

Home Tint Eclipsed Argyle Dental 24 – 12

Monday, April 8th

Monday night at the Field of Dreams turned out to be a practically perfect evening in most every way except for one injury. Home Tint's (HT's) lead-off hitter, SS Clint Owen pulled a hammy as he singled to open what was a fun game. Get healed up Clint!

Jimmy Reese was our Announcer, and it just doesn't get any better than his wit & humor coupled with his unique view of the action. Jackie Fox kept the Scorebook straight, just not Jimmy; and Pat Lewis was our expert Scoreboard Operator. Steve Pratt handled the umpire duties at Homeplate on what turned out to be a beautiful evening. George Wendt patrolled the 1st base side with Umpire John Tanner working the left side.

The teams were well coached with Commissioner Bob Riley leading Home Tint and Frank Kaker leading Argyle Dental (AD) at the plate and in the field (3/3, Trip, 2 RBIs). Argyle Dental started off with 8 straight hits and almost did that again two other times, but Home Tint poured on the heat all 6 innings that they batted. The best part was that every player on both teams got at least one hit. Both teams had 42 at bats with Home Tint getting on base at a .740 clip. Argyle Dental only had two fewer hits, but the deciding factor was the 12 extra base hits that HT smashed versus 5 extra base hits for AD. Plus, HT was fast across their entire line up.

The ladies of both teams stood tall. Debbie Hinson (AD) and Carol Rumberger (HT) at 2nd base both had a sterling defensive night recording 10 put outs between them. Teresa Tucker was part of that 'put out' team when she was holding down 1st base for AD. Carol

topped it off with a 3 for 4 night with an RBI and a triple after getting harassed by Announcer Jimmy Reese. Carol drove one that just got inside the left field foul line and down to the corner for her RBI triple (almost a home-run). Talking about handling stress, Tracey Ginnings led off the 6th inning for AD with a 'hot' ground ball up the middle, just out of reach of the lunging & plundering Mike Slocum.

Mike Slocum plundered AD for at least 9 outs (that I remember), was 4 for 4 with a double and 3 RBIs. Coco Ondina was just as MVPish at rover for AD, he just did not get quite as many plundering opportunities but was opportunistic at the plate with 3 doubles and 4 RBIs as he went 4 for 4.

The pitchers of both teams had a good night with AD's tandem of Tom Doty and rookie, Rick Watkins both getting 2 hits while HT's tosser, Larry (LTrain) Lewis grunted his way for 3 hits.

Speaking of rookies, AD's Danny Silva came through with a clutch hit while HT's Joe Wolfinger (4/4, 2 Dbls, 4 RBIs) was perfect at the plate and his teammate, Jeff Vaka with 2 doubles and an RBI hit the ball so hard he literally knocked over a couple of fielders and on a sinking line drive to left field he made a spectacular, diving 'miss,' but oh was it ever impressive.

How about the rest of Argyle Dental? Jim Hupp (3/4, Trip, RBI) had 6 put outs & gapped HT for a triple. Tim Williams was 3 for 3 and Jerry Hinson was 3 for 4 with 4 RBIs. There was a play in the 6th inning involving two ladies and two men; Louis Berthold called out something about 'Little Sexy.' As the teams traded the field I asked Louis, "Who you calling sexy?" He said, "Flatt, he's 'Little Sexy,' but I'm still 'Big Sexy'." I was so stunned by the incongruity of those two monikers that I didn't even have a comeback. But it is no longer 'Chief' Flatt, instead 'Little Sexy.' 'Little Sexy' Flatt and Mike Jaensch

held down the corners of the infield for AD with Mike Jaensch flashing some leather and making several outstanding, quick reflex plays at 3rd base plus hitting 3 for 4 on the night.

Home Tint had a ton of sparkling play on the night, on the field and at the plate. Weldon Wallace and Luay Ashoo joined the 4 for 4 perfect club at the plate with Weldon ripping a double and banking 5 RBIs. Bruce Horeftis, one of most entertaining players, talked himself into a double and a couple of RBIs and after scoring all the way from 1st base, told the catcher, “You didn’t expect me to stop at third, did you?” Having Steve Bentley as a sub on HT’s roster was a twofer. HT got a back-up pitcher, if needed, plus someone who could manage the sun on fly balls to right field.

But...for my money, Home Tint’s Steve Ward had the game of the season doing even the little things well. He turned a potential error into an out at second. The big lefty sent two inside pitches into the sun in right field and when they tried him on the outside of the plate, he drove one deep to left field. He had a double, two triples and a game leading 6 RBIs. In the parking lot I congratulated Steve on a fine game. I said, “When did you add the line drive to the opposite field to your repertoire?” He said, “I’m getting my tournament game ready.” No kidding!

As always, fun night!

Cheers,

Johnny B