

## Monday, May 15, Adam's Furniture Played Argyle Dental Reporter Rosemary "Killer" Neagli

The final week of regular season play is upon us – RR softball excitement is building – this week will determine where teams are “seeded” in the playoff bracket. I just bet that LuLu is already checking her planner to be sure not to miss out on one of next week’s playoffs games. The stands promise to be packed, so either come early or bring your own lawn chair!

Tonight, the dark western clouds provided both players and spectators with a ‘perfect’ evening – minimal wind, no sun, not too warm, and not too cold, - just ‘perfect’ conditions on the Field of Dreams. This was the setting for one of my favorite games this season – two very closely matched teams who played “their hearts out”. Adams Furniture (AF), Managed by Spencer Folsom, occupied the home dugout; versus Argyle Dental (AD) taking up position in the visitors’ dugout. ADs leader was Assistant Manager Louis Berthold, filling in for Manager Ken Kamrath. The Press Box was star-studded with our very own “mouth of the south” - Mr. Jimmy Reese announcing, Carl Caruso kept accurate books, and Pat Sabo expertly manned the scoreboard. Let’s start the evening with a Mr. Reese teaser: “Which MLB team has never played in a World Series?” (The answer will be at the end of this game report.)

AF arranges themselves along the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line, as we wait patiently for AD – I think Asst. Mng. Louis is either giving a team pep talk or a team prayer? Okay, their done, both teams are lined up to respect our flag- let’s play ball!

### Inning 1:

Steve Bentley (AF) delivers the first pitch of the game to ADs Bill Reese – on base with a single; Bob Laderach also singles, and AF gets a forced out at 2<sup>nd</sup> base – one out. Weldon Wallace restarts the fire with a stand-up double, bringing up Steve Wardlaw whose double scores the first 2 RBI’s. Next, Jeff Rumberger singles, but sharp AF defense gets the 2<sup>nd</sup> out at second base, the prettier Rumberger, Carol steps up to the plate next, but SS Randy Matthiessen will end the inning catching Carol’s high pop fly, keeping AD to 2 scored runs. It would be a short 1st inning for AF – singles by John Coffman, and George Keller ended in an AD double play, 2 out. AD-LF Joe Dougherty snagged a Randy Matthiessen highflyer missile to end the inning. **SCORE: AF-0 AD-2**

### Inning 2:

Mick Calverley would lead off AD with a sweet single, then Joe Dougherty singled, - but the sharp AF fielders got the first out at 2<sup>nd</sup> base. AD George Wendt sent a sizzler towards 3<sup>rd</sup> base, but Mike Jaensch’s glove stopped it – I think I saw smoke – but it made for the second out. AD’s next two batters, Bob Wheeler, and Cheryl Soule singled – and AF responded getting the third out at 3<sup>rd</sup> base. AF’s lead batter “M & M” Mike Moss wasn’t going to tolerate that zero on the scoreboard – so he took matters into his own hands, sending a ball into orbit and running the bases faster than the ‘speed of light’ to earn an easy inside-the-park HR. Now inspired, Mike Jaensch doubled, Sean Curry’s single advanced the runner but he was out at 1st. Tall Steve

Wetenkamp singled for an RBI, but he also was called out at first – now two outs. David Pryde laid down an easy double – but AD shut down the inning on a single from Christa Prim.

**SCORE: AF-2 AD-2**

### **Inning 3:**

Asst. Mng. Louis Berthold led off AD with a nicely placed single, Bill Reese popped a highflyer which was caught by AF-SS Randy Matthiessen – one out. It appeared that Bob Laderach had a sure triple – sending a satellite out towards R-field – but somehow that ‘M & M’ speedster - Mike Moss is his name – roved over and made the catch – two out. Undeterred, Weldon Wallace got on base with a single, and Steve Wardlaw copied – and his single scored an RBI. Jeff Rumberger surveyed the field and seeing ‘M & M’ (Mike Moss) close to LF – he made a beautiful hit to RF – but ‘you know who’ put on his afterburners and made the third out catch. The AD fielding shut down the AF attack this inning, starting with AF pitcher Steve Bentley, and several single hits to follow, AD pulled off another double play and got Randy Matthiessen out at 3<sup>rd</sup> base to hold AF to a scoreless inning. **SCORE: AF-2 AD-3**

### **Inning 4:**

AD would try to hold their narrow lead, but the first batter was out at 1<sup>st</sup> base, one out – bringing up Mick Calverley who is never intimidated – and yup – an easy standup double. Joe Dougherty singles, George Wendt thought his highflyer would add more fuel – but- ‘speedy’ Mike Moss shot that dream down – two out. Bob Wheeler added the only RBI with his single, before the third out came on a hit and throw to 1<sup>st</sup> base. Leading off for AF – Mike Moss (‘M & M’ – ‘speedy’- whatever) – well if he just doesn’t repeat his second inside the park HR. Well, that set the tone for AF – both Mike Jaensch and ‘El Presidente’ Sean Curry singled, sneaky tall guy Steve Wetenkamp short over the third base line to end up on 2<sup>nd</sup> base and score two RBI’s, David Pryde singled, Christa Prim added another RBI on her single, when Steve Bentley singled AD was able to get their first out at 3<sup>rd</sup> base. But it was Jerry Bennett’s single that brought home the 5<sup>th</sup> run of the inning. **SCORE: AF-7 AD-4**

### **5<sup>th</sup> Inning:**

Louis Berthold singles to start and AD comeback – Bill Reese adds a single – but AF gets the out at 2<sup>nd</sup> base. Bob Laderach shoots for a standup double - meantime AF pitcher Steve Bentley adds out # two with his crafty throws – but when Steve Wardlaw clocks a double, he registers 2 RBIs. AD restarts with a Jeff Rumberger single and RBI – Carol Rumberger adds her own single – but AF ends the AD attack getting the final out at 3<sup>rd</sup> base – keeping AF to 3 scored runs. Up first for AF, Lois Gibson, she surprises AD with a difficult to field single – safe at 1<sup>st</sup> – bringing up top of the batting order – John Coffman who has a powerful hit – but AD catches Lois out at 2<sup>nd</sup> – but WHAAT – John Coffman has stopped half-way to first – Oh my gosh – he’s pulled a hamstring. I experienced that displeasure the first year I played softball, it’s not only painful – I bet it is the RR softball number one injury. But his misfortune has given AD a double play – two out. George Keller pushes past witnessing an injured team mate to send a highflyer out to RCF – but Steve Wardlaw is on it – out number three. **SCORE: AF-7 AD-7**

### **6<sup>th</sup> Inning:**

Score is tied and AD Joe Dougherty fires a shot towards 3<sup>rd</sup> base – but AF Mike Jaensch pounces on it – one out. George Wendt drives another rocket to the deep outfield – and for the second time that roving Mike Moss denies him, two out – but Bob Wheeler, Cheryl Soule and Louis Berthold all add singles to register one RBI. AD Bill Reese hits hard finding a hole – what – a mid-air flying – rolling – catch. Let me wipe my eyes – that was Jerry Bennett – a player once told me that when you play softball you forget your age – that has been demonstrated tonight – Jerry B making a college age catch to keep the AD attack to one scored run. AF must catch and illuminate the AD threat. Randy Matthiessen starts the AF response with a single, Mike Moss analyzes options – and fires a shot close to the first base line – surprise – gives him a double (adding to his other 2 HR's), Mike Jaensch singles but is out at 1<sup>st</sup> – but scores a run. 'El Presidente' Sean Curry singles – Mike Moss now on 3<sup>rd</sup> base tempts fate – but the astute AD 3<sup>rd</sup> baseman Weldon Wallace does his own fake-out and catches Mike – two out. Steve Wetenkamp (2 singles, one double and 3 RBIs) gets to 1<sup>st</sup> on a single, but SS Louis Berthold stops David Pryde's ground ball to end the inning. **SCORE: AF-8 AD-8**

### **The Buffet:**

The clouds are getting closer and darker – and we have a tie game. AD will start with a Bob Laderach single, AF Mike Jaensch neutralizes a pop fly from Weldon Wallace, Steve Wardlaw singles but AF tagged the runner out at 2<sup>nd</sup> base – two out. Both Rumberger's add singles and one RBI, the only scored run before Sean Curry, now playing 2<sup>nd</sup> base, catches a Mick Calverley fly ball to rest the AD inning. AF needs two runs to win – pressure! Single hits do the trick – Christa Prim, Steve Bentley, and Lois Gibson – bases are loaded, and the stage is set. Oh no – it's the injured John Coffman up to bat – I just must hold my breath – poor guy! Wow – he slugs a good one – he's hobbling to 1<sup>st</sup> base and 2 runs score – victory for AF! A wounded softball warrior wins the game! **FINAL SCORE: AF-10 AD-9**

Instead of fireworks – there is lightning. Don't think there is time for too much field clean-up. But before I escape for cover a few kudos must be announced: Volunteer Umpires kept the game rolling to completion – Bob Collins HP, John Basse at 1<sup>st</sup>, and Clyde Zeigler at 3<sup>rd</sup>. Tonight's subs that made the game possible: AF-John Coffman, Sean Curry, George Keller, and Mike Moss; AD- Carol and Jeff Rumberger, and George Wendt.

OH – Mr. Reese's trivia answer: the Seattle Mariners have never played in a World Series. Time to scram – it's raining and lightning – till next time folks.

“Killer” Neagli reporting from the Field of Dreams.

