

Farmers (1-3) vs. Home Tint (1-3-1)

Thursday, May 9, 2024

Attendance: (26)

This evening's game features Stan Isbell's **Farmers** squad (1-3) looking to notch a Week 7 win against Coach Bob Riley's **Home Tint** (1-3-1) looking to start a "run" heading into the home stretch.

- ✓ Farmers opened their season scoring 20 runs in their lone win but have struggled offensively since while Home Tint has also struggled to score runs in their last two games. Home Tint will field 4 subs and Farmers 2. Considering this, the pregame line is "**Home Tint (-3)**" with the over/under coming in at **37**.

The Press Box crew was ready to go with "*The Voice*", Peter Day, on the mic, Ron Schwertner on the book (*this man can play some golf!*) and Debbie Hinson the scoreboard. The Umpire Crew of Kevin Buckrucker HP, Nancy Rogus (1B) and John Tanner (3B) were in position. Following the crowd and players rendition of the National Anthem it was game on.

Top of the first, HT pitcher, Jeff Vaka quickly challenges the first two Farmers batters and registers 2 outs. The 3rd out was a little more challenging. Warrick gets things started with a line drive single. Dale Hill follows in kind with a single setting the table for, Greg McElyea, who promptly doubles driving in 2 runs before Vaka gets the final out.

Farmers starting pitcher, Sharon "*Not Festus*" Deputy sets down the leadoff batter before yielding a walk to Carol Rumberger and a single to Greg Alexander. Sharon then works the corners to get the 4 and 5-hole batters on two ground balls.

End of 1: Farmers – 2 / Home Tint - 0

Farmers looking to stretch their lead gets things started with Jerry Bidondo and Joe "*Party Host*" Dougherty back-to-back singles. Following an out, Richard Milby scorches a single scoring one and Deputy follows with a single. Steve Macaskill delivers a 2-run nicely placed single bringing Stan "*Paco*" Isbell to the plate. Paco drives one just inside the right field line driving in the 4th run as he scampered to 3rd for a triple. The 5th run is kept off the board leaving Paco stranded like a long-faced groom at the altar.

Home Tint scores 1 run in their half on an opening Weldon "*The Gentleman*" Wallace single, John Martin works a walk followed by a Bruce "*Speedy*" Horeftis RBI single. Deputy, brings her best stuff and sits down the next three batters.

End of 2: Farmers – 6 / Home Tint - 1

Farmers puts more pressure on HT by plating 4 more runs in the 3rd. Consecutive doubles by Warrick, Hill and McElyea (2 RBI's) brings Bill Maynard up and he drives in McElyea with a single. Singles by Dougherty and Ferneding deliver the 4th run.

Down by 9 runs, HT Coach Bob "*On the Hot Seat*" Riley coaches his Team up (***he is very good at this***) and they respond with a 3-spot. Terry Zimmerman opens with a nice single followed by singles off the bats of Joe "*IUP Proud*" Wolfinger and Vaka. After Deputy sits down the next two Kenny "*Steady Eddie*" Kamrath lasers a 2-bagger clearing the bases scoring 3 – Deputy gets the final out on a beautiful play by second baseman Isbell as he demonstrates his lateral movement skills fielding a hot grounder in the hole off the bat of lefty Steve Ward and firing to first for the out.

End of 3: Farmers – 10 / Home Tint – 4

Vaka settles in a quiet the Farmers bats. The Milby duo account for the only run on Richard's double and Becky's run scoring single.

Veteran pitcher, Gary Warrick, takes the Baton from Deputy and despite surrendering singles to Wallace and Horeftis posts a goose egg with the help of two defensive gems by rover, Becky Milby and left center fielder Dougherty.

End of 4: Farmers – 11 / Home Tint - 4

Vaka keeps his Team close surrendering only one run on a Hill single, a fielder's choice and an RBI single off the bat of Maynard.

Looking to cut into their deficit, HT can only muster one of Warrick on singles by Jerry "*The Ad Man*" Bennett, Wolfinger and "*Heinz 57*" Rumberger's RBI single down the left field line.

End of 5: Farmers – 12 / Home Tint - 5

After two quick outs Farmers looked to put the game out of reach and stretched their lead to 12 runs. Back-to-back walks were followed by a Becky Milby single loading the bases for "Crazy Legs" Braam who "went with the pitch" drilling a 2-run double to left center. Warrick, Hill and McElyea followed with consecutive RBI singles.

HT plates one run on a hard single to right from Ward a double by Wallace. John Martin drives in Ward for the lone run.

End of 6: Farmers – 17 / Home Tint - 6

With HT down by 11 Home Plate Ump Kevin Buckrucker calls for a “flip flop buffet inning” – down 11 HT needed 11 to tie and 12 to take the lead. Against Warrick that’s a tall mountain to climb. As the lead-off batter, Donna Nikisch gets the ball rolling with a single. Following an out Bennet rips a run scoring double. Can it be? Can HT stage a comeback for the ages? That was answered by Warrick and some flashy defense by Bidondo – game over.

Final Score: Farmers – 17 / Home Tint - 7

Postscript:

Today’s contest did not play out as we expected, however, both Team’s know that once you hit the playoffs *anything can happen* in the “Wild and Wacky RRSA Co-ed League. It has been proven time and again... **NEVER GIVE UP!** If y’all don’t believe me I have some Ocean Front Property in Arizona with an great view I can sell you...and if you buy that I’ll throw the Golden Gate in for free!!!

Food for Thought:

Back in those glorious “Olden Days” I remember playing for a Coach that would speak us about “**maximizing your individual performance**”, and that if we did so as a Team, the wins would take care of themselves. He would say “**Winning and losing is a lower standard than performance - you could win the game and not play your best. Performance is a permanent mentality.**” It was hard for us to understand because there is so much pressure and emphasis on results (wins). This thought process transcends all Team sports.

This Day in Baseball:

- **1987** – *Eddie Murray homers from each side of the plate for the second consecutive game, a Major League first. Murray’s four home runs in two days help the Orioles to 7-6 and 15-6 wins over the White Sox.*

“For the Glory”