

An Extraordinary Night

Argyle Dental vs. Rodney Landscaping

I arrived early, for once. We had Visitors Argyle Dental (teal) vs. home team Rodney Landscaping (Baby Blue). Don't you just love Jerry Bennett? After a virtual hip bump with Jill Hupp and Judy Ondina I saw the wife of Argyle's 3rd baseman, Rebekah Jaensch with teal flip flops.

Then I saw Larry Studinski talking to his umpire crew; John Basse at first and Nancy Rogus at third. Upstairs, Il Capa Linda Cawley was keeping the scoreboard, Pat Lewis was on the 'book', and Peter Day had the mic. The crew was laughing as they discussed the origin of the nickname for Pat Lewis' husband, LTrain. I said, "I remember. Back in the day we had walk-up songs for the Coyotes. Our pitcher, Larry Lewis said he didn't need a walk-up song. The coaches, Dennis Thomas and I wouldn't take 'no' for an answer. 'Love Train' it was, with Larry's blessing I might add, and LTrain he became. We love LTrain.

Argyle Dental led off as the visitors and made hay, kind of. Jim Hupp tripled in 'Little Sexy' Mike Flatt and Jerry Hinson scorched one to left field for another RBI and Argyle had two on the board. Rookie Rick Watkins took the mound for Argyle, and he took control. Three outs later it was:

2 – 0 After 1 Inning

Tracy Ginnings started off a 2 for 3 night with her first single, but otherwise Argyle Dental fizzled with a backhand from Rodney's Johnny G dazzling. Clyde and Dianna singled for Rodney's Landscaping and then Lee Figuerido ripped a ground ball over the

bag at third base and turned it into an RBI double. But!!!! Almost the butt, he tweaked a hammy. 'Stud Muffin' Tafoya laced an RBI single and up came Tina Moore. As Tina stepped into the box and just to demonstrate how obstinate and stupid our RR softballers can be, Lee refused a pinch runner at 3B. Thankfully, Lee's wife, Belinda, was on alert and hustled some ice from the RRSA well stocked freezer behind the bathrooms as he scored on Stu White's shot, another RBI.

2 – 3 After 2

Tom Doty (2/3, Trip, 2 RBIs) led off for Argyle with a stand-up triple. Debbie Hinson ripped a liner through the 5/6 hole for the RBI. Coco Ondina came up with two on. After a lame foul, Coco looked back at Bob Riley as if to say, "What do I do?" Bob said, "Quit lunging, let it travel." I'm not sure what that means but Coco ripped one between the legs of the pitcher for an RBI single. Argyle Dental scored two in the 3rd. Looked like Rodney had a shot with Peter Grasser doubling, but two nifty plays by 2nd baseman Deb Hinson and a great play to throw out the runner by Coco ended any hopes of Rodney and Argyle nudged into the lead.

4 – 3 After 3

Then some Field of Dreams Magic happened. It wasn't a big crowd by RR standards, but it was a special crowd. Jeff & Dianna Duncan's special guests were introduced. In attendance were Dee Simmons, Viet Nam Air Force fighter pilot, and his partner, Nancy Estes. Dee, immortalized on the History Channel for his exploits in the air over Viet Nam recorded two confirmed kills when he was the first F-4 pilot to utilize external guns. Dee and Nancy stood to a standing ovation and a heartfelt 'thank you.'

Spencer Folsom started the 4th with a stand up double and Frank Kaker had an RBI drive to center field. Tracy Ginning took a big swing to drive one just outside the reach of Johnny G, Rick Werstein (3/3, Dbl, RBI) doubled, and Argyle was on a roll. Mike Flatt watched one hit the center of the plate and seemed to grumble about being told to take the first pitch. Those in the stands tried to tell him to take another but he just grinned and lined what would have been a ball for a single. Hupp (4/4, Dbl, Trip, 2 RBIs) and Coco (3/3, Dbl and 4 RBIs) completed the hit parade and Argyle had a 5 spot. Argyle Dental shut down Rodney's and...

9 – 3 After 4

And all the while I'm sitting next to the Commissioner, Bob Riley. Bob is bunged up and can't play but is totally involved. As I watch the game, he's digging through the buckets of balls under the Press Box and is testing them by bouncing them on the concrete. Turns out he threw at least a quarter of our balls away. Amazingly, our league balls were among the poorest performing of the balls. Hey, don't be surprised if some new brand balls show up and we're all hitting them farther. And if you're one of the tournament coaches you might want to be asking Bob about how Dudley Thunder balls and Tattoo balls match up with our traditional Worth Dot balls. Fun little experiment to watch.

Rodney's Stu White made a sweet snag of Jerry Hinson's line shot to start the 5th inning. Michael Cummings corralled a blistering shot from Spencer Folsom and other than a nice single by Mike Jaensch (3/3), Argyle Dental went down quickly with Clyde Z closing Argyle with a deep throw from 3rd to catch the runner. Tafoya showed us again why he's the Stud Muffin with a double to open the 5th for

Rodney's and scored on Stu White's sacrifice line drive and the 5th ended...

9 – 4 After 5

Tina Moore started things off defensively in the 6th catching a twisting foul ball for out #1. Rick Werstein tried to get Argyle unglued with a single, but it didn't pay off with any runs. Jeff Duncan singled, John Gauthier got an RBI double, and Michael Cummings brought in the second RBI to make it...

9 – 6 After 6

Rodney pitcher Jeff Duncan tossed a third strike K, it might have been a little flat, but it turned out 'all that.' It happens. Little Sexy Flatt singled, Hupp doubled, and Coco got an RBI with a double. Jerry Hinson doubled, Mike Jaensch singled and Argyle Dental had 3 more on the board. Argyle's Jim Hupp made an ESPN highlight catch of Tafoya's shot and then got tied in knots trying to charge, scoop and flip a throw to first to catch Tina Moore. Stu White kept Rodney alive by advancing Tina with a single and Bob Wheeler brought them both home with a double. Coco made the 3rd out and this one was in the books.

12 – 8 Final Score

Lots of side stories going on in this game and having an ADD game reporter probably doesn't help. But who could ask for more at a night at the Field of Dreams. I recognized Dee Simmons from some spirited parties at Bill Patton's house, my neighbor and one of my heroes. Bill and Dee grew up together in Ft Worth, obsessed with

flying and even bought an airplane together. Both went to TCU and ended up in Viet Nam in the same unit under the command of BGen Robin Olds. They were the wingmen of Gen Olds and turned him into an ace while they both bantered about who was the best fighter pilot. But Dee got the two MIG shoot downs and you can look this RR resident up on the History Channel to hear and see about a living war hero from Viet Nam. Do it.

Cheers,

Johnny B