

October 27, 2022, Farmers Insurance vs Adams Furniture

Excitement was in the air as the crowd streamed into the Field of Dreams for the last playoff game leading to Saturdays big Robson Ranch Softball World Series game. George Wendt, at home plate; Nancy Rogus and Greg Laffey in the field, having inspected the field conditions, met with the coach Sean Curry and sub coach Jerry Bennett. After the National Anthem, George got Lulu and the crowd fired up with his call to, "PLAY BALL". Mick Calverley was ready on the mound as Steve Courtney for Farmers, stepped into the batter's box. It didn't take long for the action to unfold, Steve hit a screamer right over third base for a single. Not to be out done, Kelly Wissink singled to left. The next two batters hit hard grounders between third and short, John Gauthier for a single and Jay Wissink for a double, sending Steve and Kelly to home for the first two runs and still no outs. Steve Tafoya drew a walk, Jackie Fox, Spenser Folsom, and Greg McElyea all singled sending three more runners across home plate for the fifth run, inning over. Wow, that was a heck of a start that kept Pat Sabo on the scoreboard and Jeff Peck doing the scorebook, busier than they expected for first inning action.

Well, they didn't have time to catch their breath, as the Adam's team prepared for their version of first inning action starting with Coco Ondina hitting a double to right field. Mick Calverley followed with a double to left, sending Coco home for the first run. Jimmy Reese hit a hard to field short pop up that turned into a single as Mick moved to third. Mike Braam smashed a ground ball to center for a double, Mick went home, and speedy Jimmy put on the afterburner to buzz past third on his way to home, for the third run. What in heavens name did these teams have for breakfast this morning? With no outs in the bottom of the first, the two teams have already accounted for seven base hits, three doubles and eight runs. Well, it didn't end there, as Ken Ford, John Coffman and Tom Gunther all singled to drive in two more runs for a total of five, inning over.

Lulu, here we are, 5 – 5 at the end of one and if you can believe it, only one out has officially been recorded. Have you ever seen a game like this? No, I have not, and it is very exciting, but you know I have only seen three other games before this one. I am excited to see inning number two. OK, on to inning number two.

The action took a pause in the second inning. Jeff Rumberger walked, Sean Curry and Gary Brown got singles, but a force at second, a strike out and a fly out to left

ended the inning for Farmers. Adams still had some steam, Randy Catron, David Popejoy, Carol Rumberger and Sharon Deputy all singled. Then Coco doubled for the second time in two at bats and Mick singled, with all that action bringing in four more runs. Jimmy Reese was up next starting at 1 and 1. He fouled the next pitch and then stood there and watched as Sean threw a strike for the third out, inning over, score 9 to 5 Adams. Lulu, what did you do to distract Jimmy on that last pitch? I just batted my eyes and called out, "oh Jimmy" and the ball just whooshed by.....

The top of the third was a crazy inning for Farmers, seven batters singled to get to first, but only Kelly Wissink and Steve Tafoya were advanced to home plate. There was one force out at second and two, mind you two throw outs at home plate, score now Farmers 7 and Adams 9.

The Adams line up for the third would scare any pitcher, Braam, Schwertner, Ford, Coffman and Gunther. Well, they are intimidating on paper and in most innings, but in this inning Farmers met the challenge. Braam got to first and as usual, speedy got to third on Ron's single. Ford singled, but Ron was forced out at second and Mike crossed home. Coffman hit to first moving Ford to third. John Gunther came to bat, and everyone was ready to score more runs. At the sound of the crack of the bat the runners took off, but John's line drive went right into Steve Courtney's glove, who made a great throw to first to catch Coffman off of the bag for the third out, side retired. Score Adams 10 and Farmers 7.

Lulu, what is troubling you? Why they not have an announcer? Well, I don't know, but I think that problem was just solved because that jack of all trades, the renaissance man of softball, the one and only Johnny 'B' Blecher jumped into the void and announced the rest of the game. Are you happy now Lulu? I only have one question, does a play Sinatra music? I don't think so, we should just be happy to have an announcer, so let's get on with the game.

Oh my, batten down the hatches, I had a feeling there was some pent up energy waiting to explode and boy was I right. Farmers started the fourth with Jeff R hitting a triple, and then George Keller, Marlene McNemar, Gary Brown, Steve C, Kelly W and John Gauthier all recorded singles, which drove in five runs to end the inning.

Jerry Bennett opened the fourth for Adams with a hit to center field. Randy Catron, David Popejoy and Carol Rumberger all contributed hits to bring in three runs for the inning.

Score, Farmers 12 and Adams 13

This is awesome, what a game with each team constantly stepping up to meet the challenge. All of this action has certainly kept the scoreboard lit up. The action continued in the fifth even though no runs were scored. Jimmy singled, Mike B flew out to left before Ron S doubled sending Jimmy to third. Ken Ford was thrown out at first on a 6-3 and then Jimmy was thrown out at home on a 3-2. No runs, but a real nail biter for the fans. Things didn't go much better for Farmers, with two force outs at second and a fly out to center for a quick three outs.

At the end of five it was still Farmers 12 and Adams 13, on to the sixth.

Adams couldn't generate much action in the sixth, basically a quick three outs. Farmers seemed to have a second wind and came on strong in the sixth, starting with singles by Greg McE, George K and Sean C all getting to first base. Then Marlene walked followed with hits by Gary, Steve, Kelly, John and Jay, resulting in eight more runs being scored. A couple fly outs for the second and third outs ended the game with Farmers coming from behind to win with a batting extravaganza. Final score Farmers 20 and Adams 13.

It was a hard fought game, and each team should be proud of their play. Congrats to Farmers and good luck in the big game against Rodney Landscaping to earn 'Champion' bragging rights until next spring.

It has been a great season. Lulu and I have enjoyed every minute of this season's sportsmanship, great softball and especially the ongoing friendships and camaraderie that the RRSA brings to our community. We are already looking forward to next spring and hope to see you there.