while making a few putouts at 3B.

They're lucky to have the most trusted scorekeeper in the league who is even gracious enough not to outshine them when an attempt is made to thrust him into the game.

They're lucky to get front row seats to many great feats.

In a career full of them, Joce added another gem to her treasure chest with a perfect 5/5 + record tying 5 runs and her first Joce Bomb of the season by sending a triple over the outfielder's head.

John, playing in just his 2nd night of the season, made the most of his time by not just maintaining his .1000 batting average but doing it in style by crushing his first home run of the season as part of a rare 4/4 cycle in game 1.

After originally being placed on the MIA list, Tim made an unexpected appearance and even more surprisingly played really well! He had all corners of the diamond covered by sending several bombs deep to left field while not letting anything drop on defense in right field. He even managed to take an RBI away from Brian after watching his hit go past him while standing on third.

Naomi dazzled once again on both sides of the ball thanks to the aforementioned defense to go along with an imposing 5/5 + 5 RBI game 2 to help the 88s end the night on a high.

EXTRA BITS:

Something else the 88s are lucky to have is the all time greatest bat girl who not only waits safely to collect the bats (saving the old people from extra bending over), and greets the players with a morale boosting high five after each defensive inning, but she's also gone above and beyond by remembering which bat players use and having it ready for them when it's their turn to swing. Sincerely, it's so good to have her at games.

Game 1 was a boys night, with only 2 outs recorded between the 6 male batters (it doesn't matter who were responsible for the outs, don't go checking).

With a vintage grounder down the right field line, Myles became the first player to reach 500 career RBI. Surprising there wasn't a stoppage in the game to have an impromptu ceremony to mark the occasion.

It felt like old times again getting to share the field with our friends from the Beer Chuggers.

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 2nd 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?"

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.

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.

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.