

Monday, May 8th: HOME TINT and ADAM'S FURNITURE Game Report

RRSA 'spring break' is over and RR action resumed tonight on our lovely Field of Dreams. The week starts off mostly sunny, warm- 87F, and a gentle 12mph breeze helped keep players and fans all a bit cooler. Tonight's home team is 3rd place **Home Tint (HT)** (John McNemar- Manager, Stan Isbell- Asst. Manager), taking on a very hungry **Adam's Furniture (AF)** (Spencer Folsom-Manager). But before digging into the fast-paced action, I just must send kudos to our RRSA 65+ and the newly formed 75+ tournament teams. Wow, kicking some butt fellas, both teams are Texas State Champions! Most of us have one weekly practice and play one weekly game. Each team played at least 6 games over three days, that would spell rehab for me!

Looking up from organizing my game report papers, HP umpire George Wendt is speaking with both Managers, flanked by 1st base ump. Kevin Buckrucker, and 3rd base ump. Ed Cawley. Many thanks to tonight's Press box volunteers: colorful Johnny Blecher announcing, Paul Caruso book-keeping, and Linda Cawley running the score board. National Anthem complete- let's play ball! Oops – slight delay – news flash -AF 1st baseman and player extraordinaire, Dale Hill is a 'last-minute' scrub. Apparently cutting his hand in the warm-up and now enroute to Presby. ER, gosh, group prayer for Dale. Luckily Jeff Rumberger was in the stands to watch his lovely wife Carol sub for HT. So now playing 1st base for AF will be Jeff, this will be interesting watching spouses play against each other, surely a first for RR softball? OKAY – now we are ready - play ball!

1st Inning:

HT Manager John McNemar throws the first pitch, and AF Shield Jones leads off with a single, Peter Grasser also adds a single, bringing slugger 'CoCo' Ondina who scores the first RBI with a smash triple, but a long throw to HT catcher Carol Rumberger is in time to terminate a 2nd RBI, one run in and one out. Jeff Rumberger steps to the plate and booms a highflyer as HT sub-Gary Warrick playing ROV chases it down, and just like that – out #2 – a sacrifice fly to add another RBI. AF manager Spencer Folsom missiles for a stand-up double, Jerry Bennett sends out a sweet single to get his manager scored, one more out and HT keeps AF to 3 scored runs. AF pitcher Steve Bentley delivers to HT Matt Curtis who rifles deep into the waiting LF glove of Manager Spencer Folsom – one out. Next James Hupp does a pro-line-drive down 3rd base to earn a double, RCF Shield Jones catches Tim Jeske's flyball – in the sun even - 2nd out but scoring an RBI, the final inning out came when Jeff Rumberger snags a hot drive stealing a hit from Sean Curry. **SCORE: HT-1 AF-3**

2ND Inning:

AF had several great hits, beginning with Steve Westerkamp's shot over 2nd base, Christa Prim singling. But HT buckled down and got two out on a double play, bringing up tournament team manager Louis Berthold who powered a bullet towards 3rd base, and dang, that tall guy, Ron Schwertner snagged it keeping AF scoreless. I think I can see why that tall Ron fellow earned the tournament title 'MVP' last week? HT was wanting to party, starting with a Bob Riley single, but on the next batter catcher Louis

Berthold hustled with a throw to 1st base, one out. Not deterred, Joe Nuttall landed a single, bringing up Mr. Gary Warrick whose inside park home run scored 2 RBIs, and just like that, 3 runs added to the scoreboard. Hopes for more runs ended when that AF 'CoCo' Ondina's golden glove caught two fly balls back-to-back, totaling 3 outs to end the inning. **SCORE: HT-4 AF-3**

3rd Inning:

Top of the AF order – Shield Jones singles, followed by Peter Grasser who delivers a scorcher towards pitcher Sean Curry, and yup, Sean snags it and orchestrates a double play – two out. Not deterred slugger 'CoCo' Ondina adds a double to his repertoire, and Jeff Rumberger's single scores 'CoCo' – RBI. Spencer Folsom collects another stand-up double, but the inning ends with a grounder to first. AF now ties the score 4 to 4. HT Manager John McNemar sets the team mood with a single, copied by Matt Curtis, which brings up that big guy, Ron Schwertner who doubles and adds 2 RBIs. James Hupp singles and adds RBI #3, not to be left out, Tim Jeske triples and scores RBI #4, leaving Sean Curry to end the inning with a solid hit to give HT the 5-run maximum rule.

SCORE: HT-9 AF-4

4th Inning:

Rocky Dudley shoots out a single to get AF on base; now pitching for HT the experienced Sean Curry strikes out the next batter – one out; which brings up another AF tall guy – Steve Wetenkamp, who gets on base with another shot over 2nd base, Christa Prim hits and is called out at 1st base – two out, reliable Jerry Bennett singles and clocks an RBI; Louis Berthold attempts to keep AF rolling – but sharp HT fielding gets the third out at 2nd base, leaving AF with one run added to the score board. HTs Bob Riley smashes the ball for an easy double to start the HT attack. Carol Rumberger scores the first RBI with a single; Joe Nuttall also singles to get on base; setting the stage for Mr. Gary Warrick who did not disappoint with his second infield home run plus adding 2 RBIs. Six runs on the scoreboard compliments of Gary – I wonder if his lovely wife Debbie will mind if I start calling him "BABE" – you know that baseball guy? HT is not done yet, Bill Maynard singles to find himself on base, but AF fields a hit from Nancy Rogus to get the first out. Manager John McNemar hits a lovely fly ball that SS 'CoCo' Ondina handles – two out. But when Matt Curtis soars one far into LF he scores the fifth run closing the inning. **SCORE: HT-14 AF-5**

5th Inning:

Come on AF – I am cheering for the underdog. Maybe they were listening – Shield Jones just singled; Peter Grasser had a high pop fly and 'BABE' (Gary Warrick) caught for the first out. But 'CoCo' Ondina reenergized AF with a single, Jeff Rumberger was robbed by SS Tim Jeske making the second out – but Mr. consistent (Spencer Folsom) rifled his 3rd double of the evening scoring the innings only 2 RBIs. HT continues to be relentless, applying more pressure – tall MVP man- Ron Schwertner delivers a double; James Hupp extraordinaire also doubles adding the first RBI; Tim Jeske gets on base with a single; Sean Curry copy-cats but earns the 2nd RBI. Bob Riley delivers his second double of the night sending in 2 more RBIs; and finally sweet delicate Carol Rumberger

demonstrates her might slamming a double closing the 5-run inning. **SCORE: HT-19 AF-7**

6th Inning:

This inning was all about excellent fielding demonstrated by both teams. Batters up – and batters out. A couple of notable high fly ball catches were done by LF Spencer Folsom and SS ‘CoCo’ Ondina. **SCORE: HT-19 AF-7**

7th Buffet Inning:

AF faced a real challenge – but they are not quitters. HT smelled the after-party and focused hard – catching Louis Berthold’s fly ball for the first out. Next Shield Jones earned his 4th base hit of the evening, Peter Grasser singled, and the stage was set for ‘CoCo’ Ondina to shoot for his second triple scoring an RBI – but the second possible RBI was shut out by catcher Joe Nuttall- two out. Jeff Riley singled to add that 2nd RBI, but after two more singles HT got the third out at 1st base. Game Over!

FINAL SCORE: HT-19 AF-9

I can’t end without acknowledging that we could not play games without subs – so thanks too: HT- Sean Curry, Bob Riley, Carol Rumberger, Gary (BABE) Warrick, and Bill Maynard; AF – Peter Grasser, Miguel ‘CoCo’ Ondina, Jeff Rumberger, and Rocky Dudley.

Just a closing thought: Why do we sing “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” when we are already there?

Till next Monday folks, stay safe!

Killer Neagli