

Softball Enthusiasts,

On a beautiful day like today, aren't you glad you made it out to the Field of Dreams to catch some really entertaining softball? What? You didn't make it out? No worries. If you hurry, you can still catch one of the afternoon games. Four games taking place at the Field today. And it all started with those really cool guys from Denton Freedom House. Always the highlight of each season, some of the top athletes in the state made their way down from the Freedom House to test Robson's Finest. Youth vs. Experience. Speed vs. Finesse. Power vs. Previous Power.

The morning started off with Ron Schwertner preparing the field and Louis Berthold coordinating a dozen faithful volunteers to set up for the day's activities. Thanks, Louis, for arranging everything from team invitations to hot dogs and drinks. Today wouldn't happen if it were not for you, man. Scorekeeper Gary Peterson gathered the team lineups, Cathy Escamilla readied her scoreboard, and Peter Day had the ballpark music playing ... as each of the 6-year olds in attendance displayed their scooter speed and creative maneuvers. RRSA President Mick Calverley brought structure to the morning as he and DFH representative Chad introduced the visiting team as well as taking a couple minutes to inform all of the great service provided by the Freedom House program and all involved. Rhonda Gunther led everyone in the ballpark in the singing of the national anthem, and it was time to play ball. Bets were made by fans as to how many home runs we would witness, but everyone was shy of the EIGHT that would actually sail over the sponsor-decorated outfield fence this morning.

Former RRSA President Gary King delivered the first pitch of the game to DFH's Ryan, who quickly dispatched the ball to center for a single and 8 pitches later, DFH had scored their 5-run limit ... including a majestic home run drive over the left field fence by Austin. Confident in their ability to keep up with the younger DFHers, Steve Courtney led off the bottom of the inning with a ringing double to left center. Mike Moss followed that with a blast over the left field fence to plate Robson's first 2 runs. Special guest, Robson's very own Rhett Hubbard, after joining the base pads with his first of two hits, was coming home for run #3 ... until he was thrown out at the plate via a masterful relay throw from center to short to home ... just a split second before Rhett was able to cross home. **5-2, DFH after 1.**

Following a scoreless second, DH's Austin (you know, the HR guy from inning #1), tripled to lead off the inning and Jared ended the 5-run inning with his version of a home run blast. **10-2, DFH after 3 innings.** Home plate umpire Mike Conley made his way back to the fence where President Mick was stationed, and casually mentioned "Mick, I think we're going to need some more balls. They're disappearing pretty quickly out here."

Inning #4 started with put-outs by Gary King (pitcher) and Ken Kamrath (center), but lead-off hitter Ryan joined the home run parade, followed by that Austin guy who did it AGAIN - home run to center. Fortunately, the home team was able to match DFH's 3-run output for the

inning, as Jerry Hinson, Ron Schwertner, Steve Ward, and Steve Courtney delivered singles, followed by a ringing shot to the right-center fence by Rhett H. **After 4, DFH was still leading 13-5.**

During innings 5 and 6, DFH would manage to hit three more home runs, yet only score 2 runs (something to do with "senior math"). Unfortunately for the home team, no additional runs were to be had.

Final score for game 1 of the day - 15-5, DFH.

Considering the fact that DFH had SEVEN home runs, our Robson men kept it manageable by making excellent defensive play after play. But I must admit, it was truly entertaining to watch those young guns from DFH display their power and speed.

Coach Gregg Laffey had a great game plan, and our men displayed awesome defensive plays ... when the ball stayed inside the park. But on this day, it was Youth defeating Experience.

Thanks to George Wendt and Jeff Peck for helping Mike with the umpiring duties. And to Jan Goodwin for offering her photography talents to memorialize the daily events in pictures. And for our announcer, Peter Day, who left us with a couple Yogi Berra isms:

1. Baseball is 90% mental and the other half is physical
2. You wouldn't have won ... if we'd beaten you.
3. If you don't know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else.
4. The future ain't what it used to be, and (my favorite):
5. You should always go to other people's funerals. Otherwise, they won't come to yours.

Check out the two teams ... as they line up for Rhonda's singing of the National Anthem (below).

Cheers,
Dale Hill

PS. Denton Freedom House - keep doing your thing. It is REALLY paying off. And we hope to see you next year (when, hopefully, that Austin guy can play for us).