

April 20th Game Report:

Farmers Insurance vs. Argyle Dental

Out here at our beautiful Field of Dreams this evening, you could describe the match-up of Farmers Insurance vs. the Argyle Dental in a few different ways. It could be viewed as **David** (1-2 Argyle) vs. **Goliath** (3-0 Farmers). Or you could describe them as two high-scoring teams (averaging 33 runs/game, combined, a stat provided by Announcer Jimmy Reese). Or, better yet, simply say “Friends playing with Friends” (the way Announcer Jimmy described the play as he signed off for the evening). Vegas had Farmers as an 8-point favorite, but was Vegas to be surprised?

Inning #1

With Robson’s all-time winningest pitcher on the mound for Argyle Dental (Bob Kuhfuss), Andy Bradshaw of Farmers “Murderers Row” stepped to the plate. No sooner had the crowd finished singing the always-inspiring National Anthem than Bob’s first pitch was heard rattling off the outfield fence. And just as Vegas had predicted, the hits just kept coming. Each hit was like laser beams shooting into the outfield. Carol Rumberger – Johnny Blecher – Jeff Peck – Gary Warrick (2B) – Jeff Rumberger (3B). And as fast as Scoreboard Operator Deb Hinson posted 5 on the scoreboard for Farmers, she was showing 0 for Argyle Dental in the bottom of the first. Who would ever have guessed how the game would end after seeing inning number 1.

After 1 inning: Farmers 5, Argyle Dental, 0.

Inning #2

Inning #2 began with a line drive to center by Oh Henry. But wait. That’s Coco fielding the ball in center and firing a bullet (you know, you’ve seen his throws) to first for out number one. The Mike Moss (1B) – Bill Smiley (2B) combo produced a run, but that would be it for Farmers in the inning. Goliath had a 6-0 lead, and it was now time for David to bring his slingshot to the show. Louis Berthold started the eruption with a 102 mph exit velocity drive to left field for a single. Cheryl Soule then reached base, followed by Sue Kamrath, Sean Prez Curry, Coach Ken Kamrath, and Kelly Wissink to account for 3 runs. Steve Wardlaw then completed the 5-run inning with a scorching double to center.

And after 2 innings: Farmers found themselves holding a slim 6-5 lead.

Innings #3-6

For the next 4 innings, Argyle Dental did what no one else was able to do this year – hold the Murderers Row to just 1 run over that timeframe. An RBI by Nancy Rogus in the 5th was it. We were entertained by several great defensive plays during this timeframe, particularly Bill Reese at 3rd, Coco in center, and left fielder Hal Wasson (who was described by Larry Lewis as the greatest Texas high school football coach of our time [and the Southlake record will support that statement]). While Farmers was being held to 1 run, Argyle put a 4-run rally together in the 4th to take the lead. After two quick outs, singles by Bob Wheeler (yes, it was great to see Wheels back in uniform again after a long, tough illness), Coach K, and Kelly Wissink set the table for Coco's homerun dribbler down the right field line. Not the most majestic hit of Coco's career, but man, it was so exciting to watch Kelly and Coco circle those bases faster than I could get out of my chair to cheer. They must get such a rush being able to move that fast.

Anyway, after 6 innings: Argyle found themselves leading Farmers 9-7.

Inning #7

Going into the buffet inning, could Argyle hold their lead one more time? No. But it was heroic. After two quick outs, Jeff Rumberger laced a shot into right, followed by a Coach Moss double. And with two on and two out in the seventh, Bill Smiley came through big-time with a drive to the right field fence for a 3-run HR to take a one-run lead going into the bottom of the inning. Could the undefeated Farmers hold their lead? No. Hal Wasson (yeah, the same guy) crushed a double to drive in Steve Wardlaw for the tying run. After Bill Reese singled Hal to third, the winning run was just 75 feet away with one out. And so fitting for this entertaining game, Farmers pulled off a perfectly performed game-ending double play.

Final Score: Farmers 10, Argyle Dental 10.

The low-scoring game was a huge tribute to three very skilled pitchers – Gary Warrick, Sean Prez Curry, and The Bob Kuhfuss. Scorekeeper Stan Isbell put the finishing touches on the book. Teams shook hands with each other and with the top-notch umpiring crew of Larry Studinski, Don Andrews, and Ed Cawley. And then it was off to the all-important After-Parties. Vegas was stunned, and yet fun was had by all. And as the famous Robson philosopher (Jimmy Reese) said in parting – we all got to witness seeing **Friends playing with Friends.**

Cheers,

Dale Hill