

# June 11 Championship Saturday

It's Championship Saturday at Robson Ranch, meaning ... a full house at Our Field of Dreams ... special guests in attendance ... plenty to eat and drink ... and, of course, good old-fashioned softball.

Jerry Bennett and Stan Isbell, along with several of the ol' faithful RRSAers, started at 7:30 AM, setting up for the day's activities. Game #1 was an exciting contest of all-stars representing both the Ladies Co-Ed teams and the Seniors League. Coaches Johnny Blecher and Kelly Petre chose up teams and battled to a near draw during the 5-inning game. EVERYONE managed to get a hit, and most everyone produced an RBI. The stars that managed a 3-hit game included our "senior senior" – Bob Kuhfuss, along with Becky Milby, Sharon Deputy, Lisa McGlaston, Linda, Caron, and Mike Conley. Yes, the ladies were well-represented.

It was now almost time for the Championship game between **the Farmers Insurance and 407 BBQ**. But first things first. Let's recognize those incredible sponsors. As our RRSA President, Mick Calverley, pointed out, they are the financial reason we have such a beautiful field to play on. Our sponsors are not just businesses, they are our neighbors. And when Jerry B invited them to attend Championship Saturday, many of them came ... with their families. Jerry was proud to introduce them all to everyone in attendance, including Wise Health, ProScapes, Doggonit, Dr. Susan Randall, Southridge Dental, State Farm, Home Tint, Point Bank – Argyle, Eagle Eye Care, Farmers Insurance, Safe Lifts, and Johnny Blecher's MS2-USA. A loud cheer went out from the crowd, letting our sponsors know we greatly appreciate the support they provide to our softball organization.

Following the sponsors' introduction, our Announcer Extraordinaire – Jimmy Reese – the man with the golden tones, the source of more trivia questions than Google, and the quickest wit at Robson - introduced each of the team members participating in the Championship game. We were fortunate to have Ms. Kristina McDonald and her beautiful voice lead us in the National Anthem (thanks, Clyde & Sandi Ziegler, for using your pull to make this possible). The tossing of the opening pitch was then performed ... four times ... by the younger representatives of our sponsors. It was then time to play ball. Due to the importance of the game, we imported honorary bat boys ... Alex and Sam ... of the famed Escamilla clan. They took their positions. We had the honorary fly-over, compliments of Mike Conley and his drone skills. Alright, now we were ready for home plate umpire George Wendt to get the OK sign from his umpiring crew ... Bob Collins at 1<sup>st</sup>, Gary Warrick at 2<sup>nd</sup>, and John Basse at 3<sup>rd</sup>, as he makes the call ... **Play Ball**.

And believe you me, the Farmers team took that call seriously. Bob Laderach started the hit-parade with a single to right and it was like watching Forrest Gump hit that ping pong ball time and time again. Steve Courtney (super game at SS), John Gauthier (another excellent fielding SS), Steve Tafoya (3 RBI), Bill Smiley (3/3, HR), Mick Calverley (winning pitcher), Jackie Fox, Bob Wheeler, Danny Thomas (team coach for the day, who had his team fired up ready to play), Allan Day (3 long, hard hits to left), George Keller, and Kelly Wissink (2/3, 2 RBI). They didn't stop hitting until they had gone through the entire batting line-up ... three times ... and had an 18-2 lead after just 3-1/2 innings. Scoreboard Operator Deb Hinson fought hard to keep up with all the action. Coach Kennan Wallace of the 407 team apparently pulled out one of his dramatic, awe-inspiring "talks" to his team, because Mr. Momentum started to make its turn. While Farmers would score only 1 run during the balance of the game, 407 gradually pecked away at the lead. Tim Doney and Chris Walton knocked in two runs in the 4<sup>th</sup>. Lois McElyea, Louis Berthold, and John Coffman then drove in 3 more runs in the 5<sup>th</sup>. Two more scored in the 6<sup>th</sup>, thanks to RBI singles by Tim D and Kennan. Enter the 7<sup>th</sup> inning. Could they make up the huge hole that the mighty Farmers had put them in? 407 is known as a second-half team. They have as many come-from-behind victories as Tom Brady, and had just overcome a 7-run deficit earlier in the week. Lois Mc started the 407 hit-parade in the 7<sup>th</sup>, followed by Ramiro, Linda C, John C, Greg Mc, Jim Hupp, and Tom Gunther. But out #3 happened ... and the music stopped, with the final score at **19-15**. Time to shake hands with those Mighty Farmers and head to the hot dog stand.

Yes, Cory Raynor and John McNamar had been busy cooking and serving up their ballyard hot dogs and brats during the game. As Mike Moss drug the infield ... three times (the tractor IS fun to drive), everyone enjoyed the many refreshments (even ice cream) before hitting the road ... until the Fall Season. Once again, let's tip the hat to Jerry Bennett (coordinator of Championship Saturday, as well as making our sponsorship program work), and Prez Mick Calverley and the entire RRSA Board (a truly well-oiled machine).

Cheers, Dale Hill

PS. I leave you with one of Announcer Jim's questions during the game: If corn oil is made of corn ... and vegetable oil is made of vegetables ... , what is baby oil made of? Let Jim know if you have the answer.