

## **Play Offs – Kick Off**

### **And You Wouldn't Know Who Was Seeded What**

#### **Eagle Eye Care vs. 407 BBQ – May 23, 2022**

By the time I walked up to the field, Eagle Eye Care and 407 BBQ were already lined up and Rhonda Gunther was singing the Star Spangled Banner. As always, Rhonda was inspirational. I swear they started early so if you have a game this week don't dilly dally, get there pronto.

Randy Matthiessen had the microphone, Joni M ran the scoreboard and Bob Riley had the book.

We had a full umpire crew with Gary Warrick clearly barking out calls at home plate; George Wendt at 1B, John Basse at 2<sup>nd</sup> base and Coco umpiring 3<sup>rd</sup>. There might have been a huddle of umps one time, but I don't remember any controversy.

Here's what I do remember:

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Inning EEC Visitors – 407 BBG Home**

Red Team, Eagle Eye Care, Tim Winiesdorfer singled and scored when Steve Ward unloaded to the fence for a 2 run HR. Nancy Rogus singled to load the bases, but Dave Riddle and Linda Caron made sure that was it as she cleaned up her second of 3 outs on the inning.

I heard fellow umpire Danny Thomas dogging Gary Warrick. Ok, to be fair, almost everyone was getting dogged.

The Silver (sounds a little better than gray) 407 BBQers brought up one of their best; first, Linda C. She didn't disappoint. Warrick got to call an emphatic "Striiiiike!" but Linda got her hit anyway. Riddle dumped one underneath. Ramiro came in to run for Riddle and Sub, Kenny Kamrath thumped one, but Steve Ward caught it deep. Charley Dobson showed a little foot speed for a single; Bill Maynard hit a spinning single and Keenan tripled them in for the 5<sup>th</sup> run of the inning.

## **EEC 2 – BBQers 5**

### **Inning 2**

Chris Walton replaced Ramiro as pitcher and she was quick about it. She ended the scoreless inning catching Jim Miller's hot line drive up the middle. Nice catch, Chris.

I'll tell you a rookie I really like: John Coffman. I love his quickness. John opened for the BBQers with a liner over SS. After being forced out, he came back in as a pinch runner and scored from 2B with some gutsy and heads up running. Riddle almost lit up pitcher, Sean Curry, with a one-out hopper, but Sean was well up to the task.

Jimmy Reese moved over to the Girls' side of the home team stands to give the loner, Mick Calverley, a little love and company.

## **EEC 2 – BBQers 7**

### Inning 3

EEC, Linda Cawley, singled to the left side. Henry Moore reached 1st safely and Tim Winiesdorfer lined one up the middle to move Henry over. Henry raced home (even the smack talkers were impressed) to score on Jim Hupp's double. Winiesdorffer also scored, but Keenan Wallace hauled in Steve Ward's bomb and Craig Bishop went deep and we got to watch Tom Gunther pull a "crazy legs", sprawling catch at the fence.

Jimmy Reese got tired of being ignored and left the Girls' Side to go on the prowl.

Tom Gunther led off with some speed as he easily beat out a grounder deep in the hole at SS. Mike Moss nailed a hard line drive; Charley Dobson loaded the bases with a single. Then what happened? **Coach Rocky happened.** Rocky caught a screamer down 3<sup>rd</sup> base, touched 3<sup>rd</sup> base, and threw a rocket to Dana Winiesdorffer at home. She didn't flinch. Out # 3.

### EEC 4 – BBQers 7

### Inning 4

Sean Curry tripled to the LF fence and Nancy Rogus easily brought him home with a liner to center field. Ed Cawley hit one so hard that it broke through Riddle's web. We all thought he'd borrowed Jerry Bennett's glove. John Coffman (there's that rookie again) caught John Jordan's liner on the fly and that was pretty much it.

Keenan Wallace opened with a nice single for the BBQers, but Rocky Dudley made his 4<sup>th</sup>, maybe 3<sup>rd</sup>, spectacular play as he snagged Braam's screamer. No runs.

## EEC 5 – 407 7

### Inning 5

Mick was still with the Girls, but he seemed content enough. Not sure he really had freedom of speech.

EECer, Jim Miller, hit it hard and beat out the throw to first. 407's core responded and turned a methodical double play Riddle-Caron-Berthold. Henry Moore stepped up to considerable admiration and was pleased to produce a tomahawked double. I was blabbing through a Winiesdorffer double and then the inexplicable happened. Hupp chopped a grounder and his speed forced a wide throw. **Louis dove and somersaulted** trying to catch an errant throw to first. What the hell, Louis? And what are you even doing out there especially acting like Bobby Laderach and diving all over the place? Steve Ward hit one high, high, high and Crazy Legs barely had time to lay out his entire body to make one of his patented catches and stop EEC with just one run.

Louis was first up. Talk about harassment – merciless. Some of the fans were more than a little concerned when they noticed a buzzard circling Louis in the batter's box. He didn't look good. Reports of his demise were greatly exaggerated, and he burned the LF and confidently strode to 2B (no pinch runner). Ramiro went to left. Linda drove another to LF and Louis came home so slowly that the buzzard was back and circling again. Riddle shook off the willeyes and hit one to deep left for an RBI. Kenny Kamrath went to deep left, setting up a dramatic play at the plate.

From his vantage point, HP Ump Warrick called Linda C out at the plate. Umps conferred and Linda was safe. Good call. Tom Gunther kept his 'great night' going with an RBI fly to left and Charley Dobson also went hard to the left for an RBI single. Bill Maynard drove in the 5<sup>th</sup> run and the stands were a bit shocked with the emphatic statement by 407.

## **EEC 6 – 407 12**

### **6<sup>th</sup> Inning**

Craig Bishop lifted one to the fence for an easy stand-up double. Announcer, Randy Matthiessen, introduced Rocky Dudley as the man 'flashing the leather,' and Rocky promptly singled. Mike Moss put an end to EEC hopes, scooping up a shoe-top liner and doubling off the runner at first.

For good measure, 407 went off again in the bottom of the 6<sup>th</sup>. Keenan hit one over the left fielder to the fence for a HR. John Coffman hit a LD to center field. Mike Braam doubled & the new 'crazy legs II', John Coffman, scooted home. Nancy R scooped a hard ground ball and turned it into a routine out. Louis singled the real 'crazy legs' home. Ramiro lifted 'trouble' over the SS. Linda C. drilled 3B and Riddle lined a shot to load the bases. Kenny Kamrath easily advanced the final RBI.

## **EEC 6 – 407 17**

### **Inning 7**

Ed Cawley cracked a good one, but a slight change of speed on the base paths between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> looked to bring him up lame. He's a trooper. He was safe at second. Nancy R replaced him as a runner, but that was

pretty much it. Dave Riddle finished it up on defense and his 407 BBQers move on to the semifinals.

It's fun to highlight some of the big moments. I think we already covered some of the defensive gems, but one I don't think I mentioned was how Dana Winiesdorffer handled some bang-bang stressful plays at home plate. Nice glove work. Dana was rock solid. Here are your perfect batters for the evening:

### **Red, Eagle Eye Care**

Tim Winiesdorffer 3/3 with a double and RBI

Henry Moore 2/2 with a double and a crowd favorite

### **Silver, 407 BBQ**

Linda Caron 4/4 (like always) with an RBI

Keenan Wallace 3/3 with a double and a HR – 2 RBIs

Louis Berthold 3/3, double & 2 RBIs. IRDA – IR Dumb Ass

Ramiro Escamilla 3/3, RBI, and, as always, Best Dressed

It was a good game and a lot of fun.

**Red, Eagle Eye Care 6 – Silver, 407 BBQ 17**

Johnny B