

Wise Health Visits 407 BBQ on Wednesday, May 4th

As the fans were filing into the Field of Dreams stadium, Mike Conley (announcer for the evening) called everyone to stand for the National Anthem, then turned the mic over to Rhonda Gunther, who did such an awesome job leading everyone in song. Home plate umpire Danny Thomas hollered “Play Ball”, and Ramiro Escamilla delivered his first pitch of the evening.

The visiting Wise Health team managed a run in the top of the 1st, compliments of an RBI single by Tim Jeske. 407 BBQ came to the plate already having a run on the scoreboard, as the result of a team-balancing rule which compensates for substitution shortages. Thanks to FIVE walks and 3 hits, 407 posted another 5 runs to the scoreboard.

6-1, 407 BBQ wins the 1st inning

Game over? Absolutely not. These were the two (of 3) first-place teams battling it out for temporary bragging rights, and Wise came storming back with 4 runs in the top of the 2nd. Rod McDonald started the hit parade, followed by singles from Tony Ross, Christa Prim, Peter Day, Dave Riddle, Becky Milby, and a ringing double by Lisa McGlaston. After holding BBQers to 2 runs in the bottom of the inning, the score was now a bit tighter.

8-5, 407 BBQ after 2 innings.

The next two innings netted a couple of timely hits combined with TEN walks to net 9 more runs for the Wise Health team and 7 runs for the BBQers. Doubles were provided by Tim Jeske, Rod McDonald, Mike Braam, and Greg McElyea (who hit 2 – knocking in a run each time). And Mike Moss clocked a towering shot that cleared the fence – boom – a home run.

15 – 14, Wise Health was down by only 1 after 4 innings

But during the 5th and 6th innings, 407 BBQ played some of its best defense and held Wise to 1 run, which resulted from a Tony Ross double. Meanwhile, 407's John Coffman crushed two balls to center for doubles, and Commissioner Mike Braam sprinted around the bases for a home run after smashing a line drive to the fence. Consecutive hits by Linda Caron, Mike Slocum, Tom Gunther, Mike Moss, and Tim Doney resulted in 7 more runs for 407, resulting in the score of:

22 – 15 after 6 innings.

But the Wise Health team was not ready to concede. Dave McKie started the 7th and final inning with a shot to center, followed by singles off the bats of Tim Jeske, Gary Warrick, Spencer Folsom, Tony Ross, and Christa Prim. Down at this point by only 3, 407's defense shut the door and it was time to shake hands, drag the field, and get to the after-party.

Final Score: 407 BBQ 22, Wise Health 19.

Points of significant accomplishment during the game:

Power: Mike Moss' fence clearing HR; long drives to the fence by Greg McElyea, John Coffman, Mike Braam, Tim Jeske

Speed: Mike Braam isn't nick-named “Crazy Legs” for nothing, Mike Moss chasing a fly ball, and ol' Bruce Horeftis.

Golden Glove: Dave Riddle's catch of David McKie's BULLET to 3rd, Charley Dobson's running catch of Bruce's late-game drive to center, Mike Slocum diving, rolling, stopping everything shot at him all night at SS.

Ladies that really come to play: Linda Caron, Lois McElyea, Becky Milby, Christa Prim, and Lisa McGlaston had a combined batting average of .722, which matches the top hitter of our traveling team last week.

Pitchers: Our two pitchers for the evening – Gary Warrick and Ramiro Escamilla – were exceptional. And yet, both were dealing with rotator cuff issues. Both needed some innings of rest. Other folks volunteered to pitch, but's not an easy thing to do. In fact, the result was **Sixteen walks**. Cheers, to Gary and Ramiro for toughing it out.

Top-notch Volunteers: Mike Conley – Announcer, providing numerous trivia tidbits throughout the night related to RRSA history. Jackie Fox – Scorekeeper. Kathy Escamilla – Scoreboard Operator (and cheerleader for Ramiro). Danny Thomas – Home plate umpire. Mark Mills – 1st base umpire. Coco Ondina – 3rd base umpire.

Superfans: Jan & Richard Goodwin (who rarely misses a game); George Wendt (who is rarely a fan ... because he is normally playing, umpiring, game-reporting, scorekeeping, or announcing).

MVPs: Rhonda & Tom Gunther, who as Most-Valuable People, were the After-Party Hosts for 407 BBQ.

Stat Leaders for the Game:

Four hits: Tim Jeske, Gary Warrick, Linda Caron, Mike Slocum, Mike Moss, John Coffman,

Three hits: Dave McKie, Spencer Folsom, Rod McDonald, Tony Ross, Christa Prim, Lisa McGlaston, Charley Dobson, Greg McElyea, Mike Braam,

Doubles: Tim Jeske, Rod McDonald, Lisa McGlaston, Greg McElyea (two), John Coffman (two), Mike Braam

Home Runs: Mike Moss, Mike Braam

Cheers,

Dale Hill