

Sunday, 5PM - May 15 report by Rosemary "Killer" Myers-Neagli

On this scorcher of an evening, record 97F (feel like temp 101F), winds 15mph and gusting to 25mph, set the stage for the only rescheduled make-up game (from May 3rd) thus far in the spring Co-Ed season. If anyone can remember last spring, managers struggled to complete their scheduled games due to sooo many rain-outs. As I scanned the fence line filled with all those banners who support our RRSA, I stopped at **Home Tint (HT)**, tonight's home team with manager Tom Neagli, followed by **State Farm (SF)**, who were setting up in the visitor's dugout with manager's Coco Ondina and Gary Warrick. As per standard RR protocol, both teams pilfered players from other teams to fill out their rosters. Many thanks to the subs who always make the games possible: HT: Louis Berthold who holds a spot on every team, Lisa McGlaston and Dave Riddle who frequent the HT line-up; and SF: "crazy legs" commissioner Mike Braum, pitcher Sean Curry, Charlie Dobson, Wise Health Manager Mike Jaensch, Tracie Kurcharski, and Kelly Wissink.

Volunteering their time on this steamy evening was Peter Day announcing, Bob Potter kept the books, and Clyde Zigler was busy keeping up on the scoreboard. Umpires Mike Conley HP, Mark Mills 1st base, and Corey Raynor 3rd base had an epic game controlling the numerous field hits and plays as both teams were serious about increasing their Co-Ed ranking. For the last two weeks I overheard tid-bits of "smack talk" from both teams to prepare for this game, and they did not disappoint!

1ST INNING: Scott Wilson (scooter) started off for the visiting SF "scooting" the bases for a stand-up double (DB), Gary Warrick also doubled and scored the game's first RBI. Mike Braum wanted more than a DB, so he just launched a missile to the fence line to score both a home run (HR) and an RBI. Not to be undone by a "sub", manager Coco Ondina sent a rocket scoring an easy HR. Oh-oh, three runs scored from the first 4 batters, HT better buckle down, Ken Kammath slugged a hard hit but SS Mike Moss snagged it, first out. Mike Jaensch re-lit the SF fire with a stand-up DB, Sean Curry's single scored Mike, 4 runs scored, but HT was able to end the batting streak with two outs, one being a run-down fly ball catch by LF Dale Frazier on Charlie Dobson. Unfortunately, this

inning was not on HT's side, after single hits by Dave Riddle (pop-up caught by Coco Ondina), Mike Flatt, Dale Frazier and Mike Moss, team HT was retired scoreless. **END OF ONE: HT- 0 SF- 4**

2nd INNING: Another big inning was on the horizon for SF; John Coffman's fly ball was caught, first out, single hits found bases for George Keller, Bob Khfuss (HT got George out at 2nd base, two out), but that was it, after a barrage of continued singles by Susan Kammath, Scott Wilson, Gary Warrick scoring an RBI, Mike Braum's RBI, and Coco Ondina's stand-up DB finished off the 5 run limit rule with 3 more RBI's. HT's attempted comeback from hits by Ken Ford, Joe Nuttal, Dianna Duncan, Louis Berthold and Jeff Duncan were all foiled by precision SF fielding. **END OF TWO: HT- 0 SF- 9**

3RD INNING: This was a short inning for both teams. SF kept getting those well hit singles, but HT fielding was buckling down, keeping Charlie Dobson's single to score the innings lone RBI. Lisa McGlaston started HT off with a solid single; Paul Vargo also gets to first, manager Tom Neagli explodes for a stand-up DB that sent Lisa home, but, a long throw to the HP catches Lisa out at home plate. After a few more single hits and another out at 2nd base, Coco Ondina ends the HT hopes and dreams with a catch on Dave Riddle's high flying ball. **END OF THREE: HT- 0 SF- 10**

4th INNING: Here we go again... SF George Keller starts the inning with a stand-up DB, singles by Bob Kuhfuss and Susan Kammath force an out at 2nd but score George, one RBI. Scott Wilson's single forces a second out at 2nd base, followed by a fabulous catch by SS Mike Moss on Gary Warrick makes the 3rd out and keeps SF to only one run. Come on HT you gotta get rolling! Yeah, the bats are awakening. Several solid single hits, Ken Ford's single scores HT's first RBI, on the board, Joe Nuttall's single gets another RBI, and Dianna Duncan hits in the 3rd RBI before SF shuts down the inning. **END OF FOUR: HT- 3 SF-11**

5th INNING: Starting off the inning for SF is "crazy legs" Mike Braum who hits a hard ground ball which is being fielded quickly, but Mike makes it to 3rd base, I think he looks more like a gazelle than a crazy legs, next up is SF manager Coco Ondina who slaps down a stand-up DB which scores Mike, another RBI for Coco. But after three high hit fly balls all caught, two superb catches by SS Mike Moss;

the SF team drive is retired keeping them to one run scored. Lisa McGlaston is the first HT on base, a few more hits and Dave Riddle struts up and makes a comfortable hit which scores 2 RBI's. Mike Flatt copies Dave to score a third RBI, Dale Frazier's hits and joins Mike and Dave on base, up next, Mike Moss, who analyzes the field, and drives a well-placed fly to RT field which closed the 5 run inning with the added 2RBI's. Best inning yet for HT. **END OF FIVE: HT-8 SF-12**

6th INNING: This inning came and went quickly. Great fielding was demonstrated by both teams considering the sizzling hot play conditions. SF Charlie Dobson singles, igniting a run of singles, all fielded well by HT, and a single by John Coffman is the only RBI that squeaks by HT to end the inning. With hopes high and a driving desire to score runs, HT came up empty, between SS Coco Ondina and 3rd baseman Mike Jaensch hot gloves, HT just could not get hit balls by them, leaving them disappointed and scoreless. **END OF SIX: HT- 8 SF- 13**

7th "Buffet "INNING: With SF leading the entire game, both managers and umpires made the decision to "flip-flop", bringing HT back up to bat. So HT Jeff Duncan opened with a stand-up DB, Lisa McGlaston added a single, and then SF George Keller interfered with manager Tom Neagli's missile headed towards the LF fence with a super catch. But, HT persevered undeterred, Ty Nelson hit a single to score the innings 1st RBI, Dave Riddle singled for a 2nd RBI, Mike Flatt snuck in a DB for a 3rd RBI. Dale Frazier caught on to the excitement batted in a 4th RIB. With bases loaded, no pressure Mike Moss added some icing to the inning hitting a HR and driving in 3 RBI's. SF doubled down hard to stop the comeback, now trailing HT by 2 runs. This turn of events returned HT to the field and SF up to bat. All business now, you can't lead the entire game and mess-up the last inning! SF top of the batting order Scott Wilson gets on base, Gary Warrick also finds a base, Mike Braum connects with a stand-up DB to drive in one RBI, now the score is closer, HT- 15 SF- 14, can they make it a reality? Pressure on manager Coco Ondina, all players, spectators, press box, umpires are zeroing in on Coco. After two strikes in by pitcher Paul Vargo, Coca connects and it's enough, two runs score. **FINAL GAME SCORE: HT- 15 SF- 16**

Well game over, players congratulate, joke, and reunite as a RR community. The best part is yet to come, a food and drink team celebration. All of us softball "groupies" extend thanks to the loyal volunteers and spectators, who make RR softball a success every week, blistering hot and/or windy. And with that we prepare for the final week of the scheduled spring season. I know I will be preparing desert for this week's HT after party, what will a softball player use in preparation? Well I have an oven "mitt", I will use a "bunt" pan, and finally I require the "batter". Good luck to all the teams this week!