

FARMERS INSURANCE v DOG GONE IT

Tuesday April 24, 2024

John Basse - Reporter

A cool and breezy Tuesday evening welcomed faithful fans at The Field of Dreams at Robson Ranch as Farmers Insurance Landscaping entertained Dog Gone It.

John McNeemer kept the records straight, Bob Riley manned the scoreboard, and the docile tones of Johnnie Blecher kept us entertained and informed as the voice of Robson Ranch Softball for the evening. As always, we saluted our nation as both teams lined up along their respective foul lines and everyone stood to sing our National Anthem. Tonight was special as both teams serenaded Dog Gone It coach Ken Kamrath in a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday!"

The veteran crew of umpires met at home plate with the managers. Umpire in Chief Mike Conley manned first, George Ruth patrolled the left field line and third base while Danny Thomas called balls and strikes at home.

Both teams appeared to be evenly matched and it had all the appearances of an excellent match up. Dog Gone It went quietly in the top of the first. Farmers answered quickly in the bottom of the first with Beckly Milby leading off with a hit, followed by a double by Mike Braam. Mick Calverly brought Mike in and Andy Bradshaw hit a shot to the fence scoring Mick. At the end of the first, Farmers led 2-0.

Dog Gone It responded in the second. Luay Ashoo walked followed by a solid hit to left by Theresa Tucker. Bob Kriiz brought Luay to give Dog Gone It their first run. Farmers answered in the bottom half with a leadoff triple by Jerry Bidondo and he scored on a sacrifice by Joe Dougherty. After 2, Farmers led 3-1.

Someone let the dogs get out in the third! Cheryl McCally (Soule) started the inning with a great hit down the line. Tim Williams hit and inside the park home run scoring Cheryl. Greg Alexander doubled; Steve Courtney hit a shot to the wall scoring Greg. Rick Ketiring hit a line drive double and scored on another double by David Popejoy. Theresa Tucker had another solid hit to left scoring the fifth run of the inning. Not to outdone, Farmers answered with a 5 spot of their own. Stan Isabell led off with a single followed by Steve Macaskill and Sharon Deputy. Becky Milby drove in Stan and Steve but was thrown out at second. Michael Braam drove in Sharon. Mick Calverly walked. Andy Bradshaw drove in Michael and Bill Maynard drove in Mick for the fifth run. At the end of 3, Farmers 8 – Dog Gone It 6.

Farmers tightened their defense in the 4th and shut out Dog Gone It and added 2 run in the bottom of the fourth with hits by Jerry Bondino, and Richard Milby. Stan Isbell brought in Jerry. Sharon Deputy kept the inning alive and Becky Milby brought in Richard. At the end of 4, Farmers had extended their lead to 10-6.

Cheryl Mccally (Soule) started off the fifth with another hit followed by Tim Williams. Greg Alexander drove in Cheryl and Steve Courtney hit a three run in side the park home run to complete the top half. Mick Calverly answered for Farmers with a shot down the left field line for a double. Andy advanced Mick to third on a great play at first by Theresa Tucker. Greg McElyea brought Mick in but was out at first by another dazzling scoop by Theresa Tucker. Bill Maynard hit a nice single but was stranded. After 5, the score was tied, 10-10 and everyone was expecting a great finish to this game!

Theresa Tucker led off the 6th with another single to left. Steve Bentley got on with a fielder's choice followed by hits by Bob Kriz, and Jose Raice. Coach Ken Kamrath brought in Steven and Bob, but that was the end of the rally. With the exception of a hit by Richard Milby, Farmers went quietly in the bottom of the sixth. After 6, Dog Gone It had pulled ahead by 2, 12 -10 with the infamous buffet inning coming up.

In the seventh inning buffet, Tim Williams led off with a single, followed by an RBI single by Greg Alexander. Steve Courtney had another solid hit followed by a double by Rick Kentral. With two outs, Theresa Tucker had her fourth hit if the night, followed by a single by Steven Bentley. Jose Raice walked with the bases loaded for the final run of the evening for Dog Gone It. Down by 6, Farmers couldn't feast at the buffet, falling short. The final score, Dog Gone It 17 – Farmers 11.

It was another entertaining and well played game tonight by two evenly matched teams. I usually name those that had hits, RBI, or major contributions to the game. TONIGHT, I would have had to have named EVERY PLAYER on BOTH TEAMS! However, in this writer's humble opinion, the player of the game was Theresa Tucker. 4 for 4 at the plate and several outstanding plays at first base.

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