

5 May 22 Eagle Eye vs Farmers Ins

Monday, May 2, 2022: somewhere in the not so rolling hills of north Texas. Right in the middle of nowhere, without a Kroger in sight as far as the eye can see and only a horizon that seems to be filled with sticks growing out of the ground. But alas those aren't sticks growing out of the ground, they are 2x4's sprouting up into the sky from the seeds of humanity planted by the wise ones. And behold, right in the middle of this sprouting patch of humanity is an emerald island where the air is filled with excitement and a crowd is gathering. **It is game night!** The scene is set, the warriors from Farmers Insurance to battle the warriors from Eagle Eye Care, Johnny Blecher makes the announcement and Jim Reese steps up to the plate. **PLAY BALL!**

Jim hit a hard shot to center, raced around first and slid safely into second, it is going to be that kind of night. Next up, Jim Hupp was thrown out at first, but advanced Reese to third, one out. Mike Braam hit a hard grounder for a stand up double as Jim Reese came home for the first score. The top half ended with Mike stranded on base, one run scored.

At the bottom of the first, after two quick outs, Steve Courtney hit a single, Jay Wissink hit a double, Jackie Fox hit a single, Steve Tafoya hit a double and just like that the score was 2 to 1 when the inning ended.

Because of heavy rains the night before, the game officials paid special attention to the conditions on the field, the far right field corner was muddy and the far left field corner was a swamp. Bob Kuhfuss (home plate), Bob Collins (first base) Corey Raynor (second base) and John Basse (third base) after convening, declared automatic doubles for hits to those troubled areas.

As we came to the second inning with Sean Curry pitching, Nancy Rogus hit a single followed by a single by John Jordan. Then Nancy was forced out at third as Tom Doty ran to first. Tom Neagli singled, as speedy John Jordan raced around the bases to score. Another out and Tom N was stranded on base as the inning ended.

The bottom of the second started with a quick out and then a base on balls for Pat Snider, followed by a double by Danny Thomas as Pat crossed home plate. Allen Day, hit a hard smash that was snagged in by Jim Hupp with a great throw to first for the second out. Bill Smiley got a base hit driving in Danny Thomas for another run. Kelly Wissink got to a single by beating out a very close throw to first. After a force at third for the third out the inning ended, Farmers 4, Eagle 2.

Jim Miller started out the third for Farmers with a base hit, but sadly followed by two pop up outs, one of which was a great catch by Steve Courtney at short. With two outs Jim Reese at the top of the order, hit a stand-up double. Next up Jim Hupp got a big hit to center giving Jim the time to run for home.

Although Mike Braam hit a monster shot to center field, Bill Smiley made a stupendous catch for the third out. Two runs scored to tie the game at 2 all, on to the bottom of the third.

While they played great defensively, the third was not a good inning offensively for Farmers. Although Bruce Horeftis, Steve Courtney and Jay Wissink all got to first base, after a force out and a pop up, Steve Tafoya hit a rocket down the third base line where Rocky Dudley make an all-star back handed catch for the third out retiring the inning, score is still tied at 4 all.

It was a beautiful evening, not to hot, just pleasant. But as usual these days that big wind was blowing wildly out to left field making the batters happy but driving the fielders and pitchers crazy as the ball moved around unpredictably to the whim of the wind. The fans and the players were all happy that the PA system was loud and clear so that everyone could enjoy Johnny B's running commentary on the game while George Wendt diligently kept the scorebook and Pat Sabo flawlessly operated the scoreboard.

That was the scene as we began the fourth inning with a grounder to second and a toss to first for the first out. Rocky Dudley hit a double followed by a single by Nancy Rogus. John Jordan hit a hard shot to Bob Laderach, who scooped up the ball, tossed it to Steve Courtney at second who then tossed the ball to Jay Wissink at first for great defense and the double play to end the top of the fourth, still tied at 4 all.

The bottom of the fourth starts with Sean Curry, Manager and pitcher getting a base hit. Next Bob Wheeler gets to first on a walk followed by Pat Snider also going to first on a walk. We now have the bases loaded with no outs and up comes Danny Thomas to bat. He gets a base hit, scoring Sean for one run but there is a force out at second for the first out. Then Allen Day gets a single driving in Pat Snider for another run. Bill Smiley gets a single, but Danny Thomas gets thrown out at home after a great catch by Nancy Rogus. With two outs Kelly Wissink beats out a single driving in Allen Day and then Bob Laderach gets a single driving in Bill and Kelly for the fourth and fifth runs of the inning. Score Farmers Insurance 9, Eagle Eye Care 4.

The top of the fifth didn't go well for Eagle, Linda Cawley got a base hit but there were two strike outs and a pop up fly out which retired the side.

For Farmers, the bottom of the fifth started with a double by Bruce Horeftis. Bruce moved across home plate when Steve Courtney smashed a stand-up triple. Jay Wissink hit a long drive that Jim Reese pulled in, but there was no way that the long throw in from deep center was going to beat Steve as he cruised across home plate for another run. Sean Curry got a base on balls but was thrown out on a fielder's choice on his way to second, end of inning. Score Farmers 11, Eagle Eye 4.

Eagle Eye Care was feeling the heat at the top of the sixth, being down by 7. Henry Moore started out with a single to get the inning going. Ramiro Escamillo's big hit to center was

caught for the first out. Jim Reese stepped up for a single followed by a Jim Hupp single, but Henry was forced out at third for the second out. Next up was Mike Braam who pummeled the ball to left field for a home run driving in the two Jim's, Reese and Hupp. Now we got us a ball game. Steve Ward followed that home run with a triple and Rocky Dudley gets a hit to go to first as Steve ward heads home for the fourth run. Nancy Rogus gets another hit and then John Jordan gets a hit driving in Rocky for the fifth run, end of inning, five run rule. Now the fans are on their feet as the excitement mounts.

With the score Farmers 12 and Eagle Eye 9, Eagle Eye is back at bat for the flip flop inning. Tom Neagli, Linda Cawley and Jim Miller all got on base, but Eagle Eye couldn't bring any of the runner's home, so the game ended 12 to 9 for Farmers Insurance.

It was a great game with big hitting and superb fielding by both teams. Eagle Eye Care raised the excitement level when they made a big push towards the end, but it just wasn't enough to counter the runs chalked up early by the Farmers team. Everyone had a great time, no one got hurt and now we are all pumped up for the next game. So, watch the schedule and join us at The Field of Dreams for the next exciting game.

