

Thursday, March 30, 2023, reporting from Robson Ranch Field of dreams.

It was not the kind of day that the Chamber of Commerce likes to talk about. It was very brisk and the never ending winds pushed the cold right into your bones. Besides that, the air was heavy with a mist and the threat of rain hovered overhead as the sky grew darker by the minute. But other than that, it was a perfect day for softball. The fans (wrapped up in blankets) were loud and enthusiastic, ready for the match up between Home Tint and Rodney Landscaping.

Wearing their new orange jerseys, Nancy Rogus led off with a single for Home Tint. Ron Schwertner's double advanced her to third and singles by Tim Jeske and Dave Riddle sent them both home before the inning ended with two runs under their belt.

Bruce Horeftis led off for Rodney Landscaping with a base hit but was then forced out at second on Becky Milby's single. Two quick outs on deep fly's to both left and right field ended the inning for Rod L.

HT started the second with a double by Paul Benge, followed by John Pierini's base hit. Marlene McNemar, Joe Nuttal and John LeProvost all singled driving in two runs, but great Rod L defense, twice threw out runners at home to end the inning with Home Tint up by 4.

Dale Frazier opened with a double for RL and soon came around for the score on Luay Ashoo's deep hit to center that was pulled in by Ron Schwertner for the first out. Two quick throw outs at first ended the inning, score Home Tint leading 4 to 1.

I was expecting and hoping that Lulu would show up for the game but came to find out that she was in Las Vegas to see the Mean Green in the NIT final. I guess she couldn't resist the warm weather, palm trees, the chance to win (or lose) a few bucks all while cheering the 'Green' to a great victory. We missed you Lulu.

The hot bats continued for HT in the third, starting with Jim Hupp's double. Dave Riddle singled, driving in Jim, running furiously from second, then Stan Isbell's single advanced Dave and Paul Benge's hit sent Dave home for the second score. A couple more outs stranded Stan and Paul on base as HT ended the inning with two runs.

Other than Pat Durbin's single, the bats were quiet for RL in the third, with the inning ending 6 – 1 Home Tint leading.

Home Tint's bats never had a chance to cool off as they started the fourth with hits by Marlene McNemar, Joe Nuttal, John LeProvost and Nancy Rogus to then be followed with doubles by Ron S and Jim H, for the 5th run and the end of the inning.

That action certainly motivated the RL batters as Bruce H opened with a double, Becky M took 4 balls to get to first and then WOW, Mike Slocum got a monstrous hit to the fence for an in the park home run scoring the runners and three runs. Mike never looked at the signals, he wasn't going to be denied running like his pants were on fire, he just kept running and running. Mike had 2 HRs and 3 RBIs on the night. Rod L was back in the game, Home Tint 11, Rodney 4.

All of the action kept Tim Trotter busy at the scoreboard controls and poor Jackie Fox, who was trying hard to concentrate on the scorebook while listening to the dulcet tones of the 'King' of announcers, Jimmy Reese, who as usual entertained the fans and testing their knowledge on a variety of topics. In honor of Jeopardy, the answer to Jimmy's question was 'The Silent Generation', so now you know. Tune in next week for the question.

In the fifth, HT was still on a roll, for the next ten people in the batters' box there were 9 hits and one walk resulting in the 5 run rule kicking in to end the inning with HT jumping ahead 16 to 4.

Enough is enough, RL came out in the fifth with their bats swinging, with hits by Jimmy Parker, Pat Durbin, Becky M and Mike S and Paul's base on balls. All scored for 5 runs with the 5 run rule ending the inning and RL fighting back. Home Tint leading 16 to 9.

With the game officials, Mike Conley at home, Larry Studinski at first and Scott Baker at third, constantly accessing playing conditions as darkness continued to creep in and rain appeared to be more imminent, it was decided to shorten the game and go to a flip/flop 6th inning, leaving RL still at bat.

Dale Frazier (3 for 3) started with a 3 bagger, only to be followed by another 3 bagger by Luay Ashoo scoring Dale. Frank Castelluccio, Tom Doty and Jim Parker

had base hits scoring Luay for the second run, but things didn't go much further, and the game ended with Home Tint winning 16 to 11.

In spite of the weather, it was an exciting game, and everyone had a great time, leaving the fans with anticipation for the next game at the Field of Dreams.

See you next time,

From under a blanket somewhere in the stands, Ken Quarfoot reporting.....