

There was excitement in the air on August 30th as State Farm took the field against 407 BBQ for their opening game in the fall season. Your intrepid sports reporter used his press credentials and climbed to the seats reserved for the press. The skies appeared ominous as dark clouds filled the southern skies. Rhonda took the microphone for a live and inspiring performance of the Star Spangled Banner. Umpires Nancy Rogus, Bob Collins and Danny Thomas took their positions and State Farm took the field.

407BBQ came out swinging in the top of the first and singles by Linda Caron, , Ramiro Escamilla, Tom Gunter and a double by Ken Cline led to two runs. State Farm came to bat and singles by Scott Wilson and a sac fly by Coco Ondina led to their first run. 407 got two out and then the State Farm bats came alive as they loaded the bases. Mat Curtis blasted a deep fly ball that spelled trouble but Greg Mycelyea tracked it down for the final out. At the end of the first; 407 leads 2 to 1.

The 2nd inning starts with 407's Chris Walton nifty single and then a towering blast off the fence by Mike Moss brings her to third and Mike gets an easy double. Joe Lecroy drives them in with a 2 rbi single. Large and loud Louis Berthold gets an rbi single and 407 finds the bases loaded. Ramiro E shows a keen batting eye and draws an rbi walk. Mat Curtis hauls in a deep fly ball to left field to end the top of the 2nd with 407 scoring 4 runs. The skies are threatening as State Farm takes the field. 3 straight singles loads the bases for Sue Kamrath who brings in a run with a single. Bases loaded for Jamie Baggett who responds with a single and 2 rbi's. Full time sub Mike Bramm brings in another run and Coco brings in the fifth run to end the inning as the skies open up. The game is called with the score tied 6 to 6 and will be completed at a later date.

Sunday, September 11th was a glorious day for softball as the two teams reconvened to finish the game. After a moment of silence for 9/11, the teams took the field. It's the top of 3rd and a hit by Linda Caron and a walk by Ramiro allows Mick Calverly to drive in a run. State Farm was held scoreless by the pitching of Chris Walton and a stellar 407 defense. It's 407 by one at the end of three innings, 7 to 6.

407 starts out the top of the 4th with a single by Chris W and then Mike Moss strokes an inside the park home run deep to the fence for 2 rbi's. Singles by Bill Maynard, Tom Gunther and Stan Isbell led to two more runs. State Farm is shut out again by the stingy 407 defense. 10 to 6 at the end of 4.

407 bats remained hot as they brought in 5 runs with hits by Greg M, Mick C, Tom G and a sac fly by John Coffman. Mike Moss has another blast to bring in the 5th run. Ramiro E takes the mound for 407 and the 407 defense again leads to a scoreless inning for State Farm. 15 to 6 at the end of the 5th.

407 bats are on fire at the top of the 6th as hits by Bill M, Lois Mcelyea, Louis B, Stan I, Linda C, Ramiro E, Matt C and Mick C leads to five runs. 407 stands at 20 runs.

State Farm bats finally come alive as hits by Kelley Wissnik and a triple by Coco brings in a run. Jimmy Reese singles to bring in a run. Gary Warrick draws a walk and Matt C singles to load the bases. Jeff Rumberger drives in a run and at a close play at home plate, Garry W is called out to end the inning with State Farm gaining 3 runs.

Buffet inning starts with the flip flop called and State Farm takes the field. Mike Hodson leads with a single but then the tough 407 defense shuts them down. The game ends 20 to 9 with Mike Moss's 407 team taking the win.

It was a special game on a special day. A huge thank you to Mike Moss who shared his heart and reminded us of all those who have given their lives so that we can enjoy beautiful days like this one in safety and freedom. Please see his words below read by the announcer before the game.

*Today, Mike Moss will be playing in all black, in memory of Chris Stevens. Our entire country memorializes September 11th, but it was also on this date - exactly 10 years ago today - that U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens, and three other Americans, were murdered in Libya.*

*Chris was Mike's friend. Mike broke bread with him, drank with him, and shook his hand to wish him well on his new post, just days before he was killed while serving his country, and the people of Libya, in Benghazi.*

*Mika asks that we remember those that have given their lives for us: the First Responders, the military, the U.S. Officials and Diplomats...because of them, we enjoy this beautiful day with our friends and neighbors, blessed with safety and freedom. We thank them, and we remember them.*