



Englewood Men's Senior Softball League – Silver Division



ESSL Playoffs Semi Finals and Final



Dave Tacey

Designer Tees 11 vs Caddy Carts 17 The consistent Caddy Cart's offense and the poor defensive play by Designer Tees resulted in a 17 to 11 win for the Carts. The Carts took an early lead and then scored 5 runs in the 3rd and 5th innings to outpace the Tees. The Tee's offense was led by team leader *Dave Tacey*, 1st round draft pick *Ralph Fisher* and *Steve O'Connor* who was a great hitter all year. (by John Anjos)



Steve O'Connor



Manager Rick Silva

Xpertech 11 vs Purple Panthers 15 - Xpertech shut down the **Panthers** in the first inning with *Kevin Michael* throwing out the first batter of the game and then turning a DP after the second Panther batter singled. The bottom of the inning was all Xpertech with 4 singles, a *Kevin Michael* double and a *Gary Garcia* 2 run triple resulting in 5 runs.

Both teams scored a pair making it 7-2 after 2. Nice play by Panther shortstop *Henry Sirignano* in the 2nd. *Ray Kuntz* fielded a ball and threw to *Henry* for the force at second and instead of throwing to 1st where the throw would not have beaten the batter – runner, *Henry* threw home to force *Bruce MacDonald* for the 3rd out of the inning!



Henry Sirignano



Gary Garcia

The Panthers scored 4 more in the top the 4th with doubles from *Bob Yarnell* and *Ray Foster* but Xpertech scored 4 more in the bottom of the 3rd after the 1st 2 batters made outs. *Gary Garcia* had a 2 run double in that inning!

Top of the 4th and down 11-6 the Panthers scored another 4 runs to climb to within 1 run. Things were going great until *Kevin Michael* (there's that guy again) snared a ball and stepped on second and tossed to first for yet another double play! 11-10 after 3 ½. Xpertech would be shut down with no runs the rest of the way while the Panthers would get another 5 runs to take a 15-11 lead into the bottom of the 6th.



Kevin Michael for the double play



Ray Kuntz

Michael led off the 6th with a hard smash down the left field line but *Ray Kuntz* made a backhanded stab and threw across the diamond for out #1. Tom Jensen then hit a ball 275 down the left field line that was tracked down by *Dave Keefer* for out # 2. Effectively, the game was over. The only thing left to do was for *Steve Rubino* to snag a line drive and flip to first base for the game ending double play!!! It was a tough ending to the 2023 season for Xpertech, especially after how well they have been playing!



Dave Keefer

Championship Game

About the only thing that went right for the Panthers in this one was that *Ray Kuntz* continued to prove why he is the best 3rd baseman in the league. The Panthers went down 1-2-3 in the first and then allowed the first 2 batters from Caddy Carts to reach on errors. The next batter hit a short infield popup that everyone thought would be caught. We've all seen those popups behind the pitcher but too short for the infielder to make the catch. In this case the runners were all safe except that *Ray Kuntz* caught the batter runner take a wide turn at first and he promptly threw him out!

The Carts earned a 3-0 lead in the third but the highlight was a *Kuntz* grab, step on 3rd and bullet toss to second. The relay to first from 2B was not in time but it was a pretty 5-4-3 potential triple play!



Cesare Ruscio triple

The Carts scored 5 in the 3rd to take an 8-0 lead highlighted by *Cesare Ruscio's* triple down the left field line.

With runners on 1st and second in the 4th, *Kuntz* fielded yet another ball and ran toward second to tag out runner from second and then quickly flipped sidearm toward second base. The ball hit *Devi Rigatti* in the glasses resulting in a cut above the eye.



With runners on 1st and second in the 4th, *Kuntz* fields a ball and runs to tag runner from second and then quickly flips sidearm toward second base. The ball hit *Devi Rigatti* in the glasses resulting in a cut eye



Jack Smith scoops for a close out

The Panthers struggled throughout the game. The only rationale' for their struggles was that the Xpertech game took a lot out of them. But credit needs to be given to the Caddy Carts for how well they played in the post season. They scored 49 runs in 3 games! Combine their offense with a stellar defense that only gave up 23 runs and there was little chance they would lose. And they did not, finishing with a 14-4 blowout after a 2 run 7th by the Panthers.



Dennis Girard beats Ron Foster to the bag

Congrats to Caddy Carts for winning the regular season and winning the playoffs

Good season everyone!!! See you all for more fun and games in the Winter 2024 season!



