

# Home Tint (0-1) vs. Tommy's Hi-Tech Automotive (1-0)

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Attendance: 21 (0 Paid)

This evening's game kicked off week two of the RRSA Co-ed season with both Team's looking to build on their game one performance.

Considering game one results, cool/breezy weather conditions and two veteran pitchers in Larry "L-Train" Lewis for Home Tint (HT) and Joe Lecroy (Tommy's HT), the pregame line was a tight one (Home Tint +3) with the over/under at 33.

The Press Box crew was primed with Johnny Blecher on the mic, Carl Caruso handling the book and Linda Cawley the scoreboard. The Blue Crew was in position with veteran umpire George Wendt at HP, Andy "*The Raven*" Bradshaw at 1B and Kevin Buckrucker at 3B. Following the National Anthem it was time to play ball!

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Following a quick out, Home Tint's, Carol "Heinz 57" Rumberger displays her speed by legging out an infield single. Larry Lewis draws a walk bringing Mike "The Real Deal" Slocum to the plate who delivers a single to drive in the first run. A Dale Hill 2-bagger drives in 2 more runs and a Henry "*Hypnotoad*" Moore single delivers HT's 4<sup>th</sup> run.

Tommy's HT lead off batter, Bob Laderach, greets pitcher Larry Lewis with a line shot that Larry's cat-like reflexes saves himself and delivers the first out. New comer, Asha Jones displays her speed by beating out an infield single...she's really quick! A Dale Frazier double brings Mike Moss to the plate with 2 outs and he delivers a most improbable infield single driving in a run. Singles by Tom Beaury and Melissa Werstein drive in 2 more before the last out is recorded on a nice "scoop" at 1<sup>st</sup> Base by first year player, Donna Nikisch.

## **End of 1: Home Tint – 4 / Tommy's Hi-Tech Automotive - 3**

Home Tint opens the inning with three consecutive singles. With two quick outs it appeared as though Lecroy may get out of the inning. Big "Lefty" Steve Ward had other plans as he launched a towering drive to the RCF fence clearing the bases with a triple. Mike "Crazy Legs" Braam drives in Ward. Rumberger's second hit moves Braam to second and Lewis helps his cause by driving in the 5<sup>th</sup> run.

Lewis delivers a "goose egg" holding Tommy's HT to no runs allowing only a single to Jerry Bennett. Second baseman Rumberger figured in all 3 outs including one of her "Stature of Liberty" catches – she sure is a patriotic one!

## **End of 2: Home Tint – 9 / Tommy's Hi-Tech Automotive - 3**

Home Tint manages to score 3 more in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Following a Slocum single, middle relief pitcher, John Westbrook, rolls a double play. With 2 outs and nobody on Home Tint went to work. Dale Hills displays his plate savvy by working a walk. Moore does the same bringing Clyde "Aggie" Ziegler to the plate who drives the ball into the right field corner for a 3-run homer! Ziegler has worn out right field the first two games displaying an uncanny ability to drive the ball to the opposite field. Nikisch's second single a Charlie Dobson walk and Horeftis single loads the bases before Westbrook gets out of the jam on a sweet play by 2<sup>nd</sup> baseman, Aasha Jones.

Down 12-3, Coach Lecroy and Team knew they needed a response...and they got it plating 5 runs! Coach starts it off with a single followed by singles off the bats of Laderach and Jones. Frazier steps in and delivers a double driving in two. Spencer Folsom drives in 2 more with a line single. Following a Moss single Beaury drives in the 5<sup>th</sup> run.

### **End of 3: Home Tint – 12 / Tommy's Hi-Tech Automotive - 8**

Pitcher Westbrook has a solid inning allowing only singles to Home Tint's Joe Dougherty and Braam while posting a goose egg on the board.

Tommy's HT opens their half with a Werstein single. She is erased on a Leprevost fielders' choice. Corey Klessig drills a double driving in the speedy Leprevost. A Bennett fielder's choice scores Klessig. Silva singles before 3<sup>rd</sup> baseman Ziegler ends the inning with a nice snag of a liner off the bat of Westbrook.

### **End of 4: Home Tint – 12 / Tommy's Hi-Tech Automotive – 10**

As Lecroy returns to the mound for Tommy's HT, Slocum drills a ball to the fence but through some well executed throws/cut-off's is thrown out at home plate...quite the play. Lecroy shuts down the HT bats only allowing a Hill single.

Lecroy does it with his bat too leading off with a single. A Jones walk is bookended by two web gems by Bruce Horeftis. First catching a sinking liner off the bat of Laderach and battling the sun/wind to catch a Frazier fly. A Folsom single drives in Lecroy and a Moss double drives in two more runs with Moss being pegged out attempting to stretch out a triple.

### **End of 5: Home Tint – 12 / Tommy's Hi-Tech Automotive – 13**

Needing to respond, Home Tint found some offense scoring three to recapture the lead. A Ziegler single opened the inning. Following an out and a fielder's choice, back-to-back doubles by Horeftis and Vaka and a Dougherty single netted 3 runs.

Down 2 runs, Tommy's HT retake the lead with 3 of their own. Four consecutive singles from Beury, Werstein, LePrevost and Klessig and a fielder's choice provide the offense before pitcher, Jeff Vaka shuts down the bats.

### **End of 6: Home Tint – 15 / Tommy's Hi-Tech Automotive – 16**

Time for the "Buffet Inning"! With the game on the line, lead off batter Mike Braam approaches the plate while his "walk up song", ***Beat It*** plays over the PA System. Mike promptly beats out a double. He takes third on a fielder's choice and scores on a Lewis sac fly to tie the game. A Slocum double and Weldon Wallace single puts Home Tint on top by one. What happens next is why the RRSA needs to consider adding on-field cameras to the budget to catch game action. Lefty, Dale Hill drills a pitch towards the left field line for a sure triple (if not a HR). As the ball is sinking and curving towards the line, Tom "Terrific" Beury (*who just earned this nickname*) comes out of nowhere to somehow reach across his body and snag the ball before it hits the ground in what may stand as "the play defensive play of the season"

With the fans still abuzz about the Beury catch, Tommy's HT needed 1 to tie and 2 to win. Lecroy leads off with a walk followed by a Laderach single and a Jones walk loading the bases bringing Frazier to the plate. Dale drops a ball into shallow right field scoring two and delivering the win for the visitors.

### **Final Score: Home Tint – 17 / Tommy's Hi-Tech Automotive - 18**

#### **Postscript:**

This was a close, exciting and well played contest. The defensive superlatives delivered by both teams throughout the game were impressive considering the weather conditions and this being only the second game for both squads. Both Team's will look to build off this performance. What can the coaches do to put their players in the best position to be successful moving forward and how do they coach them up positionally and at the plate? Another key task Head and Assistant Coaches will need to embrace throughout the season is the ever-important role subs play in these games and how best these "puzzle pieces" fit.

#### **This Day in Baseball:**

- **1996** – Lumbering Tigers slugger Cecil Fielder steals the first base of his career in his 1,097<sup>th</sup> game. He will steal another before season's end.

*"For the Glory"*