

Game Report March 30th- Home Tint vs Eagle Eye Care

It is easy to see why Fox and ESPN are battling feverishly to get the rights to carry RR Softball. Each game manages to mix in some major league highlights, little league enjoyment, stand-up comedy, and reality TV. And until the TV heavyweights show up, the only place you can find this type of entertainment is ... Our Field of Dreams. And Wednesday evening was a perfect example.

Fans started filling the stadium early for this one as two undefeated Co-Ed teams - the speedy Home Tint's visiting the powerhouse Eagle Eye Care - faced off to see who would claim the rights to 1st place at this juncture of the season. The cool evening (minus 22 wind chill at game time) affected the PA system in some manner, which led to our in-charge Home Plate Umpire, Bob Laderach, leading us in a most patriotic version of the National Anthem (acapella-style). With Kirk Douglas (yes, **that** Kirk Douglas) and Donna Peck (yes, **the** hard-hitting 2nd baseman for the Corple Corralers) performing Pressbox duties, Bob declared "Play Ball" and the Home Tinters (HT) were off and running ... literally.

In the top of the 1st, Jeff Duncan (3/3) stroked the first of six consecutive HT hits, halted quickly when Eagle Eye Care (EEC) turned a nifty inning-ending double-play. In the bottom of the inning, the HT defense recorded two quick outs before Tim Winiesdorffer (3/3) started the EEC hit parade. Following Craig Bishop's (3/3) liner to center, Jay Wissink (3/3) powered a long double to the fence to record the first EEC runs. Rocky Dudley drove in a 3rd run with a solid shot to left before the inning came to an end. The fans were loving it - a close game out of the shoot. **HT - 4; EEC - 3 after 1 inning.**

The next two innings were virtually all Home Tints, as EEC managed to record only one out during that stretch. Mike Lorenc (2/3) started the hitting explosion, where 13 of HT's 14 players reached base with hits, including 2-baggers provided by Tom Neagli, Dale Frazier (3/3), and Mike Flatt (2/3). EEC's turn at bat looked promising initially, with hits by Tom Doty and Danna Winiesdorffer (say that name 3 times fast), and an RBI provided by Linda Crawley. But that was it. HT recorded six consecutive outs during those two innings and, **after 3, the score stood at HT 14; EEC 4.**

Did I mention it was a bit chilly? At this point, with one team ahead by 10, a couple of fans started making their way to their cars. But only a couple. These die-hard fans had come to see a battle, and they knew that a score at halftime at Robson did not necessarily indicate the final winner. Besides, many of the fans were there to support their spouse. Jill Hupp was there for superstar hubby Jim. Kelly Wissink and Trish Moore were cheering on the EEC's and their husbands Jay and Henry. Both men sat out the previous 2021 season for various reasons - and were excited to be back, where ... well, ... where dreams come true. The Hinsons were also on hand - actually I think the Hinsons are always at the Field. Deb (our RRSA Communications Director) was sitting on the Home side of the stadium (the warmest side, based on the

northern gale-force winds), but knew, and cheered for virtually every person that came to bat. But the person that really stood out at the game was ... Jerry H (who is also a vital RRSA Board member) - the man that loaned me his super deluxe gloves while I took notes. What a guy. But wait, I digress.

Following a motivational halftime pep talk from EEC Coach Rocky, they proceeded to cool the hot HT bats off for the next 3 innings, giving up only one run during that stretch. That one run, though, was a thing of beauty, as Dale Frazier started off the 6th with a monster blast to the fence that he turned into an easy stroll around the bases for a Home Run. EEC, however, came alive during this time as they hung 5 on the scoreboard in both the 4th and 6th innings. Tim Winiesdorffer got the 4th inning started with a single, followed by an additional six consecutive hits, provided by Craig Bishop, Jay Wissink, Rocky Dudley (3/3), Nancy Rogus (2/3), Tom Doty (3/3), and Danna Winiesdorffer (3/3). The 6th inning was a near duplicate, with a smash to center by Jim Hupp, an inside-the-infield Home Run by Tim Winiesdorffer, and hits by the same contributors of the 4th inning. So, here we are - **Bottom of the 6th and the score is Home Tint - 15; Eagle Eye Care - 14.**

Anybody's game going into the 7th and final inning. In the top of the 7th, HT managed only one hit, by Joe Nuttall (3/3), off pitcher Tom Doty and the EEC defense ... and Joe did not score. OK EEC, all you need is 2 runs ... to complete the comeback from a 10-run deficit. But ... just like that, there were two quick outs. Then the count goes to 2-2 on the 3rd batter of the inning, with 2 outs. The fans are all standing, cheering. Strike 3. Ballgame. Instantly, the batter turns to the umpire ... and says: "Hey Bob, come join us at our after-game party." Because that's the way we roll at Robson.

Another cliff-hanger. **Final: HT - 15; EEC - 14.** Congrats to Coach Tom Neagli and his Home Tinters for their hard-fought victory. Tom attributed the 1-run victory to his wife, Killer, who, after having knee surgery just late last week, provided a hit and a run-scored while hobbling around on one leg. Way to tough it out, Killer.

Other significant contributors this evening include:

The McNemar duo - Marlene and John, who combined, went 6 for 6

Mike Flat - 2 for 2, both long doubles to left field

Ken Ford - 3 for 3

Our pitchers for the evening- Paul Vargo, Tom Doty, and Sean Curry - used the high wind to their advantage, delivering high arching pitches that befuddled batters all night, and resulted in a most unusual 7 strike-outs.

Thanks to Linda Carone and Coco Ondina as they assisted Bob L with the umpiring duties. Excellent job. No issues. Thanks to Mike Conley, as he coordinates and trains our umpiring staff. And thanks to Gary Warrick for keeping Quickscores updated with schedules, scores, and recent Game Reports. Also, many thanks to this evening's sponsors - Home Tint and Eagle Eye Care, for providing the colorful red and orange team jerseys and caps.

So, what are you doing Thursday evening? The Field of Dreams has a place for you. Should be another awesome game, and I can guarantee you it will be entertaining.

Cheers,
Dale Hill