

Ring, ring, ring.

Hello.

Casey Q is that you?

Lulu, it is so good to hear from you, it has been such a long, long time since we've talked. It seems like you became an ESPN ambassador travelling all around from one event to another: the Superbowl, the NCAA Final Four, the Masters and on and on. You have transformed from a Paris fashion idol into a sports influencer, I'll bet even the Kardashians are envious of you. With all of your travels can you now fly directly out of Paris?

Oh no, Casey, the airport in Paris, TX is so rinky dink that I have to fly to McKinney TX to get connecting flights. Anyway, I am calling because I couldn't find Dale's email with your report on the Farmer's - Ponder game. Did Dale take me off of his email list because I haven't been around much? I can have my friend Jimmy Reese talk to him if that is the case.

No, no the fact is I haven't written the report yet.

Dale is probably checking his email every five minutes, wondering where the report is, what are you waiting for, you seem to be stalling, is your keyboard stuck?

Lulu, I am stuck and I don't know what to do with this story.

I don't understand the problem, these are two really good teams, it must have been a great game.

Actually, it wasn't a great game Lulu. Yes they are both great teams, but not Monday night. One team was on fire while the other was sputtering, you know it happens sometimes. In Ponder's last game they came from behind and scored 20 runs for a victory, but that wasn't the case for them this Monday. My problem is that if write about Farmer's great game, by inference Ponder is going to look bad and I don't want to do that.

Well, Casey, I see your problem. Maybe the solution is to brush over a lot of the details and just kind of summarize what happened.

You know Lulu, that's a great idea, let me try that out on you first before sending it to Dale.

Are you ready?

On a beautiful spring evening Farmers Insurance played Ponder Hardware. The sky was blue in advance of a glorious sunset, the temps were very comfortable with a moderate breeze and the stands were filled with energy and excitement. After Paul Neal, in the booth, turned off the music, Mike Conley, at home, called for 'balls in, batter up' and leadoff batter for Farmers, Adam Bradshaw stepped in to face Sean Curry for the first pitch. Unfortunately, that was when the wheels came off the cart for Ponder. Andy was followed with hits Carol Rumberger, Johnny Blecher, Coco Ondina, Gary Warrick and Jeff Rumberger, resulting in 5 runs. Nancy Rogus at first and Ed Cawley at third could already see that this was going to be a real crazy game.

Sharon Deputy, pitching, was zeroed in, not giving the Ponder batters much to swing at and thus three quick outs. Gary Warrick adeptly pulled in a bomb to deep left hit by Jerry Hinson robbing him of a hit for one of those outs.

Score 5 – 0 Farmers.

In the second, the Farmers bats kept the pace going from the first inning. Starting with Henry Moore, then Mike Moss, Bill Smiley, Sharon Deputy, Clyde Ziegler, Gary Brown all getting on base, Farmers worked through the entire batting rooster by the second inning. You guessed right, another 5 runs and it was time for Ponder to come back to bat.

Ponder was definitely trying, Rocky Dudley, Rick Werstein, Sean and Randy Catron all got hits, but died on base.

Score 10 – 0 Farmers.

For the third, it was just more of the same for Farmers. I won't go through hit by hit but suffice it to say 5 more runs. Out of all the action the most notable was an in the park home run when Mike Moss blasted one all the way to the left field fence.

The wheels were still off of the cart for Ponder in the third. Sue Kamrath and Ty Nelson did get hits, but nothing came of them.

Score at the end three, no I'm not even going there. I can say that Pat Lewis recording the scorebook and Bob Potter running the scoreboard were not bored, as they were kept plenty busy with the roller coaster game action.

When Farmers came to bat in the fourth, Bill Smiley was on first when sneaky Clyde Ziegler instead of hitting down the third base line faked everyone out by hitting down the first base line. That took Ponder by surprise and the ball cruised all the way to the fence for an in the park homer, that scored smiley for two more runs, bringing the total to 17 runs scored.

In the fourth, Mike Braam led off with a single, followed by Bryce Treese's single. As everyone knows, once Braam starts running for second his turbo kicks in and he does everything but take flight. Greg Laffey, coaching at third, was signaling and waving his arms to no avail, because Mike was destined for home plate, run scored. But Ponder has broken the ice and they are now on the scoreboard and looking forward to the fifth.

Coco turned a double into a triple as he raced around to third. It was great defense by Ponder that held Farmers scoreless. Louis Berthold at second pulled down a fly by Gary Warrick and then big Louis actually bent over and caught a hit down at his shoe tops for the first and second outs. 'Oh' Henry's big blast to left was pulled in by Mike B for the third out, no runs for Farmers in the fifth.

Except for a hit by Sue Kamrath, Ponder was still trying to get the wheels back on the cart, score at the end of 5 was still 17 – 1 for Farmers.

Farmers was still steamrolling in the sixth, Mike Moss's hard grounder through the 5-6 whole went to the fence for a three bagger. Then singles by a cast of characters already lionized in this report brought in three more runs.

Those Ponder guys and gals aren't quitters and they did get 6 hits in the sixth but they could only squeeze two runs out of their efforts. Now with the score Farmers 20 and Ponder 3, the umps and coaches agreed to flip / flop leaving Ponder still at bat for a buffet inning. They did get some hits that brought in one run, but it was just too little too late with the final score Farmers 20 and Ponder 4.

Well Lulu what did you think of that.

Casey, I think that was great, it was accurate and balanced for both teams but still interesting to the reader. The only thing I would suggest is that you shouldn't lose sight of the key principle of softball at Robson. Every team will have good days or bad days, but they are always trying their best. The most important objective though of Robson softball is to bring people together for friendship and a good time, the score really isn't that important.

That is a good point Lulu and I will make sure to add that before I send this off to Dale. I really appreciate your help Lulu, you helped me bring this story back into perspective, thanks. Hope to see you soon.

You better get this typed up and off to Dale before he has a conniption fit.

You're right Lulu, I'm going to jump right on it.

Reporting; KCQ

P.S. I pity the poor team that next plays Ponder, because they will be looking for some serious redemption, in spades!