

May 9th – Farmers Insurance vs Rodney Landscaping

It was a stellar night and fashion was the focus when they rolled out the red carpet. The Kardashians were eagerly awaited, however after several failed attempts to land their helicopter in short center field, they had to go back to wherever it is that Kardashians come from. Although the wind kept howling, all was not lost as Jim Reese, game announcer for the evening's festivities, started down the red carpet in a bold new yellow with verde accents ensemble with a coordinated hat of matching yellow. The fans were in awe and the photographers were clamoring for the right shot. Partway down the carpet, Mike Conley, home plate ump for the game, gushed over Jim's creative fashion sense. Mike was in the middle of a conversation with Gary Warrick, 1st base, John Basse, 2nd base and Rocky Dudley, 3rd base, about possible new umpire fashions for the coming season. As I said, the focus was fashion, but you probably had to be there to appreciate the excitement.

As the teams took the field for the National Anthem the fans settled down waiting for the call to PLAY BALL! The first batter was Steve Courtney, looking very stylish in his navy Farmers Insurance jersey matched with grey baseball pants. Steve Bentley must have been caught up in Steve's fashionable look, because four balls later Steve C was on first base. Then all the bats came out, Mike Braam and Steve Tafoya got doubles, and John Gauthier, Bill Smiley, Jay Wissink and Jackie Fox all got singles, all driving in runs. Inning ends on the 5 run rule.

Debbie Hinson got the action going for Rodney Landscaping with a fly ball to short left getting her to 1st base. The action continued with doubles by Scotty Wilson and Jose Raices, and singles by Luay Ashoo, Ron Schwertner, Jerry Hinson and Pat Snider. Lots of RBI's, 5 run rule, the inning ends tied at 5 all.

The big bats didn't stop working in the 2nd inning. Allen Day hit a log ball that could have gone for extra bases, but Jose Raices pulled it in for the first out. Then Mike Jaensch, Kelly Wissink and Steve Courtney all got base hits to load the bases and Mike Braam smashed one to the fence in left for a GRAND SLAM home run. Farmers ended the inning with another 5-count.

Pitcher Steve Bentley for Rodney LS singled, then David Carl singled but Steve was forced out at 2nd for the first out. Dan Patrick singled sending David to 2nd and then Tom Neagli's single drove David in for the one-run score, inning over, Farmers 10, Rodney LS 6.

In the third, Farmers Ins wasn't ready to slow down the assault as Jackie Fox, Sean Curry, Bob Wheeler and Danny Thomas all singled. With one run already in, Allen Day hit a home run bringing in the remaining runners for three more runs. Mike Jaensch singled, advanced on Courtney's single and then reached home on Mike Braam's single. Four runs scored.

Rodney LS was feeling the pressure in the bottom of the 3rd, down eight. But Scotty Wilson's fighting spirit came through as he singled followed with singles by Ron Schwertner and Jerry Hinson. Jose Raices hit a double, three runs in to end the inning Farmers 14 vs Rodney LS 9.

There were other celebrities, not Kardashians, taking in this exciting game. One such was Betsy Cole, owner of the Farmers Insurance – Betsy Cole Agency and sponsor of our Farmers softball team. Betsy had to be happy with the team's prowess at bat and on the field, especially since she sat in the dugout with the team and was able to partake in the spirit and energy of the night. That energy continued into the 4th inning for Farmers, Bill Smiley and Bob Wheeler walked and John G, Steve T, Jay W, Jackie F, Sean Curry, and Dan T all singled, resulting in more RBI's and another 5-run rule, with Farmers chalking up 19 runs.

However, Rodney LS wasn't ready to give up and fought back with three runs in the 4th on hits by Steve Bentley, David Carl, Louis Berthold, Dan Patrick and Tom Neagli. This is a barn burner now, Farmers 19 and Rodney 12.

All this action on the field kept Marti Harnly, the official scorer remarkably busy, although in between innings she kept looking out of the corner of her eye to get a better look at Jim Reese's daring outfit. She thought the matching hat was maybe a bit too much. And Bob Porter that wise old scoreboard operator just kept his eyes looking straight forward at the scoreboard, he was too smart to get mixed up in fashion do and don'ts.

The excitement didn't let up in the 5th, Courtney hit a stand-up triple, Tafoya doubled and Day, Jaensch, Kelly Wissink, Braam and Gauthier all hit singles driving in four more runs. In addition to the hitting, there was a great defensive play when Cheryl McCally stretched out her long leg to keep a foot on home plate as she grabbed a throw to force out Mike Jaensch at home. The fans roared with appreciation for the great action.

The bottom of the 5th didn't go according to plan for Rodney LS, two flyouts, and the runner at 1st got picked off. Score, Farmers 23 and Rodney LS 12.

Farmer's big bats continued to pound the ball in the 6th with a double by Curry and singles by J Wissink, Fox, Wheeler, Thomas, Day and Jaensch for another 5-run rule.

The bottom of the 6th produced three singles, but Rodney LS couldn't get anyone around to score. With the score Farmers 28 and Rodney LS 12, the game went to the flip flop inning. Tom Neagli and Cheryl McCally singled and were brought home with hits by Luay Ashoo and

Ron Schwertner, but it was just too little too late, final score Farmers 28 and Rodney LS 14.

What a fantastic way to spend a beautiful summer evening, a high-scoring game with lots of action, celebrities, red carpets, helicopters, and fashionistas.

And remember, when it comes to fashion, Kelly Petre our great Seniors Commissioner, once said; WINNING IS GREAT, BUT LOOKING GREAT IS DEVINE.

Always look your best and join us for the next game at The Field of Dreams.

Ken Quarfoot, at your service