

It had been a busy day at the Field of Dreams. The stands were filled, kids scootered back and forth, the aroma of brats and dogs hung in the air and there wasn't a parking spot to be found. The cheering of the crowd was interrupted only by the repeated cracking of the bats, launching balls up into the stiff breeze blowing out to left field, and there was certainly plenty of launching for one morning.

After the games were over and the crowd was gone, it seemed like time stood still. A tranquility settled over the field. The peace, the quiet, the green grass reaching to the blue sky on the far horizon and the feeling of a relaxed autumn afternoon all brought back an appreciation for the friendships and good times that are the heart and soul of the Field of Dreams.

So, on this perfect afternoon it was time another game to get the Field's heart pumping and the blood flowing, Eagle Eye Care vs Home Tint. Rocky Dudley, Eagle Eye Coach, chalked the lines just before the teams started their warm-ups. The stands started to fill and the none other than Lulu showed up. She was somewhat amiss when I asked if she was excited about the coming makeup game. "Well, to tell you the truth I was happy and comfortable watching football this afternoon and it wasn't easy to leave my comfy couch, snacks and hot apple cider to come out here." So you like football? "Are you kidding, football players in those tight pants have cute butts. It was hard to leave that for baggy butt pinstripes and beer bellies. But, I still love all of the players, especially the ladies, who don't look like that." But you're happy to be here now so let's get back to the game. The officials for today's game, George Wendt at home and Gary Warrick and Danny Thomas in the field met with Coach Rocky Dudley and Tom Neagli, the Eagle Eye Coach, to cover the ground rules for the game. After the National Anthem, Home Tint (HT) took the field and John McNemar through the first pitch to Randy Matthiessen, who got things started with a double. Randy made it home for their first run after a single by Kelly Wissink, who was forced at second, and Steve Ward got the RBI but was out at first. Mike Braam hit the long ball for a triple and then scored before Rocky was called out at first for the third out. Home Tint came out with their bats blazing. Dianna Duncan and Tom Neagli singled, Ken Ford doubled sending Dianna across the plate for the first run and Mike Lorenc walked. With the bases loaded and no outs, Mike Moss's single drove in two more runs, but Lorenc was then thrown out at third. Marlene McNemar and Hubby John singled

as did Greg McElyea which drove in Mike Moss and Marlene for the fourth and fifth runs, inning over.

Home Tint 5, Eagle Eye 2 at the end of one.

Tim Winiesdorffer, Sean Curry, Nancy Rogus and John Jordan all got to first base, but three quick forces at second and third ended the inning for EEC. It seems like HT was just hitting their stride after that five run first inning. After singles by Jeff Duncan, Dianna and Tom; doubles by Ken Ford and Mike Lorenc; and a triple by Ty Nelson, HT amassed a slug of RBIs for another five run inning.

At the end of two, Home Tint 10 and Eagle Eye two and Lulu is beginning to forget about those football butts. What do you think Lulu? "Well, if I was Eagle Eye, I would think it is time to say ENOUGH!

It looks like EEC got the message, because they came storming out in the third. Ed Cawley walked, Linda C and Bobby D singled to load the bases with no outs. Randy's double drove in two runs, then Kelly's single drove in the third run. Steve and Mike B got to first and then Rocky's hit sent Randy and Kelly in for the fourth and fifth runs. "WHEW", said Lulu it's a ball game. HT realized this was going to be a battle. Moss opened with a triple and Joe Nutall singled. After a couple of quick outs, Greg McElyea's hit drove in Mike and Joe and Greg got to second on an error. Marti Harnly got a nice hit taking her to first but they were stranded there after a fly out to center field for the third out ended the inning.

Through three, Home Tint 12 and Eagle Eye 7.

In the fourth, Jay Wissink hit a bomb to left, but with a great running catch, Greg McElyea pulled it in for the first out. Tim W followed that with a bomb to center that dropped in for a triple. Pitcher Sean Curry with an infield hit and error was safe at first which allowed Tim to head for home and the score before the inning ended. Home Tint wasn't going to let up the pressure, big Louis Berthold singled as did Dianna (3/4) driving in one run. Tom N (4/4) singled, putting runners on first and third with one out. The stage was set and Ken Ford didn't disappoint, with a long ball for a HOME RUN, bringing in three more runs. It was a full day for Ken, with a single, double, triple and a home run. Home Tint was happy Ken wasn't home watching football with Lulu. Mike Lorenc scored the fifth run when Joe Nutall hit into a fielder's choice to end with five more runs for the inning.

At the end of four, a fired up Home Tint led Eagle Eye 17 to 8. All of this action kept announcer, and fan favorite 'Johnny B' Blecher busy with his commentary and rock and roll musical selections. Lulu's only comment was that Johnny didn't play any Sinatra. Donna Peck on the scorebook and Carol Rumberger on the scoreboard seemed to like Johnny's selections, as it was rumored that they were grooving to the tunes when not chalking up the multitude of runs in this game. Not everyone likes 'old blue eyes' Lulu!

The fifth inning didn't bode well for Eagle Eye, Ed C and Bobby D singled, but were stranded on base as the inning ended. Home Tint fared better in the fifth. Marlene Mc and John Mc singled as did Greg Mc, Bobby D and Ty. After a strike out and a couple of force outs at second, HT was still able to add three more runs. Home Tint 20 and Eagle Eye 8 through five.

One should never count Eagle Eye out though, as they came back in the sixth with a vengeance. Kelly held out for a walk, and Steve W singled. Mike B doubled, sending in Kelly. Rocky's walk loaded the bases with no outs. Jay came through with a double sending in Steve, Mike and Rocky for three more runs. Tim W's single advanced Jay and then Sean's single drove in Jay for the fifth run, inning over, but the battle was on. Home Tint responded well to the pressure all day. Just when EEC threatened, HT fought right back. Tom singled and 'Mr Magic' with the bat, Ken Ford tripled driving in Tom. Then for the icing on the cake, Mike Lorenc, just like his teammate earlier, blasted a HOME RUN bringing in two more runs. A couple of quick outs and the inning ended with Home Tint 23 and Eagle Eye 13.

In the seventh, Nancy Rogus singled and then advanced to home on singles by Ed C, Linda C and Bobby D, a fly to the short stop and a force at second, left EEC with two outs and runners on second and third, with Randy W at bat. Tension was in the air, could they keep the inning going. Randy crushed the ball, it rose up to catch the jet stream blowing to left and sailed back and back where Mr Magic, Ken Ford was waiting on the warning track to pull it in for the third and final out, game over. Final score Home Tint 23 and Eagle Eye Care 14. It was a well fought game with both teams giving their all to the effort. Lulu enjoyed the game and was no longer disappointed in missing afternoon football.

Yes, it was a great game and a great afternoon to build on those softball friendships. Now the field is quiet again. Tranquility, like fog settles over the field as the setting sun casts its last light of the day. It really was a great day, and I am looking forward to tomorrow, a whole new day with the same old friends, it doesn't get any better. See you there.....