

Mid-Season Evaluation

Prepared for Brooks Vehslage, GM/Owner · Through Game 5 (Oct 12, 2026) · 5 of 8 regular-season games played

A-

Overall verdict. At 4–1, Hatfish is the strongest team in the division on the numbers and tied for first on the field. Through the four games posted on QuickScores, Hatfish has the league's best run differential (+24) and the fewest runs allowed (5.25 per game). Since the opening-night loss the offense has scored 14.5 runs per game. Two things keep this short of an A. The team has needed late rallies far more often than a first-place club should, with opponents scoring 81% of their tracked runs in innings 1–3. And the DBC Padres hold the tiebreaker if the two teams finish level.

Report card

Area	Grade	Evidence
Offense	A	59 R in 5 G (11.8/G); team .560 AVG, .723 SLG; 14.5 R/G and .612 AVG in G2–G5 (85-for-139)
Run prevention	B+	League-best 5.25 RA/G through Wk 4 (QuickScores); 12 allowed in G5; 6 innings of 3+ runs allowed account for 23 of 31 tracked runs
Resilience / late game	A	Won from 8 down (G2), 7 down (G4) and 4 down entering the last at-bat (G5); 12 runs in the 6th inning across 3 games
Starts / consistency	C+	G1: 8 H, 1 R. Trailed after the opponent's first at-bat in all 4 tracked games
Availability	B	51 of 60 possible core player-games (85%); sub catcher needed in G4 (3 core out)
Record / standing	A–	4–1, tied with Padres for first (G5 not yet posted); Padres win a two-way tie on the head-to-head run margin (15–14)

Key findings

- **The best team in the league on the numbers.** Through Week 4 on QuickScores, Hatfish scored 45 and allowed 21 (+24). Next best: Padres +11, Battle Unicorns +10. With G5 from the team scorebook, the season line is 59–33 (+26).
- **Hatfish has pulled off three big comebacks.** The team trailed 8–0 (G2), 8–1 (G4) and 12–8 entering the bottom of the 6th (G5), and won all three. That shows real resilience. It is also a warning: a 50-minute clock can end a game before the rally comes, and playoff games are single elimination.
- **Most damage allowed comes early.** Across the four games with line scores, opponents scored 25 of their 31 runs (81%) in innings 1–3 and none in the 5th inning all season. Hatfish wins the second half of games. It has to stop giving away the first.
- **The middle of the order is the soft spot.** Lineup slots 4–6 hit .469 with 13 RBI in 49 AB. Slots 7–11 hit .600 with 22 RBI in 65 AB, and slots 1–3 hit .596. The batting order is not yet sorting hitters the way the merit process intends.
- **The production is concentrated.** Taylor, Ty, Bitten, Fisher and Winter have 50 of the team's 93 hits (54%) and 31 of 57 RBI. Taylor (.688 AVG, 1.313 SLG, 10 RBI, cycle in G4) is the best hitter in the lineup by every measure.
- **The only loss came on the one night the offense disappeared.** In G1, Taylor was out, the team managed 1 extra-base hit, and 2 of the team's 3 Fall NUKes (outs over the fence) came in that game. The result was 8 hits and 1 run.

League snapshot

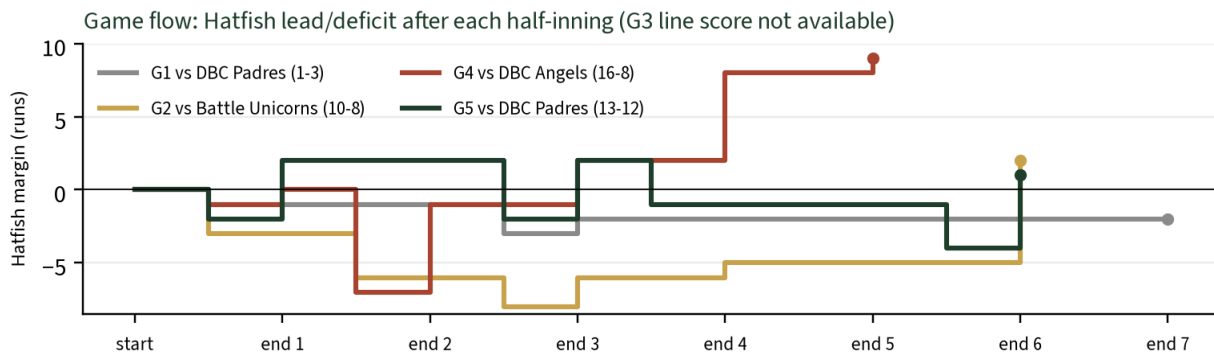
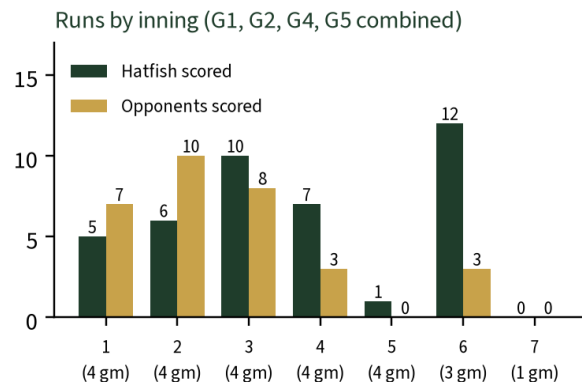
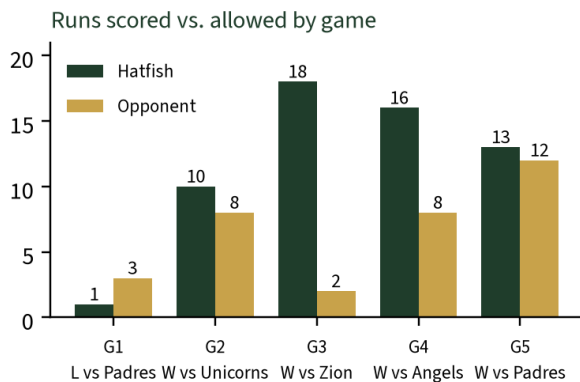
Team	W–L (official, thru Wk 4)	After Wk 5 (unofficial)	RS	RA	Diff	RS/G	RA/G
Hatfish	3–1	4–1 (beat Padres 13–12)	45	21	+24	11.25	5.25
DBC Padres	4–0	4–1	42	31	+11	10.50	7.75
Battle Unicorns	2–2	pending	52	42	+10	13.00	10.50
Boas	2–2	pending	41	39	+2	10.25	9.75
Zion Lutheran	1–3	pending	30	49	–19	7.50	12.25
DBC Angels	0–4	pending	34	62	–28	8.50	15.50

Computed from QuickScores results, Weeks 1–4 (G4 counted as 16–8 as posted). Week 5 had not been posted when this report was prepared (Oct 12, 11:40 PM CT); the Hatfish–Padres result is from the team scorebook.

1. Team performance and trends

G	Date	Opponent	Result	AB	H	R	RBI	AVG	XBH	BB	NUKE	R/H	Lineup
1	Sep 14	DBC Padres	L 1-3	27	8	1	1	.296	1	0	2	0.12	10
2	Sep 21	Battle Unicorns	W 10-8	31	16	10	10	.516	5	0	1	0.62	10
3	Sep 28	Zion Lutheran	W 18-2	41	29	18	16	.707	4	0	0	0.62	11
4	Oct 5	DBC Angels	W 16-8	34	23	17	17	.676	6	1	0	0.74	10
5	Oct 12	DBC Padres	W 13-12	33	17	13	13	.515	4	2	0	0.76	11
Season			4-1, 59-33	166	93	59	57	.560	20	3	3	0.63	

Team scorebook totals (hatfish.beer box scores; G5 per the official G5 box). R/H = runs per hit. Lineup = batters used, including the write-in sub (Matt) in G4. G4 final is 16-8. Player stats and team R/RBI totals stay as published.



What the trends say

- **Hatfish wins the back half of games.** In the four games with line scores, innings 4 and later finished Hatfish 20, opponents 6. Innings 1-3 finished opponents 25, Hatfish 21. Hatfish has outscored opponents in innings 3, 4, 5 and 6 combined, and has never allowed a run in the 5th.
- **The big innings decide games, on both sides.** Hatfish has scored 3+ runs in an inning 7 times (35 of its 41 tracked runs). Opponents have done it 6 times (23 of 31). The worst was the Angels' 7-run 2nd in G4. The Padres also scored 4, 3 and 3 in G5. Opponents were held scoreless in 13 of 24 tracked half-innings (54%). The defense is usually fine; the trouble is containing an inning once it starts to go wrong.
- **Hatfish has been behind early in every tracked game.** The opponent scored first in all four games with line scores. Hatfish trailed after three innings in G1 (0-3) and G2 (2-8), led in G4 (10-8) and G5 (8-6), and has trailed at some point in every game we can track.
- **The offense has been consistent since G1.** From G2 to G5 the team hit .515 or better every night and scored at least 10 every night. Turning hits into runs improved from 0.13 R/H in G1 to 0.62-0.76 R/H afterward. G1 looks like the outlier, not the norm. It still shows what a cold night looks like: singles, no gap power, and outs on balls over the fence.
- **Context for G5:** the Padres have scored 3, 11, 18, 10 and 12 this fall (10.8 per game), so the 12 allowed is closer to normal than it looks. The G1 hold to 3 was the outlier.

2. Individual evaluations

Fall 2026 batting from the team box scores, matching the hatfish.beer Roster/Stats page (Brooks RBI = 3 after the G5 correction). $OBP = (H+BB)/(AB+BB+SF)$. "Last 2" = G4–G5 combined; for players who missed G4 it is G5 only. Samples are 8–17 AB per player, so a single at-bat moves AVG by 60–125 points. Read these as tendencies, not verdicts. The write-in sub Matt (G4: 1-for-2, BB, 2 R) is excluded.

#	Player	G	AB	H	R	RBI	2B	3B	HR	NK	BB	SF	AVG	OBP	SLG	Last 2	Career AVG
4	Taylor Rabalais	4	16	11	7	10	5	1	1	0	0	0	.688	.688	1.312	6-8	.714
19	Ty Martinez	5	16	11	4	7	1	0	0	2	0	0	.688	.688	.750	5-8	.696
11	Robert Bitten	5	16	11	6	7	2	0	0	0	0	1	.688	.647	.812	5-6	.625
30	Alex Fisher	5	17	10	8	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	.588	.588	.824	5-7	.476
5	Ryan Winter	3	8	7	6	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	.875	.889	1.000	5-5	.500
15	Michael Cook	4	13	8	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	.615	.615	.615	2-4	.526
33	Creg Canalizo	3	9	5	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	.556	.556	.556	1-3	.444
2	Ben Jones	4	14	7	5	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	.500	.533	.571	2-3	.518
18	Alfie Miller	4	12	6	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	.500	.500	.500	2-3	.542
29	Cole Vehslage	5	16	7	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	.438	.438	.438	2-6	.417
3	Brooks Vehslage	5	15	5	4	3	3	1	1	1	0	1	.333	.312	.867	1-6	.455
10	Grant Lacey	4	12	4	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	.333	.333	.333	3-6	.564

Career = Spring + Summer (as Good Wood) + Fall 2026, from the player cards on hatfish.beer. NK = NUKE (an out; not a hit, not an AB). No K, SB, error or pitching data is tracked consistently, so none is shown.

Assessments

Taylor #4 SS	The best hitter on the team. .688/1.313 SLG with 7 XBH and 10 RBI in 4 games, plus the G4 cycle (4-for-4, 6 RBI). The team is 4–0 with him and 0–1 without him. That is one game, but the gap is hard to ignore. Keep him leading off: the leadoff spot gets the most at-bats.
Ty #19 LCF/SS	Very good, and consistent. .688 with 9 hits in 12 AB over G3–G5, including the G5 walk-off. His 2 NUKes (G1, G2) were outs on his best contact; his career line shows 7 HR and 5 NUKes. A line-drive, gap-first approach suits this fence rule.
Bitten #11 P	Best two-way value on the roster. Started 0-for-3 in G1, then went 11-for-13 with 7 RBI, including 3 RBI in G5. He has been the team's primary pitcher all fall. He is the biggest hitter batting outside the top five, and the biggest single-player risk if he misses a game.
Fisher #30 RCF/3B	The engine. Team-high 8 runs, .588/.824, 3 XBH. He has played three different spots (RCF, 1B, 3B). After 0-for-3 in G1 he is 10-for-14.
Winter #5 1B/LF	Hot, but a small sample. 7-for-8, .889 OBP, 6 R in 3 games. He has reached base in 8 of 9 plate appearances. Availability (out G1, G3) is his limiting factor, not his bat. He is batting too low (7th–10th) for this output.
Cook #15 1B/C	Solid contact. .615, all singles, 4-for-4 in G3. He did not play G5. He is one of three catcher options, which matters for depth.
Creg #33 2B	Productive when present. 5-for-9 with 3 RBI, including an RBI on a fielder's choice in G5. Three games is too few to judge; availability is the issue.
Ben #2 LF	A reliable table-setter. .500 AVG and .533 OBP (one of only two non-sub batters with a walk), 5 R. He has 1 XBH, which is acceptable in the 2-hole when he is getting on.
Alfie #18 RF/LCF	Streaky. 0-for-3 in G2, 3-for-3 with 3 RBI in G3, 2-for-3 in G5. No extra-base hits yet. Batting 9th fits his current profile.
Cole #29 C/DH/2B	Dependable presence, modest bat. He has played all 5 games at three spots (RF, 2B, C/DH), including the inning-by-inning C/DH split in G5. .438 with no XBH; 2-for-6 over the last two games.
Brooks #3 3B/RCF	All-or-nothing so far. All 5 of his hits went for extra bases (3 2B, 3B, HR, .867 SLG, 3rd on the team). But .333 AVG and .312 OBP are the lowest among regulars, he is 1-for-6 with a SF over the last two games, and he has 1 NUKE. He has hit in the top five every game. The merit process puts him lower until the average recovers; his career .455 suggests it will.
Grant #10 C/DH/RF	Below his track record. .333 with no XBH, against a .564 career mark. He has made his hits count, with 5 RBI on 4 hits (2 RBI in each of G4 and G5). He is a bounce-back candidate and valuable as a catcher option.

3. Lineup and batting order

The stated process ranks hitters on merit, with Fall and in-season stats weighted equally first and career numbers third, in order to maximize runs. Here is how each slot of the lineup has produced:

Lineup slots	AB	H	AVG	SLG	R	RBI	Who has hit there
1-3 (top)	52	31	.596	.885	17	22	Taylor, Ben, Ty; Brooks (G1 #2, G4 #3)
4-6 (middle)	49	23	.469	.653	15	13	Fisher ×4, Brooks ×3, Bitten ×3, Alfie ×2, Cole, Grant, Cook
7-11 (bottom)	65	39	.600	.646	27	22	Winter, Cook, Creg, Alfie, Cole, Grant, Bitten (G1-G2 #9), Fisher (G2 #7)

Reading. The run-producing slots (4-6) hit 131 points lower than the bottom of the order. Brooks (3-for-9 in those slots) is part of that, along with Alfie's G2 0-for-3 and Grant's G1 0-for-3. Meanwhile Winter (7-for-8) has batted 7th-10th in all three of his games, and Bitten batted 9th in G1-G2. The order is roughly right at the top and too slow to react in the middle.

Illustrative merit ranking (estimate, our weighting: 40% Fall AVG+SLG, 40% G4-G5 AVG+SLG, 20% career AVG+SLG):

Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Score	Taylor 2.22	Winter 1.84	Bitten 1.60	Fisher 1.54	Ty 1.47	Ben 1.20	Alfie 1.16	Cook 1.10	Brooks 1.01	Creg 0.92	Grant 0.89	Cole 0.79

This formula penalizes on-base table-setters (Ben's .533 OBP), and the "last 2" window is only 3-8 AB. Use it to sort players into tiers, not to set exact slots.

Suggested full-strength order (11): 1 Taylor · 2 Ben · 3 Ty · 4 Bitten · 5 Fisher · 6 Winter · 7 Cook · 8 Brooks · 9 Creg · 10 Alfie · 11 Cole/Grant (C/DH pair). The idea: keep Taylor and Ben setting the table, put the three hottest bats (Ty, Bitten, Fisher) behind them, use Winter and Cook to turn the lineup over, and move Brooks down until his contact rate recovers. A 50-minute game typically gets each slot only 3-4 AB (most players had 3-4 AB per game), so who bats where in the top six matters more than the bottom.

4. Run prevention and defense (qualitative)

No pitching or fielding statistics are tracked, so this section uses runs allowed only. Bitten has been the primary pitcher.

Game	Opp. by inning	RA	Scoreless half-inn.	3+ run innings
G1 Padres	1-0-2-0-0-0-0	3	5 of 7	none (max 2)
G2 Unicorns	3-3-2-0-0-0	8	3 of 6	1st (3), 2nd (3)
G3 Zion	not recorded	2	—	—
G4 Angels	1-7-0-0-0	8	3 of 5	2nd (7)
G5 Padres	2-0-4-3-0-3	12	2 of 6	3rd (4), 4th (3), 6th (3)

- **The good:** fewest runs allowed in the league through Week 4 (21 in 4 games; next best Padres 31). Opponents held scoreless in 13 of 24 tracked half-innings. In G2 and G4, Hatfish shut the opponent out after the 3rd and 2nd innings respectively, which is what made both comebacks possible.
- **The bad:** when an inning starts to go wrong, it gets out of hand. Six innings of 3+ runs make up 74% of tracked runs allowed. G5 was the first game in which the defense allowed runs late (3 in the 4th, 3 in the 6th).
- **What we cannot tell yet:** whether these innings come from walks, errors or hard contact. The scorebook does not record it. Without that, any diagnosis of pitching versus fielding would be a guess.

5. Attendance and availability

	Taylor	Ben	Ty	Fisher	Brooks	Bitten	Winter	Creg	Alfie	Cole	Grant	Cook
G1	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
G2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	✓	—	✓
G3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
G4	✓	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	—	✓	✓	✓
G5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—
G	4	4	5	5	5	5	3	3	4	5	4	4

51 of 60 possible core player-games (85%). Five players have played all five games: Ty, Fisher, Brooks, Bitten and Cole. G4 was the thinnest night: three core players out and a write-in catcher (Matt). Winter and Creg (3 games each) are the least available, and both are hitting well.

6. Strengths, weaknesses and risks

Strengths	Weaknesses	Risks
- League-best run differential and runs allowed - Deep lineup: 10 of 12 regulars hitting .438+ - Elite top end: Taylor, Ty, Bitten, Fisher - Proven ability to come back late (3 wins from 4+ runs down) - Positional flexibility (Fisher, Cole and Brooks have each played 3 spots)	- Slow defensive starts: 81% of tracked runs allowed in innings 1–3 - Middle-order (4–6) production lags - Extra-base power is concentrated: Taylor and Brooks have 12 of the team's 20 XBH - Few walks (3 total, 1 by a sub) - Over-the-fence outs: 3 NUKes (Brooks 1, Ty 2)	- Padres win a two-way tie on head-to-head run margin - Single-elimination playoffs with a 50-minute clock make late rallies riskier - One primary pitcher (Bitten); no backup documented - Availability swings (G4 needed a sub catcher) - Small samples; regression risk for Winter (.875) and Taylor (.688)

7. Recommendations for the second half and playoffs

- **Treat every remaining game as must-win.** If G5 posts as 13–12, Hatfish and the Padres split 1–1, and the Padres win the second tiebreaker (head-to-head run margin, 15–14; City rule 22). Finishing first outright is the only route to the top seed. The top seed bats last in every playoff game and receives the team shirts.
- **Win the first three innings.** Have the defense warmed up before first pitch, set the alignment for innings 1–3 and leave it alone, and have the pitcher (Bitten) fully loose before the umpire calls the home team out. The aim is to cut the early 3+ run innings. With a 50-minute clock, a 7-run first-half deficit may not leave time to recover in the playoffs.
- **Rework the middle of the order on merit.** Move Bitten and Fisher into slots 4–5 and move Winter up when he plays. Move Brooks out of the top five until his average recovers. Review after each game using Fall stats first.
- **Hit line drives, not fly balls over the fence.** Every NUK is an out. Ty and Brooks have 9 NUKes between them in their careers. Against this fence, a hard gap shot is worth more than a ball that clears it.
- **Lock in availability early.** Use the polls to confirm 11 players by the weekend before each game. Plan the catcher in advance: Cook, Cole and Grant are the options, and the Cole/Grant inning split worked in G5. Name a backup pitcher (Ty is listed as captain/pitcher) and have him throw a pregame bullpen in case Bitten is out.
- **Add four things to the scorebook:** how each run scored, walks and strikeouts allowed, errors, and the score after each half-inning, including G3 if it can be recovered. With those, the end-of-season review can separate pitching from defense instead of inferring both from runs allowed.

8. Remaining schedule and outlook

Date	Time / Field	Opponent (QuickScores listing)	Opp. W–L thru Wk 4	Opp. RS / RA per game	Prior meeting
Mon Oct 19	7:55 PM · Huffhines #2	Boas (listed home)	2–2	10.3 / 9.8	First meeting
Mon Oct 26	7:55 PM · Huffhines #2	Battle Unicorns (listed home)	2–2	13.0 / 10.5 (league-high RS)	W 10–8 (Sep 21)
Mon Nov 2	7:55 PM · Huffhines #2	Zion Lutheran (Hatfish listed home)	1–3	7.5 / 12.3	W 18–2 (Sep 28)
Week after Nov 2	Same night	Top-4 single-elimination playoff	—	1 v 4 · 2 v 3 · final	Higher seed is home

The Padres' remaining games: Battle Unicorns (Oct 19), Zion Lutheran (Oct 26), DBC Angels (Nov 2).

Outlook. None of Hatfish's remaining opponents had a winning record after Week 4, and Hatfish has already beaten two of them by a combined 28–10. The Oct 26 game against the Battle Unicorns, the league's highest-scoring team, is the toughest test and the game where giving up early runs would hurt most. Going 3–0 secures at least a share of first. Because the Padres hold the tiebreaker, Hatfish also needs the Padres to lose once to finish first outright. A playoff berth (top four of six) is very likely but not yet clinched.

Data notes, conflicts and sources

- Sources: hatfish.beer box scores, line scores and roster cards (JS bundle index-CDJzGD9_.js and the server-rendered /roster page, pulled Oct 12); /workspace/game5/games.json and season_totals.json; /workspace/game4/g4_stats.xlsx; QuickScores LeagueID 1748987 (standings, results, schedule); City of Richardson Softball Rules (rev. May 2026).
- **G4 final:** the league final is 16–8. Player stats and team R/RBI totals stay as published.
- **G4 Taylor RBI:** the scoresheet cells and recap draft v2 credit 7 RBI, which would give the team 18 RBI on 17 runs. The published box (6) is used. **G5 Brooks:** SF recorded with 0 RBI, per the team correction; the site's roster already shows Fall RBI 3.
- G3 has no inning-by-inning line, so it is excluded from all inning analysis. The site lists Cook with 1 K in Fall that does not appear in any box score. The playoff date is inferred from rule 21 and is not posted.