

April 24th Game Report:

Farmers Insurance vs. 407 BBQ

This evening, we have two powerhouses squaring off against each other. It's the still undefeated Farmers Insurance vs. the second-place 407 BBQ. Whoever walks away with a win tonight will (at least for now) be atop the 8-team Coed League. A perfect 70-degree evening welcomes the mighty Robson fandom as they stand and join Ronda Gunther in the singing of our National Anthem. Since Ronda knows firsthand what "ultimate sacrifice for your country" means, she graciously shares her beautiful voice often with us as her way of showing honor and respect to her fallen family members, along with every single American that has served to protect us. Thank you, Ronda, and thank you to each individual who has and is serving our great country. Really ... Thank You.

Players tip their hats to the competition, HP umpire Kevin Buckrucker gives his blessing to begin, and Farmers' crafty righthander Sharon Deputy delivers the first pitch to 407's Kelly "Speedy" Wissink.

Inning #1

407 made it quickly known that they were here to play as Kelly, Mike Flatt, Steve Courtney, Rick Ketring, and Tom Gunther reached safely. Farmers, however, flashed some sparkling defense to hold 407 to 2 runs in the inning. In addition to Bill Smiley's running catch in deep left, the relay team of Johnny B to Scott Wilson to Gary Brown nailed the 407 runner in a bang-bang play at the plate. So now it was time for the team's #1 offense to bat, the lineup that scores an average of 17 runs per game. Rocky Dudley ignited the inning with his patented line drive to left field, followed by hits from Johnny Blecher, Scott Wilson, and Gary Warrick. Gary's two-RBI hit quickly turned into a one-RBI hit when 407 pulled their "let's-throw-'em-out-at-the-plate" play as Steve Courtney relayed a bullet to home where Louis Berthold was waiting for the put-out. But Farmers wasn't finished. Sweet-Swingin' Jeff Rumberger stepped to the plate and, on Sean Curry's first pitch, drove it to deep right, clearing the bases with his 3-HR blast. Four runs for Farmers in the first and,

After 1 inning: It was Farmers 4, 407 BBQ, 2.

Inning #2

407 threatened in their 2nd inning at-bat, with a single by (man that guy can run) Charley Dobson and a two-bagger by David Popejoy, but stalled without scoring. Farmers, on the other hand, came out where they left off, as Scoreboard Operator Bob Potter posted another 5-count to the scoreboard. Clyde Z led off with a drive to right, followed by a Sharon Deputy single, and then Boom, a no-doubter as Coach Mike Moss belted that yellow sphere over the

left field fence for yet another Farmers 3-run homer. And the hits just kept coming, as Gary Brown, Rocky D, Carol R, Johnny B, and Scott W kept hitting grass until 407 said "enough".

After 2 innings: Farmers found themselves holding a comfortable 9-2 lead.

Innings #3 &4

But guess what? Yep, you guessed it. 407 BBQ put their big-boy pants on and came out scoring ... 5 runs in both the 3rd and 4th. Lots of free passes, with timely hits from Speedy Wissink, Prez Curry, King Louie, and a big bases-clearing triple by Fireman Mike (Flatt). And with stellar defense by 407, including deep fly catches by David Popejoy and Charley Dobson, the Farmers were set down 1-2-3 in both innings. Meaning ...

After 4 innings, 407 BBQ found themselves ahead for the first time, 12-9

Inning #5

Not content with their 3-run lead, 407 came out swinging in the 5th and tacked on 3 more runs. Just after Rick Ketring had made a dazzling play at 3rd to record the final out of the inning, he leads off with a ringing triple down the 3rd base line. Killer quickly contributed a hit to left, followed by still another triple, this one off the bat of Charley Dobson. Farmers, however, showed they were not ready to go home. A lead-off double by Coach Mike followed by hits from Gary B, Carol R, and Scott W netted another 2 runs for the Farmers.

And after 5 innings: 407 BBQ was now leading Farmers 15-11.

Innings #6&7

Farmers used their defensive skills to hold 407 scoreless in the late innings, pulling off a 5-4-3 DP in the 6th, and then a 6-4-3 double-dipper to end the 7th. Likewise, 407 implemented their double play in the 6th, going 4-6-3 to hold Farmers scoreless. Which brings us to the bottom of the 7th. Coach Mike started the inning off with ... you guessed it, an extra-base hit. Rocky D then proceeded to drive Mike in for what would be Farmers final run. Ball game.

Final Score: 407 BBQ 15, Farmers 12.

Which means there is now a new 1st place team at Robson Softball and it's Tom Neagli's 407 BBQ. All right, a new team to chase.

Hats off to our volunteer umpiring crew, as Scott Baker and Stu White joined HP umpire Kevin Buckrucker in making all the right calls. And Bob Potter, operating the scoreboard, Ron

Schwertner, keeping the all-important scorebook, and Rookie Announcer Dale Hill as they worked together to keep the audience well-informed.

FYI, here are some of the offensive stats that stand out in this back-and-forth battle between Farmers and 407:

Homeruns – Mike Moss, Jeff Rumberger

Triples – Mike Flatt, Rick Ketring, Charley Dobson

Doubles – Mike Moss (2), David Popejoy

3-RBI's – Jeff Rumberger, Mike Moss, Mike Flatt, Sean Curry

4 for 4 at the plate – Kelly Wissink, Mike Flatt

3 for 3 at the plate – Mike Moss, Charley Dobson

Cheers,

Dale Hill