

# Street Kids Avenge Tasers Big Comeback with a Double Dip for the Mishawaka Spring Title

Mishawaka, IN 4/21/12

The annual Mishawaka Spring Open is held each year at Rose Park, and most of the time, the Street Kids Mojo softball team is unable to play, usually due to their busy schedule early on in the season. However, this season, the Kids found an opening and decided to enter the cash tournament and see what they could do locally.

SKS opened against Scared Hitless, a local team who just came off a win in the first round play-in game. SKS came out strong, putting up 10 runs right away and despite a slight comeback attempt by Scared Hitless late, Street Kids prevailed 25-13. Joe Horvath went 5-for-5 and drove in eight runs in the win.

In the next round, it was a match up against a feisty and determined [Tasers Softball](#) team. If people were to call Street Kids the best area team, then Tasers could be considered the second best. Every time the two teams play each other, its usually a great game, and in many times, they split wins. This one would be crazy, though...

After a slow start that featured only one SKS run through the first three innings, the Kids started to get hot and kept the game close with the hot hitting Taser team. But it was a 10-run sixth inning that gave the Kids a healthy eight run lead heading into the bottom of the seventh. After Eric Miller of Tasers hit the last Taser home run to cut it to seven, Tasers got hot, hitting base hit after base hit and cutting into the lead. With two outs and the Kids still up by two, Chad Melcher of Tasers came to the plate with two on, including the tying run at first base. Melcher crushed a ball deep to right field and it appeared to be just enough to be a home run, which they have none to hit and hence could result in the final out. Right fielder Shane Varga knew the wind was picking up and did not want to take a chance and have the ball hit off the fence, especially with the speedy Melcher at the plate, who depending on the bounce of the ball off the wall, could potentially score the winning run. Varga raced to the wall and took a big leap to catch the ball, and for a second it looked as if he did catch it, but it actually fell out of his glove, over the fence for a four base "error", giving Melcher and Tasers a walk off game winner, 21-20.

"That was the craziest ending to a game that I have ever seen," said veteran pitcher Dave Schoen, who was playing with Tasers in this tourney. "None of us could believe that it just happened."

There are mixed opinions on if the ball was actually going over the fence or if it hit Varga's glove short of the fence. Regardless of the action that happened, Varga stood by his decision to attempt the catch.

"At that point, I knew that a home run would end the game, and I knew where I was standing at the fence," Varga said. "But I knew if I had a chance to make the catch, I was going to do it and not take the chance on it taking some crazy bounce of the fence. The unfortunate thing was that I couldn't hang on to it."



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## BOX SCORE from Mishawaka Spring Tourney

April 21, 2012

Won Tourney, Record: 4-1

Player	Hits	AtBats	HR	RBI	2B	3B	AVG.
Nick Bishop	17	24	1	7	4	0	0.708
Tim Austin	17	24	1	13	3	0	0.708
Joe Horvath	18	25	5	17	1	0	0.720
Jay Jeffery	18	23	0	5	4	1	0.783
Leland Schmucker	18	21	3	17	1	0	0.857
Fred Schmucker	13	21	4	14	3	0	0.619
Faron Miller	14	20	1	12	3	0	0.700
Tony Hardiman	13	21	0	11	5	0	0.619
Mike Bailey	14	20	0	7	3	0	0.700
TJ Jorgensen	6	10	0	4	1	0	0.600
Kevin Eash	3	5	0	0	1	0	0.600
Shane Varga	18	20	5	23	1	0	0.900
<b>Totals</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.722</b>

- Game 1 vs. Scared Hitless, WON: 25-13
- Game 2 vs. Taser Softball, LOST: 21-20
- Game 3 vs. Bone Crushers, WON: 21-2
- Game 4 vs. Tasers Softball, WON: 31-7
- Game 5 vs. Tasers Softball, WON: 26-15

### All Tourney Team

- Shane Varga - SKS (Tourney MVP)
- Leland Schmucker - SKS
- Jay Jeffery - SKS
- Joe Horvath - SKS
- Nick Bishop - SKS
- Tim Austin - SKS
- Ryan Freitag - Tasers
- Jeff Griffin - Tasers
- Eric Miller - Tasers
- Geronimo Navarro - Tasers
- Mike Long - Tasers (Defensive MVP)

Regardless of the way it happened, Tasers still scored nine runs in the bottom of the seventh and deserved the win.

Jay Jeffery and Mike Bailey led all hitters with four hits each for the Kids, who dropped to the losers bracket finals against Bone Crushers. They had to put the Taser game behind them and work on getting through Crushers. This one was quick and painless, as SKS put it away in four innings, 21-2. Nick Bishop and Tim Austin led all hitters with four hits each in the win.

The Kids were now in the finals, and in order to win the cash prize, they would have to beat Tasers twice. SKS pounded the ball with a vengeance in the first game, putting up 12 runs in the second inning, but it would be the third inning that would be the difference maker in this one. After Tim Austin and Joe Horvath made the first two outs of the inning, the Kids went on a hot streak, taking advantage of some shoddy Taser defense and scored 18 straight runs after the two outs. The result was a big 31-7 win in three innings and sending this tournament to the "if" game. Shane Varga, Tim Austin, Mike Bailey and Jay Jeffery all had four hits in the win.

The last game would be a lot closer than the final score would say, but after slugging it out back and forth, and backed by a 13-run sixth inning, Street Kids would put this one away 26-15, and winning the 2012 Mishawaka Spring Open. Shane Varga, Faron Miller, Joe Horvath, Jay Jeffery (four doubles) and Leland Schmucker all had five hit games in the championship. Varga ended the tournament on a red hot 15-consecutive-hit streak and finished a tremendous 18-for-20 with a team high five home runs and 23 RBIs. For his efforts, he was named the tourney MVP. Given what Varga has come back through - not just the cancer, but the rehab to get even a portion of his old self back - winning the tourney MVP and more importantly, helping his team win, was bittersweet.

"This is just a game, but its a game we love to play," Varga said. "It felt good to get back out there with my friends and teammates and feel a little like the old Shane again."

Along with Taser players Ryan Freitag, Jeff Griffin, Eric Miller, Geronimo Navarro and defensive MVP Mike Long, the SKS team featured six all-tourney players, including Varga, Horvath, Jeffery, Austin, Leland Schmucker and Nick Bishop.

The Kids (23-4 overall) won their fourth tournament of the year. They will take next weekend off before heading to Michigan for an NSA Grand Slam on May 6th.

