

407 BBQ versus House of Carts 3/31/26—Kelly Wissink

On a windy Tuesday, home plate ump Steve Pratt started the Field of Dreams game helped by Carol Rumberger at 1st and Gary Warrick at 3rd. In the press box, Rocky Hall manned the mic, George Wendt kept the book, and Pat Sabol handled the scoreboard. Jack Moore's 407 BBQ and Andy Bradshaw's House of Carts stood ready. Play ball!

Before describing the game, this reporter must tip her hat to tonight's **virtuoso pitchers**. John Westbrook for HOC and Steve Bentley for 407 were simply spectacular, each kissing the plate's corners and edges despite the stiff wind. It was beautiful to watch.

Play in the field was also first rate, starting when David Ingram caught Tim Williams' power hit to right center in the first. But visitors 407 were undaunted. Singles by Jackie Fox, Jim Hart, and Jack Moore (RBI) set up Mike Flatt, who doubled to score two more. RBI hits by Rich Scanlan and Tina Moore put up 407's five runs.

House of Cards got the party started with singles by David I., Stacey Ingram, David Ferneding (RBI), Kim Wheeler, and Patrick Jameson (RBI). After Louis Berthold's sacrifice to left and Bryan Bravard's deep hit to center, HOC had four runs in.

End of the first inning, 407 BBQ 5 – House of Carts 4

The 407 BBQers brought the heat in the second, with singles by Cal Shanks, Bill Maynard (RBI), Jack Moore, and Jim H. (2-RBI), and doubles by Bobby Finken and Tim Williams. House of Carts' defense kept the scoring to just 4 runs thanks to two terrific catches by left fielder Joe Wolfinger. In the bottom of the inning, 407's gloves kept HOC relatively quiet, with outs by Tina Moore at 2nd, Jim H. in left, and Tim W. at short. Only John W. and David I. got the better of them to bring in two runs.

End of the second inning, 407 BBQ 9 – House of Carts 6

The third inning featured great pitching (see above) and excellent fielding. Special kudos to two plays: David F. at third and Stacey I. at second paired up for a heads-up double play in the top of the inning and Jack M. made a particularly great over-the-head-running-backwards-catch (you know, just Jack) to rob David F. of a hit to the fence in the bottom.

End of the third inning, 407 BBQ 9 – House of Carts 6

Each team added just one more run in the fourth, but the inning was anything but boring. In the top half, Stacey corralled a Tim W. shin-bruising hit up the middle, shortstop Aasha Jones threw the runner out at third, and Louis Berthold—staring into the sun and fighting a stiff wind—pulled in Jack M's towering hit to right. In the bottom of the inning, Tina M. at second and Mike F. at first returned the favor to shut down HOC.

End of the fourth inning, 407 BBQ 10 – House of Carts 7

Robson may be a hitters' league but the defense won my heart again in the fifth. Stacy I. and Aasha J. paired up for back-to-back short-to-second outs. This didn't stop 407, however, who drove in three runs on hits by Mike F., Tina M., Cal S., Bobby F. (2-RBI), and Bill M. (RBI). In the bottom of the inning, singles by David I., Stacey I., and Aasha J. set the stage for David F.'s 2-RBI triple and Kim W.'s RBI single.

End of the fifth inning, 407 BBQ 13 – House of Carts 10

The sixth inning started strong for 407. Singles by Tim W., Jackie F., and Jim H. (RBI) warmed things up for Jack M., who smacked it to the fence (of course) for a three-run, in-the-park homerun. But 407's fortunes turned suddenly on the glove of Bryan B. He was a rock at first, getting all three outs for HOC. Unfortunately for HOC, 407's Mike F. matched his first-base prowess, shutting down all three home team batters.

End of the sixth inning, 407 BBQ 17 – House of Carts 10

We flipped and flopped in the 7th inning, and House of Carts sent virtually its entire lineup to the plate in a brave comeback. Most significantly, Aasha J.'s gigantic hit to left center BOUNCED OVER THE FENCE for a ground rule RBI double, leading fans in the stands to speculate when she will hit it over the fence (just not against me, please). HOC's hitting continued: David I. (2-RBI), Kim W., Patrick J., Louis B. (2-RBI), and Bryan B. (RBI). Alas, the comeback was not to be, but thanks for the great show!

Final score, 407 BBQ 17 – House of Carts 16