


MS2 Takes On Undefeated ProScapes Landscaping

On a sunny, relatively cool Wednesday morning at the Field of Dreams, the undefeated Proscapes Landscaping, managed by Bill Smiley took on the twice beaten MS2, managed today, on an interim basis, by Mick Calverley. The cool, sunny skies and, of course, the entertainment only provided by the Seniors League, brought out our best crowd of the year. At the start of the game there were 12 spectators on the first base side and 9 on the third base size. I know it doesn't sound like much, but to your Seniors League players it was SRO (Standing Room Only).

Starting pitcher Sharon Deputy took the mound to face the visiting, first place ProScapes. It started good for Sharon. A couple of groundballs to Clyde Ziegler at 3rd got two outs, but cleanup batter, Ken Ford, hit a home run to deep left field to score two runs for the visitors.

Up came underdog MS2 in the bottom of the inning. With lots of good hitting and aggressive base running encouraged by Mick coaching third, MS2 tallied four runs. Three consecutive singles by the top of the order, Terry Scholze, Gary Wiesner, and Bruce Horeftis started it off for MS2. Following a fly ball out to left field, four consecutive hits by Kelly Wissink, Clyde, John Andy Anderson, and Mick produced 4 runs. Score after 1 was 4-2, MS2.

Sharon continued her great pitching in the 2nd. Bob Smiley led off for ProScapes. Third basemen Clyde alerted the right side of the infield and outfield to be on the alert because Bill likes to hit to right. Bill promptly hits a smash groundball down the third base line for a double.

 John Pierini drove in Bill with a base hit but that was all. Only one run scored.

Up came MS2 in the bottom of the 2nd and Boom! five runs max scored. After ageless Bob Kuhfuss retired the first batter, the next four batters singled, Stan the Man Isbell, Sharon, Terry, and Gary doing the hitting. Following a fly ball out for the 2nd out of the inning, Jim Reese, Kelly (a double), and Clyde got hits to get five on the board for MS2. Score after two, 9-3 in favor of MS2. Was there an upset in the making?

In the top of the third, with one out, Cheryl McNally worked the count for a walk. Scott Wilson followed with a base hit to left center, but Jim Reese did what he really enjoys doing, throwing runners out at bases, this time Cheryl at third. Sharon shut em out the rest of the inning. In fact, Sharon shut them out in the fourth as well as Terry continued his fielding clinic at shortstop with three assists in the inning.

Ageless Bob retired MS2 1-2-3 in the bottom of the third. But MS2, on the backs of base hits by Lee Figueriedo, Stan the Man, Sharon and Gary, scored two runs in their half of the fourth driving the score to 11-3 after 4.

MS2 Takes On Undefeated ProScapes Landscaping

In the fifth, with Mick on the mound, Proscapes did not score despite getting back-to-back hits by Henry Moore and Susan Kamrath. After taking one on the shins, Terry recorded another assist to end the inning. In bottom of the inning MS2 got a couple more runs on hits by Kelly, Clyde, and Mick. 13-3 after five and one could sense that ProScapes was going to go down to their first defeat.

But hold on to your britches as ProScapes came back to score 5 big runs in the top of the 6th to draw closer at 13-8. Lots of hits produced the five runs. After Bill Soule led off with a walk and Mick struck out the next batter, six straight hits produced the five, much needed, runs. Scott Wilson, Ken Lilley, David McKie, Ken Ford (2B), Diana Duncan and Manager Bill Smiley produced those runs giving Proscapes some hope that they just might pull this thing off.

When MS2 came to bat in the bottom of the 6th, there was some sort of buzz working its way through the stands. Johnny Blecher, MS2's regular manager, took a seat on the bench to cheer his team on. He had just arrived from yet another doctor's appointment on his injured leg. After Stan grounded out short to start the inning, the buzz intensified at Johnny got off the bench, walked to his car, and got out his bat bag. Not affected at all by the buzz, Sharon hit a shot to left for her third hit of the game. After consulting with the official scorer Randy Matthiessen, home plate umpire Mike Conley, and opposing team manager Bill Smiley, Johnny was cleared to bat – his first AB of the fall season – Seniors or Co-Ed Leagues. From the Doctor's table to the batter's box at the Field of Dream, Johnny promptly hits one to the fence in center for a stand-up triple, scoring Sharon for MS2's final run of the game for MS2. Feeling his oats, Johnny attempted score on a routine grounder. But Scott at shortstop threw to Henry at first base retiring the batter and Henry made an excellent home to Cheryl guarding the plate who made an even more spectacular catch to cut Johnny down at the plate. There were high fives all around for Proscapes on that one.

Mick recorded another shutout inning in the top of the seventh. Final Score: MS2 – 14 and previously undefeated ProScapes Landscaping – 8.

Following the game your reporter interviewed the Commissioner of the Seniors League, Kelly Petre. It went like this: "Mr. Commissioner, any observations you would like to share with the fans on this great game this morning?" He replied, "Yes. A protest on the outcome has been filed." "Who filed the protest, Mr. Commissioner?" "I did", he said. "There was an illegal substitution in the bottom of the sixth that could result in MS2 forfeiting the game."

Wow, only the Seniors League produces this kind of drama.

Joining Randy in the press-box this morning were two Seniors League regulars: Dave Riddle announced the game as he does on most Wednesday mornings. And of course, our full-time score board operator, Rick Rubin. Thank you, men.

MS2 Takes On Undefeated ProScapes Landscaping

Assisting home plate umpire Mike Conley this morning and doing double duty calling both 1st and 3rd base, was Steve Pratt. Thanks Mike and Steve. You both did great.

As your reporter was leaving, Commissioner Petre came up to me with his usual big grin and said, "I was pulling your leg; just kidding!". Yes, this is the great, fun-filled, Seniors League.

So, final, final score was MS2 – 14, ProScapes Landscaping – 8.

Box Score Standouts:

ProScapes Landscaping

- Ken Ford: 2-3, HR, 2B, 5 RBI's
- Weldon Wallace: 2-2
- Bill Smiley: 2-3, 2B, RBI

MS2

- Gary Wiesner: 3-3
- Kelly Wissink: 3-3, 2 RBIs
- Clyde Ziegler: 3-3, 2 RBIs
- Sharon Deputy: 3-3
- Terry Scholze: 2-4, 2 RBI's, 6 assists