

SafeLifts (0-1) vs. 407 BBQ (1-0)

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Attendance: (37 + 4 dawgs)

Due to recent rainouts, this evening's game is only the 2nd game for both Teams. Hal Wasson's **407 BBQ** (1-0) squad is looking to build on a solid game one win while Mike Lorenc's **SafeLifts** (0-1) bunch is looking to bounce back from a tough one run loss.

- ✓ The pregame line was "**pick-em**" with the over/under coming in at **34**.

The Press Box crew was primed with "**The Voice**" Jimmy Reese on the mic, Bob Riley handling the book and Carl Caruso the scoreboard. Spectators were treated to a stirring rendition of the National Anthem performed by no other than fan favorite Ronda Gunther. The Umpire Crew of veteran umpire Clyde Ziegler at HP, Andy "**The Raven**" Bradshaw at 1B and John Tanner at 3B assumed positions as 407 BBQ took the field.

Kelly Wissink (#7) and Jay Wissink (#11) greeted pitcher, Gary Warrick with back-to-back singles. Gary was not thinking *Slurpee* as the SafeLifts side was thinking "*Oh Thank Heaven for 7-Eleven*"! Jeske follows with an RBI single. Following an out, Sean Curry blasts a triple to center scoring two more. A Dan Shanahan double plates the 4th and final run of the inning for SafeLift.

407 BBQ shaves the lead in half on a Mathiessen single followed by a crushed RBI triple to right by Wasson. Allen Day drives in Wasson with a single before SafeLift turns a double play to end the inning.

End of 1: SafeLifts – 4 / 407 BBQ - 2

Gunther opens the second inning with a blast to left center circling the bags for a HR. Bravard follows with a single and Burke a double. A Boudreau single scores two more. 407 turns a nice double play, however the 7-11 Wissink duo hit consecutive singles and Jeske blasts a double to score runs 4 and 5.

Stunned from the SafeLift offensive barrage, 407 BBQ goes quietly in their half.

End of 2: SafeLifts – 9 / 407 BBQ - 2

A Lorenc walk, Ford single and a towering 3-run dinger over the left field fence by Shanahan provided the offense before 407 BBQ turns two to end the inning.

407's bats come to life with consecutive singles from Catron, Wetenkamp and Sharice Brown Dennis (RBI). Williams keeps it going with an RBI double setting the table for Wasson who nails a 2-run double to right. Kelley singles in the 5th and final run.

End of 3: SafeLifts – 12 / 407 BBQ - 7

Warrick takes BBQ's momentum to the mound and holds SafeLift to one run delivered on a Burke double and a Mindy Shanahan run scoring single.

407 BBQ doubles down with another 5-spot. Consecutive singles by Marlene McNemar, Coffman and Alexander load the bases for Warrick who helps his cause with a timely 2-run single. Following 2 quick outs, Sharice Brown Dennis drives in 2 more with a single. A Williams single and Mathiessen RBI single plates the 5th run.

End of 4: SafeLifts – 13 / 407 BBQ - 12

Undaunted, SafeLift puts 4 up on the board with a Jeske single and Lorenc home run plating 2 runs. A Curry single, Ford fielder's choice and Shanahan double brings savvy Dale Hill to the plate and he delivers big league with a 2-run double.

407 BBQ matches with a 4-spot of their own. Wasson starts the fireworks with his second triple, Day drives in Wasson with a single. A Kelley single and two fielder choices deliver a run before Warrick delivers another 2-run clutch single to close the scoring. Officially we now have a "Barn-Burner"!

End of 5: SafeLifts – 17 / 407 BBQ - 16

Warrick and the 407 defense holds SafeLifts to 1 run with the help of a double play and beautiful outfield catch. Pitcher Curry, one ups that posting a goose egg on the board and helped on the front end of a 1-6-3 double play finished off by a nice scoop by 1st baseman Bravard. A dual between Curry and Wasson ends the inning.

End of 6: SafeLifts – 18 / 407 BBQ - 16

Gary Warrick understands situational awareness. He understands the need to “keep it close” in the buffet and he does so surrendering only one run off back-to-back singles by Curry-Ford and a run scoring fielders choice by Shanahan stretching the SafeLift lead to 3 runs.

Needing 3 to tie and 4 for the win, Allen Day leads off with a single followed by singles off the bats of Kelley and McNemar to load the bases with no outs. In steps Coffman who delivers a 2-run single closing the gap to 1 run. Alexander follows with a single to again load the bases. Warrick steps in with visions of grandeur and promptly hit into a double play on a nice defensive play by Lorenc. With 2 outs and one run back, Catron and Wetenkamp have Gary’s back and drive in the tying and winning runs!

Final Score: SafeLifts – 19 / 407 BBQ - 20

Postscript:

Typically, a key determining metric in a softball game is explosive (or extra-base hits EBH). **SafeLift** won this metric overwhelmingly with 12 EBH (44%) against **407 BBQ** 5 EBH (16%). Tonight’s game was an example of “*Death by a Thousand Cuts*” – putting runners on base and advancing them by any means possible.

407 BBQ moves to 2-0 and has a high level of confidence heading into game 3.

SafeLift has a powerful lineup that has two 1-run losses on the ledger, but do not count this group out...they will make plenty of noise as the season moves on – *count on it!*

PSS – Shout out to Louis Bertholdt, the man possesses a solid softball mind and has an understanding of many RRSA player tendencies. His assistance in defensive positioning and positive reinforcement with the players is a valuable dugout resource that is impossible to quantify.

This Day in Baseball:

- **1935** - Babe Ruth's N.L. debut draws 25,000 to Braves Field. The Babe's two-hit debut includes a 430-foot home run off Carl Hubbell, as Boston beats New York 4-2. The Babe's contract includes a share in the team's profits.

“For the Glory”