

Rookie Game Reporter Lee Figueriedo, brings you this colorful summary of the 1st of two Senior Games on 4.12.23 - Eagle Eye (Visitors) vs. Wise Health (Home). Enjoy the ride.

Hi All. Before this 'Week 3' RRSA friendly clash kicks off, between the two "undefeated teams" of Eagle Eye and Wise Health, on this absolutely beautiful, mid-April, Wednesday morning, and, the first game of a Senior /Ladies League doubleheader. I just wanted y'all to let me get some observations and small issues, along with some other interesting facts, out-of-the-way...before we talk about this really great game.

I ask y'all to be patient, as this is my first 'gig' as a Game Reporter, a real, genuine rookie, and RRSB Cub Reporter. In fact, my first time as any kind of a Reporter. I wanted to give y'all some straight facts before we start, so we can get to know each other a bit better. I know a good Reporter never reveals his sources. So, 'all I can say is' that a very good friend of mine, (Weldon Wallace, limping 3rd Baseman, ProScapes Landscaping, who lives in the "prestigious woods neighborhood of The Ranch"), approached Dale Hill concerning Game Day reporting. Weldon told Dale that I'd written several things in the past. That I have a published book of fiction, many poems, and several short stories, and he thought that 'I might be interested' in reporting some of the RRSA League Games.

Then Weldon 'told me' of his conversation with Dale. I knew Clyde Ziegler had done several game reports over the years so I emailed both of them, just to get some information on how it was supposed to work. At first, I thought I was sending emails from my way, to a real "workhorse" on the subject, I mean...an actual Clydesdale. Turns out, I was communicating with "Clyde" and the aforementioned "Dale", who have been doing this for sometime now, and make a very formidable 'team,' along with the excellent staff of seasoned RRSA Reporters. I wanted my reporting to give the millions of you out there, whether you're just sports readers, fans, players, or only casual observers, the feeling that you were actually at The Field of Dreams. And, with the technology we have today, as close to "real-time" reporting as you could possibly get. As if you were sitting in the seats, watching it, right here from the crowded, standing-room-only stands.

So, without further interruption...'except for one more, tiny, little detail, before we get into the actual game. And that was about the always tricky 'compensation issue,' that I approached Clyde and Dale with. I was literally shocked to learn, that RRSA is an "all-volunteer" effort and that 'even' the Game Reporters, who write and contribute, without any compensation whatsoever (wait...What?). I mean, nada, zilch, nothin'....so fans, just remember while you're reading this (if you still are)... "you really do get what you pay for...!" And that's all I'm going to report about on that subject.

As the April Sun was shining down on the Ranch and the beautiful 'Field of Dreams,' the Umpire Crew, led by Head Umpire, Gary Warrick, assisted by Ken Kamrath

at first, and Andy Bradshaw at third, were donning their sky-blue uniforms and were handed out their essential Ump equipment, consisting of a very long, flexible cane, one eyepatch (at least) each, and two Service Dogs, one at each corner of the infield, to assist them with those “really close plays” at the bags. And “Yes, of course,” we do thank them for their service and dedication to the game. This reporter hopes that everyone living here at The Ranch knows how blessed we are to have such a fine facility, loyal supporters and volunteers who keep it in tip-top shape, and so many talented players who try and participate in the game we all love.

G.O.A.T. play-by-play announcer, Dave Riddle, was back on the stadium’s sound system, as players on both teams held hats over their hearts, with the playing of “The Star Spangled Banner,” sung by Mariah Carey. (Who I believe, was making an ‘unscheduled stop’ here at The Ranch, on her way to The American Airlines Center in Dallas, for a big concert tonight). So how about that...?

The players of Eagle Eye, Managed by the one-and-only Johnny Blecher, were checking out Wise Health’s eye-catching uniforms, consisting of Lime Green shirts and Kelly Green hats, as Eagle Eye players started to warm up their bats, as the Visitors.

The Wise Health team, expertly Co-Managed by John Thompson and Myron McKinney, were more-than-ready to take the field, as Head Ump Gary Warrick, shouted from behind home plate...“Play Ball...!”

Oh yeah, ‘almost forgot about the game.....I will try to be as completely unbiased as is humanly possible, with my team, Wise Health taking the field. Here’s the inning-by-inning re-cap that y’all thought you were about to read at the beginning.....

1st inning. ‘Looks like Eagle Eye was not kidding around, as the first inning started off with Sharon Deputy’s first pitch, an inside-the-Park HR, by Bruce Horeftis, and, without giving away everything too soon...remember this hit. Eagle followed right up with a single by Dianna Duncan, a walk by Terry Scholze, and a George Keller double, scoring the two runners, with a force out at 2nd but, not until George scored the fourth run of the inning. 4 runs in for Eagle Eye.

Wise Health, not deterred, started their bottom of the first with a Robert Cox single to Left, but was forced out at 2nd on a grounder by Ramiro Escamilla, now safe at 1st. John Pierini’s double, followed by a hard hit, Ron Schwertner double, scored both runners. But, after a Jackie Fox single, Clyde picked off Henry Moore (pinch running) at 2nd with a hit by Greg Laffey and a pop out to Short CF, by Myron McKinney which ended the inning and left a man on base.

Eagle Eye 4 Wise Health 2

2nd inning. Started in much the same way as the first with Eagle Eye getting 4 runs in by lead-off batter, Sue Kamrath, a single to CF by Manager Johnny Blecher, another single and RBI by Bruce H., Terry S.'s 2nd RBI by reaching 1st, as the runner scored, and a final RBI by George W, completed the inning with Eagle now up 8 - 2.

Things didn't look too great for Wise Health, but they came roaring back with 3 runs of their own, on hits by Manager John Thompson, Carl Caruso, with John making it to 3rd, followed by an RBI single from Rick Wekstein's hit that scored John. Then Ken Quarfoot's single drove in two more of the runners. After Henry M. singled, Wise's bats suddenly cooled, and the inning was over.

Eagle Eye 8 Wise Health 5

3rd inning. A single each by Eagle's Kelly Petre and Steve Wetenkamp, after an opening inning pop-up out, gave way to Tony T's double, which scored one run, with Sue K.'s opposite-field single, scoring another run for Eagle Eye. Two quick pop-ups to 1st base with Greg L. snagging both, ended the threat of more runs, as Eagle now led 10 to 5.

The game was really getting tense now, as Wise's bats produced 3 more runs in the bottoms of the 3rd, with a second hit by John P., an infield single that he beat out at 1st. Then Big Ron S. smacked an inside-the-park-HR to bring the score to a doable 10-8 for Wise. This looked like the inning Wise was going to tie up with their undefeated Visitors, after Greg L.'s single, (with Henry pinch-running), then Jackie's walk, and Myron's single to CF loaded the bases. A big RBI Sacrifice Fly brought in the 3rd run by John T., but, a really terrific defensive play proved otherwise, as a great catch and throw caught Fox off 2nd base for an outstanding double play.

Eagle Eye 10 Wise Health 8

4th inning. A great defensive battle going on in this inning by both teams, as no runs were allowed by either team. 3-up-and-3-down for The Eagles and only Wise's Sharon D. reached 1st on a single, in the bottom of the 4th. The only player to reach base in the entire inning. The Score remained...

Eagle Eye 10 Wise Health 8

5th inning. First batter up, Terry S. hits an inside-the-park-HR, off new pitcher Carl C., for Wise (and remember this solo shot as well). Clyde followed with a single to Left. But miraculously, Carl became 'The Great Caruso' allowing only one run, with a grounder that got runner George Keller at 1st. Gary B's fly out to short Right, coupled with another good single by Kelly P., and a hard hit to CF caught by John T. to end The Eagles threat for potentially, a runaway inning. (Score EE 11 Wise 8).

The Wise team could feel the heat coming to the plate at the bottom of the 5th, as a quick fly out to Eagle's Shortstop Terry S. resulted in the first out. A 3-foot hit, that refused to go foul, got Ramiro tagged out, for out number two. But John P.'s third hit of the game, a single, started a rally, with Ron taking a Walk to 1st., which led to Greg L.'s blast-to-the-fence Triple, that scored both runners. But, pinch-runner Ramiro died on the base, "90" feet from home to leave the score....

Eagle Eye. 11 Wise Health 10

6th inning. What an unbelievable game between these two Senior rivals. The Sun was getting hotter in the sky and Eagle Eye went down 1,2,3, in their final at-bats, with that one-run lead in the balance.

And just like that, the Home Team, Wise Heath came to bat in the bottom of the 6th. Everyone held their breath as Myron smacked a hard one to the Pitcher, who threw him out at first. But Manager John T. wasn't about to give up. Hitting an infield single, beating out a close one at 1st. The Great Caruso, trying to win his own cause, singled with Jackie inserted as his pinch runner. Men on 1st and 2nd when a grounder, hit to Short, forced her at 2nd. Another slow infield grounder ended this tough defensive game as The Eagles threw their hats into the crowded stands.....this was a good one folks, but somebody has to lose.....

Final Score & Current Records: Eagle Eye 11 (3-0) Wise Health 10 (2-1)

Standout performances on both sides by:

Bruce Horeftis 2-3 (HR, single, 2 RBI's)

Terry Scholze 2-2 (HR, walk, 2 RBI's)

Kelly Petre 3-3 (3 singles, 1 RBI)

Sue Kamrath 2-3 (2 singles, 1 RBI)

Dianna Duncan 2-3 (2 singles, 1 RBI)

(And a great Eagle Eye Team Defense)

Ron Schwertner 2-2 (double, HR/Walk, 4 RBI's)
John Pierini 3-3 (Double, 2 singles)
Greg Laffey 3-3 (2 singles, Triple, 2 RBI's).
John Thompson 2-3 (2 singles, Sac. Fly, 1 RBI)
(And a valiant Wise Health Team effort)

NOTE: After the game, and once the teams did their customary and obligatory handshakes across the infield, Co-Managers John Thompson & Myron McKinney, not wanting to appear as sore losers, demanded all Eagle Eye players be corralled, and tested immediately...for possible steroid usage.

Once Y'all have read this, I'll most likely be asked (by Clyde & Dale), to turn in my pad and pen, any stats and paperwork associated with game reporting, and pull the plug on my computer. All, for possibly pushing the envelope a bit too much. But hey, I gave it a shot.....'Thanks for the opportunity. I enjoyed it.

Oh, and as a reminder. 'Don't miss next week's Senior/Ladies doubleheader, starting at 10:00 A.M. (4/19), when the first 15,000 (or so) fans to arrive, will be receiving a free souvenir 'bobblehead' of RRSA's Legendary Star, Mick Calverley. I'm told other notable RRSA Legends will be available in the coming weeks. So come on out and see all the action.

(Another NOTE: Seating capacity of The Field of Dreams has never been 'accurately' determined, but it is extremely limited, and, all complimentary bobbleheads are subject to cancellation, at any time, by RRSA Management).

Lee Figueriedo
(injured 2nd baseman for Wise Health, a 'highly unknown' but, published "FICTION WRITER," and probable 'one-time' Game Reporter for RRSA, going forward.....!!)

(And, after all that...Let's Keep it Fun.....!!! Lee)