

## 407 BBQ versus Farmers Insurance 4/3/24

It was another great game as Farmers Insurance, under Mike Braam, took on Hal Wasson's 407 BBQ. Jimmy Reese was on the mic, Jay Parker kept the book, and Marti Connelly handled the scoreboard. Danny Thomas, Mike Connelly, and Bryan Bravard umpired at home, first, and third.

The first inning saw 407 BBQer Jack Moore turn on the heat, with a triple to right field, and scoring on Hal Wasson's RBI single. But the Farmers had their overalls hitched up and ready. Stan Isbell knocked down a hot one at second and David Ferneding pulled in a pop-up foul at home. In the bottom of the inning, Farmers seeded the field with singles by Becky Milby, Jerry Bidondo, and Mick Calverly, and a sacrifice RBI by Andy Bradshaw. The 407 BBQers defense was smoking, however, and closed the inning with Randy Kelley's heroic catch in the middle. The score after one: 407 BBQ 1 - Farmers 1.

407 BBQ added fuel to the fire in the second and third innings. Singles by newcomers Tina Moore (2), Scharice Brown Denning, Jack Moore, and Randy Kelley (2), as well as seasoned players John Coffman (2), Greg Alexander (2), Gary Warrick (2), Randy Catron (2), Steve Wetenkamp, and Hal Wasson put eight runs on the board and got Jimmy Reese talking nostalgically about singles bars.

Yet the Farmers were taking no bull on defense. Andy B. took a saucy shot at third and threw out the batter. Becky picked Hal's line drive to second. Mike Braam collected soil samples with his knees to catch a ball to left. Mike visited the grass again on offense with a towering homerun. Singles by Steve McCaskill, Stan Isbell, and Greg McElyea, plus a double by Jerry Bidondo added to the Farmers' yield. The score after three: 407 BBQ 10 – Farmers 5.

The fourth and fifth innings were a battle of shortstops. Greg Alexander did not let anything slip through the grill for 407 BBQ. Jerry Bidondo kept all hitters out of the Farmers' field, but BBQer Allen Day snuck one up the line for an RBI single.

407 BBQ poured on the sauce in the sixth. Garry Warrick sizzled to center for a stand-up double. Scharice Brown Denning salted a hit past third base for an RBI single. Jack Moore burned one to right for an RBI triple. Randy Catron sent some spice to center for a final run. But the Farmers were not ready to hit the hay. After singles by Stan Isbell and Jerry Bidondo, Mick Calverly harvested a stand-up triple to right. The score after six: 407 BBQ 15 – Farmers 6.

After a flip flop at the beginning of the seventh, Farmers picked up two more runs with a double by Greg McElyea and a homerun by Mike Braam. Unfortunately, there was no bumper crop for the Farmers tonight. 407 BBQ took home the win, 15 to 8.