

## 407 BBQ vs Rodney Landscaping

The first three innings of Thursday's night's battle between 407 BBQ and Rodney Landscaping were a defensive duel of sorts, with just four runs scored off a total of nine hits...and one of those was off the elbow of third base umpire, Mick Calverly, so I'm thinking that one might not actually count. (No worries...Mick is okay. He grabbed an ice bag and just kept going. We make 'em tough here at the Ranch.) But I digress...let's get back to the beginning...

The scoring began when Chris Walton drove the ball up the middle to score John Coffman who led off the first with a triple for 407. That was the start...and the end of the scoring in the first. In the second, George Wendt sent Jerry Hinson barreling home as he punched one over second base into short right field. Steve Wardlaw then drove one hard past second, scoring Luay Ashoo. Rodney Landscaping had just put two runs on the board. However, 407 added one run of their own as Ed Cawley came home on Jay Wissink's ground ball to RL shortstop, Mike Lorenc. At the end of two, we were all tied up 2-2. The score remained tied through three as both teams were shut down in the third with only three runners reaching base. Mike Lorenc did his best to keep that number down to two with a highlight reel worthy snag of Dave Riddle's sharply hit grounder up the middle, but first base umpire, Dan Andrews, let us know that Dave beat out the throw to first, giving 407 their first of only two base runners of the inning. **So at the end of three, the score remained tied 2-2.**

But not for long....

Top of the fourth...407 took the field. The Rodney Landscaping players were gathered in the dugout until home plate umpire, Carol Rumberger, made the call, "Batter Up!" Rodney Landscaping, hopes held high, sent their first batter, Mike Braam, to the plate. He drove a hard ground ball to the left side of the infield, but the 407 defense had him played perfectly. One out. The second batter stepped up, sending a long fly ball out to left field...going, going...going...caught! Out number two. Those high hopes might have been dropping just a bit. Batter number three, Myron McKinney stepped in and sent a line drive into short right field. Finally! Runner on first base, you're thinking? Oh no! He stretched it into a double. RL had a man in scoring position with two outs and Jerry Hinson headed to the plate. He launched one into short left for a single. Runners on first and second... still two outs. Ken Kamrath stepped in and drove the ball hard back into short left once again. Bases were now loaded for Luay Ashoo. Would he crack under the pressure? Not likely! Luay lofted the ball once again into short left field. Two runs scored. Momentum was building and you could feel the energy in the RL dugout. George Wendt, never one to disappoint, then drove a shot into the hole between short and third for an RBI single. Three runs had now scored. Steve Wardlaw was headed to the plate. Could he keep the two out rally alive? Oh yeah! Short left field again...the sweet spot for the RL hitters... a single for Wardlaw. Bases were loaded once again. Ken Ford then slapped a line drive to...you guessed it...short left field...driving in two runs to end the top half of the inning. RL had put the maximum five runs on the board. In the bottom half of the inning, 407 scored one run off Mike Moss' inside the parker to make the score **7- 3 in favor of Rodney**

**Landscaping at the end of four.** That score would hold through five as, once again, both teams were shut down in the fifth.

Rodney Landscaping would break loose once again in the sixth, putting four more runs on the board and holding 407 to two hits, so that **the score at the end of six was Rodney Landscaping 11 - 407 BBQ 3.** With the sun going down and RL up by eight, the Flip Flop rule was put in place. 407 put a string of hits together including a triple off the bat of Greg Mcelyea, a single by Chris Walton, sending Greg home, and a double off the bat of Jay Wissink. In the end, 407 managed to put two more runs on the board before Rodney Landscaping registered the final out, ending the game with a **final score of 11 - 5.**

The winner on the scoreboard this time was Rodney Landscaping, but the real winners were the fans who got to enjoy another evening of amazing...and sometimes not so amazing (but that's part of the fun! ;) softball here at the Field of Dreams. Huge thanks goes out to all those behind the scenes who make these evenings possible...umpires, team managers, RRSA board, press box crew, and so many more. Tonight our press box was expertly run by three unsung heroes: Peter Day on the mic, Kathy Escamilla on the scoreboard, and Ron Schwertner keeping the book. Thanks y'all!

If you haven't joined us out for a game in a while, we'd love to see you! We'll be out there all next week. Games begin around 6:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday or you can catch the Seniors at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings. See you there!