

Welcome to another edition of the Finn and Jerry show! Weather is a fantastic 80 degrees, with a slight breeze blowing in from the southwest...ideal conditions for a night at the park and softballs flying out of the park! After a little rain on Thursday, my fluffy companion and I are looking forward to tonight's game, pitting "Slightly Shaded" Home Tint vs "HDT-V" Home Dream Team!

The rosters and lineup for tonight are below.

Home Tint

1. Dan "Sha-na-na" Shanahan
2. Jeff "Wokka Wokka" Vaka (Sub)
3. David "Don't call me Charley" Pryde
4. Bryan "BB-gun" Bravard
5. Sean "Spicy Yellow" Curry (Sub)
6. Donna "Nik Nik" Nikisch (Sub)
7. Tommy "The Grinder" Gitchell
8. David "Ding Ding Ding" Ferneding
9. Ron "Crusher" Frusher
10. Eddie "First things" Fuerst
11. Stewart "The Slayer" Smith
12. Mindy "The Shanimal" Shanahan

Did not play:

13. Jessica "The Jet" Davies
14. Patrick "Pajama man" Jameson
15. Tim "Pesky" Jeske
16. Drew "The Thriller" Miller

Home Dream Team

1. Kelly "Wink Wink" Wissink
2. Aasha "Aash-tastic" Jones
3. Greg "Lightning" Alexander
4. Rick "K-rock" Ketring
5. Steve "The Tank" Tafoya
6. Allen "A-Train" Day
7. Steve "The Wizard" Ward
8. Richard "The Mighty" Milby
9. Jay "J-Wizzy" Wissink
10. Stan "Sizzle" Isbell
11. Cheryl "Soul Sister" Soule
12. Paul "Fast and the Furious" Vargo (Sub)

Did not play:

13. Mick "The Machine" Calverley

You're volunteers for tonight include:

Umpires (A real all-star cast I must say!!)

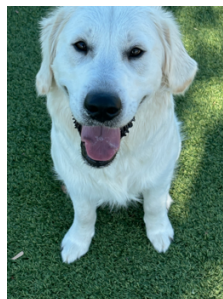
Carol "Why is the Rum Gone" Rumberger – HP
Gary "The Warrior" Warrick – 1st
Andy "The Bull" Bradshaw – 3rd

Press Box

Peter "Day-OH!" Day – PA
Jay "Hit it out of the" Parker – Scorekeeper
Jackie "Fox Trot" Fox - Scoreboard

Game Reporter(s)

Jerry "Jer Bear" Bidondo
Finn "Where's my snack?" Bidondo



Players lined, up, we all stood for the National Anthem, and HP Ump Rumberger calls out “Play Ball!”.

Top of Inning 1:

Paul Vargo (sub) on the mound. Dan Shanahan leading off for the Tinters, sending a high pop that the 1st baseman loses in the sun. Jeff Vaca (sub) sends a high pop just over shortstop for another single. David Pryde sends a high pop to right that eludes the outfielder and scores Shanahan from 2nd. Left-handed hitter Bryan Bravard takes the count to 3-2 before driving it between 1st and 2nd, scoring Vaca. Sean Curry (sub) sends a hard shot to shortstop, but the throw eludes the 2nd baseman, scoring Shanahan and Pryde. Donna Nikisch (sub) scorches it past 3rd for a single. Tommy Gitchell sends a liner out to left, scoring courtesy runner Vaca for the 5th run of the inning.

Bottom of Inning 1:

David Pryde on the hill for Home Tint. Kelly Wissink leading off, sending a line shot to center for her first hit. Aasha Jones follows suit and crushes it out to center field for a single. Greg Alexander draws a walk to load up the bases. Rick Ketring shoots a pop to Vaca in left center for the out but gets the sacrifice as Wissink races home. Steve Tafoya triples on a rocket to left, scoring Jones and Alexander. Allen Day shoots it between short and 3rd, scoring Tafoya. Another left-handed hitter, Steve Ward, sends an infield popup that no one can catch, but the runner is out at 2nd on a good throw by Pryde for the 2nd out. Richard Milby sends it to right for a single. Jay Wissink hits a smash to 3rd, but Curry makes the play and forces Milby out at second, keeping HDT’s run total at 4. We got us a real nail-biter so far!!!

Score after 1: HT 5 HDT 4

Top of Inning 2:

David Ferneding is thrown out at 1st on a nice play by Alexander at short. Ron Frusher sends Alexander into a dive, but the throw to 1st is late resulting in a single. Eddie Feurst grounds to Alexander who throws to 2nd for the force out. Stewart Smith pops up to Alexander at short. All 3 putouts by Greg, no runs across for HT.

Bottom of Inning 2:

Stan Isbell leading off for HDT grounds to short and a strong throw gets the first out. Cheryl Soule singles to 1st. Paul Vargo takes the count to 3-2 before taking the 3rd strike for the 2nd out. Wissink up for her 2nd at bat, shoots it past 2nd for a single. Jones hits a hard grounder to 3rd for her 2nd hit loading the bases. Alexander grounds to short, who makes the throw to 3rd for the final out. No runs across for HDT.

Score after 2: HT 5 HDT 4

Top of Inning 3:

Mindy Shanahan leading off for HT grounds to Alexander for the first out. Greg is going for the record for the most consecutive putouts in RRSA history. Shanahan pops up to guess who for the 2nd out of the inning. Vaca takes a mighty hack at the first pitch, missing it completely, to the delight of the crowd, but then sends a smoking hot shot to center for a triple. Pryde grounds up the middle, scoring Vaca. Bravard shoots it past 1st for a single, sending Pryde around to 3rd. Curry pops up to Alexander. That’s 6 in a row.

Bottom of Inning 3:

Ketring comes to the plate, and hoping to ignite a rally, smacks it over Vaca in left center for a stand up double. Tafoya does the same, sending it over Vaca's head and scoring Ketring, and then hustles home on some throws that just got away from the fielders. We'll call it a home run, cuz it's Robson Ranch softball. Tafoya is a single and double away from the cycle. Day makes it 3 out of 3, sending it over Vaca's head yet again. Ward gets just under the 2nd baseman's glove for a double, scoring Day from 2nd. Left-handed hitter Milby singles to right, scoring Ward. Wissink (the taller one) grounds to short for the force out at 2nd. Isbell singles to right, moving Wissink into 2nd. Soule (who always looks so serious but is a great hugger) singles to short, scoring Wissink for the 5th run.

Score after 3: HT 6 HDT 9

Top of Inning 4:

Nikisch sends a shot to left for a single. Gitchell sends a high pop to center for a single. Ferneding looking for a trademark "Fernedinger", manages to hit it hard to left, scoring Nikisch and moving Gitchell around to 3rd. Frusher drops it over 2nd for a single, driving in Gitchell and moving Ferneding to 3rd. Fuerst drops it over short for an RBI and ties the game...runners on 1st and 2nd. Smith grounds to Alexander (no, the record player isn't skipping) for the 1st out. Shanahan grounds into a 6-5-3 double play. So, technically, that's 8 straight put outs by Alexander, but his streak ends there as Greg decides to let someone else play defense and the 3rd baseman makes the throw to 1st.

Bottom of Inning 4:

Vargo grounds out to short for the 1st out of the inning. Wissink (the shorter one) up for the top of the order again, grounds to 2nd for out #2. Jones gets another hit to left. Alexander (the Great) bashes a smash to left that eludes the fielder, and sprints around the bases for an inside the parker, scoring Jones in front for the 2nd run. Ketring lines to right for a single. Tafoya (searching for the cycle needing a single and double) fails miserably when he instead crushes it over the center field fence for a home run and brings in the 4th run of the inning. Day doubles over the head of Vaca (we've seen a lot of Jeff's back this game). Ward draws a walk to bring up Milby, who grounds to 1st to retire the side.

Sidebar: There seems to be a controversy afoot being discussed by those attending tonight's game regarding "juiced balls". Personally, this reporter is not sure that's something we ought to be discussing in the wholesome Robson Ranch co-ed atmosphere...so we'll leave that discussion to the RRSA board.

Score after 4: HT 9 HDT 13

Top of Inning 5:

Shanahan shoots it out to Milby in right center, who makes a nice catch for the first out. Vaca smashes one to center, but a second nice catch by outfielder Jones gets the 2nd out. Pryde parachutes one just over the 1st baseman's head for a single. Bravard ropes a single to right center for a single, and courtesy runner Vaca takes Bravard's place at 1st. Curry hopes to start a 2-out rally, and does, sending a single to left, scoring Pryde and Vaca all the way from first. Nikisch continues her hot night with a hard-hit single to center. Gitchell shoots it over the rover's head scoring Vaca (again) and moving Nikisch to 3rd. Ferneding grounds it to center scoring Nikisch. All tied up!!! "We got a game!" says Peter Day-Oh on the PA. Frusher pops out to Alexander, ending the HT threat.

Bottom of Inning 5:

J Wissink steps up to start the 5th shooting it to center for a single. Isbell draws a walk to bring up Soule, who sends a shot to short stop, getting the 1st out at 3rd base. Vargo strikes out looking, putting the hopes for a big inning on the better half of the Wissink duo, who draws a walk and loads the bases for Jones. Jones grounds out to end the inning, no runs coming across.

This one is coming down to the wire (and hopefully not the end of my laptop's battery life).

Score after 5: HT 13 HDT 18

Top of Inning 6:

Feurst is safe at first as he singles to the left side of the infield. Smith drops a hit in front of the center fielder. M Shanahan gives a mighty grunt to shoot a single past the 3rd baseman, scoring Fuerst and moving Smith to 3rd. The other Shanahan hustles into 2nd with a stand-up double, scoring Smith. Vaca sends a vicious high pop-up in front of the pitcher for a hustle single. If this were golf, it would have been a great chip shot from just off the green. Pryde crushes a stand-up double scoring 2 and capping the inning at 5 runs.

Bottom of Inning 6:

Alexander lines out to short (what, he's human???) for the 1st out of the inning. Ketring shoots it under the 3rd baseman's glove for a double. Tafoya, who's greedy over the fence home run will probably keep him from hitting for the cycle, scorches one under the pitcher's glove for a double, scoring Ketring. If he only would have hit a single instead of a home run...oh the unrealized dreams ☺. Day grounds to short, but a throw in the sun allows Tafoya to come around to score and Day moves into 2nd. Ward grounds just past 1st for a single. Milby draws a walk, followed by a Wissink single, scoring Ward, drawing HDT ever closer. Isbell draws a walk to load the bases. Soule grounds to 2nd, but HT can't get the double play and the 5th run comes across.

Score after 6: HT 18 HDT 18

Let's the big dogs eat...It's BUFFET time!!!

Can't get much closer or exciting than this. The fans are on the edges of their seats. No one is leaving early tonight!

Top of Inning 7:

Bravard gets things rolling with a single to deep left. Curry follows up with a single, moving pinch runner Frusher to 3rd. Vaca pinch runs for Curry at 1st. Nikisch grounds to short who throws over to 2nd for the first out, scoring Frusher. Gitchell hits a fly ball caught by the left center fielder for the second out. Ferneding triples to deep center, scoring Nikisch. Frusher gets caught looking for the 3rd strike and final out of the inning.

Bottom of Inning 7:

Vargo steps up, looking to ignite a rally that will yield at least 3 runs. But a nice play by Curry at 3rd just gets Vargo at first. K Wissink draws a walk to get things started with one out. Jones pops it up into shallow right, and hustles into 2nd with a stand-up double, moving Wissink to 3rd. Up steps you-know-

who...Alexander. And guess what! Foul ball for the 3rd strike. Pretty sure Jesus is coming back tonight. Up steps Gitchell who cranks it into left, tying the game at 20-20. Oh boy...Tafoya is up! Still a chance at the cycle with a single! Didn't think he'd get up again with a chance like this, and in a rather fitting ending with the score tied...wait for it...Tafoya pops out to right center for the final out of the game.

FINAL SCORE: HT 20 HDT 20

What a fantastic night at the Field of Dreams and a great game played by both teams! I love that it's staying lighter longer at night, as this game went into the wee hours of the night (and a good deal past Robson midnight), ending at 7:37pm, even though we started about 15 minutes early. Timely defense, timely hitting, and the tie score indicated just how hard both teams played tonight. Thanks for the pleasure of getting to watch this one between two teams of real gladiators! Congrats to both teams, and to Greg Alexander for recording 37 outs in the game ☺. Have a great weekend all!

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Final
Home Tint	5	0	1	3	4	5	2	20
Home Dream Team	4	0	5	4	0	5	2	20

April 25th in Sports History:

- **1876** – Chicago Cubs 1st National League game, beating Louisville 4-0
- **1950** – Chuck Cooper becomes the first African American drafted into the NBA (Celtics)
- **1965** – Celtics win their 19th NBA Championship
- **1974** – NFL moves goal posts to back of end zone and adopts sudden-death playoff
- **1980** – Oakland A's manager Billy Martin is restrained by umpires from attacking a fan
- **1997** – Ken Griffey Jr. hits his 250th home run
- **2025** – How about those Seattle Mariners tied for 1st place as of this writing!!! (Don't worry, it won't last ☺)

April 25th Sports Birthdays:

- **1932** – Meadow "Meadowlark" Lemon, American basketball star (Harlem Globetrotters, 1955-80, 1990, and 3 other teams), and clergyman
- **1962** – Adam Silver, American lawyer and NBA Commissioner
- **1969** – Joe Buck, American sports broadcaster