

Monday, October 17th Game Report: 407 BBQ versus Home Tint

What a lovely cool fall evening, a mostly sunny 67F with a cool N15 mph wind. Not an evening you want to waste sitting in a chair streaming an X-rated movie. Besides, this is the start of a very impotent (oops, important) final week for softball here on the ranch. There are currently 3 teams tied for first (407 BBQ among them) and 4 teams tied for second (Home Tint being one of them). This week's game results determine the playoff seeding for each team. Just a bit of housekeeping tips before game start: dress in layers to stay warm, a blanket came in handy by the 5th inning, bring a towel or pillow to keep your tooshie warm on the steel benches, and finally enjoy a hot toddy in that yeti cup. As I look up to the press box, I can already hear some cool tunes playing, George Wendt is filling in as tonight's announcer as Linda Cawley warms up the scoreboard and Bob Riley sharpens his pencils to keep the scorebook. Umpires Larry Studinski (HP), Danny Thomas (1st) and Carol Rumberger (3rd) are now meeting with HT Manager Tom Neagli (visitors team) and 407 BBQ Manager Mike Moss (home team). Not being a Manager I am not sure what they discuss during this gathering, I will have to ask Tom, for all I know it could be just a little smack talk. Rhonda Gunther waits for the teams to line-up, and then sings our National Anthem, game on!

1st Inning:

Mike Braam (crazy legs) leads off the HT batting order tonight; (I asked Manager Tom Neagli why he put Mike B as the lead-off batter; his answer simply; he didn't want him to chase down and run over any player on base in front of him – i.e., crazy legs), he sinks a single. Catcher Lois McElyea got the first out for 407 on a high hit foul ball by Dianna Duncan, but Ken Ford followed with a double, then 407 RF Tom Gunther stole beautiful hit fly balls from both Mike Lorenc (RBI-scoring Mike B) and from Tom Neagli, leaving HT with one scored run. Linda Caron led off 407 with a hit that was intercepted by SS Mike Lorenc for HT's first out; Charley Dodson started a run of 4 singles, John Coffman, Greg McElyea, and Lois McElyea, but HT had sharp field work and were twice able to get two outs on runners coming to 3rd base. Inning over:

SCORE: 407 BBQ-0 HT-1

2nd Inning:

HT Joe Nuttall had a lovely fly ball, but 407 ROV Mike Moss shut it down, Mike Flatt singled but was left stranded on base as the next two batters hit fly balls caught by the 407 defenders leaving HT scoreless. After a scoreless first inning Mike Moss led his team with a triple, Joe Lecroy followed with a double (RBI), Louis Berthold singled for a second RBI, Ramiro Escamilla singled, but after a strike out, a Kelly Wissink single getting Ramiro out at 2nd, and grounder to the HT SS for the 3rd out, 2 runs score for 407. **SCORE: 407-2 HT-1**

3rd Inning:

Jeff Duncan got HT on base with a single, Randy Catron singled catching Jeff out at 2nd base, on a single by Marti Harnly the 407 infielders got a double play leaving HT scoreless. Tim Doney led off 407 with a single, Linda Caron and Charley Dobson both singled, bases loaded as John

Coffman sends a rocket towards RF which was chased and caught by Tom Neagli, but scoring an RBI, Greg McElyea's single caught a runner out at 3rd, and the final out came from SS Mike Lorenc rifling to Mike Flatt on 1st base catching Lois McElyea in time. **SCORE: 407- 3 HT-1**

4th Inning:

This would be a short inning for HT, one, two, three and it was over. However, those 407 people would capitalize on every opportunity. Mike Moss again started off with a single, Joe Lecroy copied, Louis Berthold drew a walk, 2 RBI's would score on a Ramiro Escamillo single, Ken Cline was hoping for a triple but HT-LC Dianna Duncan ended that dream with a great catch, one out, but Kelly Wissink did her own thing scoring an RBI, Tom Gunther also singled (RBI), ending with Tim Doney blasting a double to bring in the 5th RBI and conclude the 407 attack. **SCORE: 407-8 HT-1**

5th Inning:

The HT needed to produce some runs. Ken Ford started the HT batting order but was called out at 1st, Mike Lorenc had a stand-up double, a solid single by Tom Neagli, a Joe Nuttall walk, another double (2 RBI's) from Mike Flatt, a single from Marlene McNamar, excitement, but then 407 was able to get two more outs leaving 2 runs scored by HT. 407 didn't waste any time turning this into another big inning. That Linda Caron starts the festival with a single, Charley Dobson doubled, John Coffman singled (2 RBI's), Greg McElyea singled, Lois McElyea singled for the first out, and Mike Moss followed with a triple scoring 2 more RBI's, Joe Lecroy's single added the 5th and final run. **SCORE: 407- 13 HT-3**

6th Inning:

Jeff Duncan started HT off with a single, but 407 had another double play, one more batter thrown out at 1st base, the inning was in the books leaving HT scoreless. Louis Berthold would start 407 off with a double, (every time I see him double, he is improving in running, go Louis), but the HT defense was hot this inning, shutting out 407 to a scoreless inning. This was a short inning for both teams. **SCORE: 407- 13 HT-3**

7th "Buffet" Inning:

HT was under pressure to shore up this score. Ty Nelson started them off with a single, Mike Braam boomed out a double, Dianna Duncan and Ken Ford singled, bringing up Mike Lorenc whose double sent home 3 RBI's, it continued with singles from Tom Neagli, Joe Nuttall (RBI), Mike Flatt (RBI), and after 5 runs the 407-crew buckled down and shut the HT attack down. **SCORE: 407- 13 HT- 8**

Both teams played their hearts out, what a valiant comeback for HT; what a great win for 407. Assisting in the team efforts tonight were the valuable subs: 407 BBQ had Kelly Wissink and HT had the services of Mike Braam and Randy Catron. Tonight, was a taste of seriousness and extraordinary efforts by both teams fighting for slots in the play-off bracket. Thanks to all the players for an exciting game!

Reporter Rosemary "Killer" Myers-Neagli

