

19 May Farmers Insurance vs Adams Furniture--- Ken Quarfoot

It seemed like every other day. I was up early, at the pickleball courts by 7 o'clock, then home by 10:00. Eggs, sausage, hash browns, a glass of OJ and a couple of cups of coffee while I read the paper. Threw everything in the dishwasher and poured another cup of joe and sat down in a comfortable chair while I caught up on email. Like every other morning, the head starts bobbing and the next thing I know I am waking up from a 30 minute power nap. Those hash browns must soak up all of the coffee which is why the coffee doesn't keep me awake. Then it was time to get things done around the house. Such a hot day with the wind gusting and gusting none stop, I was hot, dirty and tired. Time for a shower and get cleaned up in time to see what happened on the stock market. After seeing what happened on Wall Street, I was glad it was 4:00 and time for a large adult libation. I made it through dinner and helped with the dishes, but my head started bobbing again, so I prepared a second libation because my back or elbow or something was sore, and I found my recliner beckoning to me. I tipped that recliner all the way back and I kind of remember an old Law and Order on TV, one that I had seen so many times I knew the script word for word. That is when it all got fuzzy and the next thing I knew I was waking up and my wife was asking if I enjoyed my nap. By the way, she asked, what were you dreaming about, you were almost jumping around in your sleep.

It was really crazy I told her, because it all felt so real, I felt like I was really at Field of Dreams and Steve Courtney was coming around first running to second base.

And that was the big dream?

NO, NO, there was more, because Jim Hupp then dropped one into center field and ran to first as crazy legs Steve was crossed home plate. But then a couple of force outs and a pop up fly and the inning was over for Farmers Ins, with one run scored.

Was there more?

Oh yes, Clyde Ziegler came up to bat for Adams Furniture with a base hit, then Lisa McGlaston was out at first but moved Clyde to second. Mike Braam hit a rocket to center for a stand up double while Clyde raced home. Dave Riddle pounded one to deep left but was robbed by a great catch but Mike was able to round third on his way to home. Two runs, two outs. After a base hit and a force at second the inning was retired, the score Adams 2, Farmers 1.

And you remember all of this from your dream?

My memory is exceptional.

Yeah, did you remember to take out the garbage.

Oh yeah, I was waiting until it cooled off.

Anyway, the second inning was a little fuzzy, but I kind of remember a single by Sean Curry, then Bob Wheeler got a base on balls moving Sean to second, who eventually scored when Danny Thomas hit a single. One run scored.

In the bottom of the second, Peter Day hit a double and then got to score on singles from Randy Catron, Sharon Deputy and Joyce Basse.

Score Adams 3, Farmers 2.

I really remember the top of the third when Farmers unleashed their big bats. Steve Courtney starts out with a walk, followed by Jim Hupp with a two bagger, John Gauthier and Steve Tafoya hit singles, scoring Steve and Jim, for two runs. Runners on first and second, Bill Smiley

smashes one to center for a double, to be followed by Jay Wissink's double clearing the bases for the 5th run ending the inning.

Score Farmers 7, Adams 3.

Adams starts the third inning with Mike Slocum's single. Then Clyde Ziegler hits a grounder to second, but sadly on his way to first Clyde pulls up with a bad leg and is out for the rest of the game.

Why would you let Clyde get hurt in your dream, he is our neighbor for heaven's sake?

Why is it always my fault, I didn't do anything, that is just how the dream played out, and I'm sure Clyde will get better.

Anyway, Lisa McGlaston came to the rescue with a big smash to center, which seemed to fire up the Adams dugout. Mike Braam, Dave Riddle, Scott Lasater, Jerry Bennett and Stan Isbell all join the party with singles. 5 runs scored, end of the inning.

Score Adams 8, Farmers 7, what a barn burner, it is no wonder I am almost jumping around in my sleep.

For the most part, the fourth inning was a good time to fall into a deep sleep. Even the fans there were using the time to catch up with friends in the stands as there wasn't much happening on the field, with one exception.

That exception was when we found Sean Curry on first after a walk. Bob Wheeler came to bat and crushed the ball to center right. It went back and back; will it be a stand up double? NO, it won't be a double because Lisa McG pulled it out of the air with a great catch. After some infield outs, the inning ends.

I think I was snoring through the fourth inning, score unchanged, Adams 8, Farmers 7.

Well, it was a good thing I didn't wake up during that fourth inning because it was good to have the dream continue into the fifth. Joyce Basse got to first on a walk, then hubby John came up to bat with great expectations which went poof, as he grounded to short resulting in a force out for Joyce at second and then a great throw to first for the double play. I would hate to be in the car driving home after that!!!

Well, if it was that bad why didn't you just wake up and let that dream go the way of broken dreams?

Are you kidding, this wasn't going to be a broken dream? To save the day Mike Slocum nailed a long ball to the fence and wound up on third. And just as you would expect on a day like today, the heroine Lisa McG kept it going with a single, followed by a Mike Braam double and a single by Dave Riddle. Three runs scored.

The dogs barked and wanted to go outside, but fortunately I slept right through that disturbance and the dream went on in all its glory. In the bottom of the fifth, Allen Day kicked things off with a single, George Keller contributed a big hit to center for a double. Steve Courtney and Jim Hupp each followed up with doubles. John Gauthier singled and Steve Tafoya got a walk. Bill Smiley and Jay Wissink each singled and with all this action and a string of RBI's, the 5 run rule came into effect.

Gosh, I'm glad I didn't wake up to let the dogs out. Score Farmers 12, Adams 11.

Why didn't you let the dogs out?

I didn't hear them bark, my mind was in the middle of a 5 run inning.

Jerry Bennett who had a great day in the field but a nightmare at bat, led off the sixth but was thrown out at first. Stan Isbell, Peter Day and Bill Maynard each singled, but couldn't get anyone around to home.

Jackie Fox started the sixth with a single but was forced out at second on Sean's grounder to third. Bob Wheeler stood with the bat on his shoulder as he collected ball four and Sean moved to second. Danny Thomas hit a bomb to center that was caught for the second out, but Sean, running like the devil was chasing him, beat the devil to home plate. Allen Day singled but was forced out on George Keller's shot to short for the third out.

Score Farmers 13, Adams 11. What a game going down to the wire.

The heat was on for the Adams team and with two quick outs John Basse steps into the batter's box determined to make up for that earlier double play. With a lot of huffing and puffing he sticks out his chest, puts a snarl on his face and stares down the pitcher Sean Curry for BALL ONE. The crowd goes silent as the next pitch sails past the plate for BALL TWO. Now the fans are standing as Sean waives off a pitch, then waives off a second pitch, John puffs his chest out further draws the bat back further as the next pitch flies past his nose, BALL THREE.

Is there ever going to be an end to this dream, you just go on and on and I only wanted to know who won.

Patience grasshopper, the excitement was mounting. There was a strange calm as the fans and both teams stood motionless in a sea of tension, watching, waiting as the ball arched toward the plate as if in slow motion. Closer and closer it came and then fell out of the air like a lead balloon, short for BALL FOUR.

Whew! That was intense. John, trying to slow down his pulse rate, goes to first as Sean keeps pounding the ball into his glove, bad ball. If you thought it was tense before, the tying run is now at the plate as slugger Mike Slocum, 2 for 2, a single and a triple steps up to bat. John on first is prepared to turn on his afterburner and take off for home. Again, an

eerie silence and a thick cloud of tension was hanging over the field as the first pitch arrives, strike one. Like the fans, I am ready to stand up in my sleep, my nerves are twitching, there is sweat on my brow as the next pitch is outside for ball one.

I am glad my wife is close by because at my age I was afraid with all this excitement my blood pressure would reach record highs. It did stay high as the next pitch was another ball. Two outs, a man on base and 2 balls and one strike on the slugger at bat. The next pitch seemed to float through the air forever and then there was a loud crack as the bat came into contact with the ball, the oxygen was sucked out of the air as everyone gasped to see the hard hit ball get trapped in Steve Courtney's glove and quickly fly out to John Gauthier for the force out at second. Game over Farmers 13, Adams 11.

And that my dear was the end of my dream and one hell of a dream it was.

Well, I have to admit it was a pretty exciting dream, but next time could you tell it faster. Where are you going now?

I'm sorry but I have to go to bed, all of the excitement in that dream just wore me out and I have to get up early for pickleball, just another normal day.

Contributing to this dream were:

Paul Neal, announcer

Bob Riley, scorebook keeper

Jackie Maurer, scoreboard operator

George Wendt, home plate ump

Steve Pratt, at 1st, 2nd and 3rd base ump

