

Robson Softballers,

How about a hand 🤝 for our Game Reporter Extroidenaire, Mr. **Jeff Duncan**. Keep in mind Jeff broke his arm this Spring before the first game, so he hasn't played an inning of softball this year. Yet, this morning he was Coaching a Seniors team to victory, and this evening was attending the 407 - Home Tint game so he could provide you with this exciting game report. Let's see how the contest unfolded.

It was a perfect evening for softball at Robson Ranch between Tom Neagli's first place 407 BBQ (5-1) and John McNemar's third place Home Tint (4-2). What kind of game would it be, an offensive slugfest or a defensive battle? Games cannot happen without the behind the scenes help so Paul Neal manned the announcer booth, assisted by scorekeeper Pat Lewis and Carol Rumbarger running the scoreboard. George Wendt was behind the plate assisted by Kevin Buckrucker at first (who earned his pay for this game) and Bob Duncan at third. Our own Ronda Gunter gave a stirring rendition of our National Anthem and it was time to play ball!

407 pitcher Larry Lewis throws the first pitch and shortstop Steve Courtney gave a quick impression of a Hoover Vacuum cleaner with two bang bang plays to get two outs. Ron Schwertner gets the first hit and Tim Jeske brings him home for the first run. Shortstop Steve snags a line drive and accounts for all three outs, Home Tint is held to one run.

Home Tint pitcher John McNemar gives up a double to leadoff batter Tom Neagle. Mike Flatt brings him home with a single but thats it for 407. Sub David McKie made a highlight worthy catch in left field for the final out. Its a 1-1 game after one inning.

No runners crossed home plate in the second inning. There were a few hits from both sides but the defense was solid, some close plays at first base but Umpire Ken made all the right calls.

In the top of the 3rd, John M starts out with a single but the defense shuts them down. Tom Neagli made a diving catch in center for the 3rd out and rolls around the grass. It was a costly catch though as he broke his \$200 Oakley sunglasses. 407 comes to bat and Home Tint gets two quick outs. Sub Jackie Fox gets a nice single, Jackie is an iron lady as it was her third game of the day, she played in both senior games earlier. David McKie gets another highlight reel with another great catch in left field. It's a defensive gem so far with the score still locked at 1-1.

The only way to overcome 407's strong defense is to wake up the Home Tint bats. Ron S leads off with an inside the park home run and the next batter Tim Jeske follows up with another home run. Stan Isbell singles, Sub Ramiro Escamilla brings him home. David M singles and John LePrevost singles to load the bases. Marlene McNemar singles to drive in two more runs and Home Tint puts up a five spot. 407 comes up in the bottom of the 4th and their bats find some pop. Steven Courtney singles, sub Mike Lorenc singles and sub Gary Warrick singles to load the bases. Charley Dobson raps a 2 rbi double. Ronda G singles and brings in two more runs. Home Tint shortstop Tim J makes an outstanding over the shoulder catch of a pop fly and holds on as he hits the grass and rolls for the third out. Home Tint leads 6-5 after 4.

John M leads off for Home Tint with a solid single and then Matt Curtis drives him in with a blast that rolled to the fence. Matt tried for the home run but was called out at the plate with a bang bang defensive play. No more runs score as we head to the bottom of the 5th. New Home Tint pitcher Ramiro gets a quick out and then Tom Neagli tries to stretch a single into a double and gets called out in a very close play at second. These umpires are

sure getting a workout tonight. Another out and the defensive battle rages on with Home Tint leading 7-5 after five.

It's a fast game as Home Tint scores no runs in the top of the 6th. 407 comes to bat and Home Tint third baseman Ron S snags two back to back line drives for two quick outs. Mike L singles and Garry W brings him home with a double. That's their only run and we head to the buffet inning with Home Tint leading 7-6. What a nail biter and one of the lowest scoring games we have seen in quite some time.

Home Tint is hoping to add to their score but the 407 defense digs deep and shuts them down. 407 comes to bat needing three runs for the win. Home Tint gets 2 quick outs, could this be an upset in the making. 407 threatens, sending a high fly ball to left center field, but the ball finds the glove of Matt Curtis for the final out. Home Tint wins 7-6. Robson Ranch softball games are known for their offensive firepower so it was refreshing to see a well played defensive game with great plays. What a great day for Robson Ranch softball! Now with 3 teams with the same winning percentage, I can't wait to see how Commissioner Mike decides the seeding for the playoffs.

Jeff Duncan