

Ponder Hardware @ Argyle Dental

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 - Attendance 51 (estimated)

Trivia Question – Answer at the Bottom:
Who is the only MLB player to hit a walk-off inside-the-park grand slam?

Under partly cloudy skies, mild temperatures, and light winds out of the SE, after our salute to the flag it was game on. The press box crew of Peter Day (Announcer), George Wendt (Book) and Donna Peck (Board) were good to go as Home Plate Umpire, Danny Thomas, Stu White (1B) and Jeff Peck (3B) assumed their positions.

At this point in the season teams are battling for playoff seeding positions. Argyle Dental (1-3-1) was looking to leap frog Ponder HW (2-3) while Ponder HW was looking to even their record at 3-3.

Each team enlisted 2 subs, who as Peter Day stated, "*had nothing better to do*". AD is a well-balanced team while Ponder HW is loaded with heavy hitters, however, Coach Laffey has been somewhat frustrated with their fielding performance.

Mike "The Captain" Flatt got the party started for Ponder with a line shot to center. Crazy Legs Braam followed with a single to bring Bob Riley and Bryce Treese (otherwise known as the "Big Bombers") to the dish. They did not disappoint. Riley unloads a double to the fence for 2 RBI's followed by a Treese bomb over the left field fence bringing in another 2 runs. Four consecutive singles by Jackie Fox, Jerry Hinson, Carol "Heinz 57" Rumberger and Sean "Prez" Curry (RBI) scored the 5th run.

On their heels from Ponders lightning strike AD went quietly in the first inning sending 4 to the plate.

End of 1: Ponder HW – 5 / AD - 0

Following a walk to Rick Werstein and a single by Randy Catron it appeared as though another big inning was in store for Ponder HW, however, pitcher Mick Caverley, had other plans. Mick worked the corners and with shortstop Bill Reese's solo double play AD was back at bat.

Ken Ford stepped to the plate and lined a shot to right for what looked to be extra bases, but wait...Carol Rumberger tracked the ball, got on her tippy toes, and performed her signature "Statue of Liberty" catch holding the ball high above her head for the camera's (PS – God Bless America). AD then strung singles my Mick, Joe Dougherty, Coach Kamrath and Sue "Lefty" Kamrath to bring in their lone run. The "Leather" Coach Laffey was looking for started to show up to close the inning.

End of 2: Ponder HW – 5 / AD – 1

Top of 3 Crazy Legs Braam leads off with a triple down the LF line. To look at Mike's legs one would believe he had a case to sue for "lack of support", however, we all know his legs are super charged! Another Riley double/RBI and Treese single/RBI brings in two. A single by John Coffman advances Treese who is eventually driven in for the 3rd and final run of the inning on a fielder's choice off the bat of Jerry Hinson.

Despite a lead off single by Cheryl Soule and singles by Steve Wardlaw and Spencer "Coach" Folsom no runs were netted as the Ponder HW players started to realize that using that piece of leather on their non-throwing hand actually makes a difference.

End of 3: Ponder HW – 8 / AD - 1

With the precision of a dentist performing a root canal, Dr. Mickey Calverley, worked his pitches allowing Ponder HW only one hit and no runs.

Conversely, in their half of the inning AD still could not solve Sean "The Prez" Curry on the bump. Working his "front to back of the plate" strategy Sean gets Mick on a fly out. Joe Dougherty singles but is forced out on Coach Ken's ground ball. Lefty Kamrath follows with her second single placing runners at 1st and 2nd with two outs. Up steps Louis Berthold who promptly lines a shot to center that is fielded and quickly thrown to second for a force and final out...the Ponder defense steps up again.

End of 4: Ponder HW – 8 / AD - 1

Coming to the plate Ponder HW, looking to break open the game and did just that. The Riley/Treese duo open with a double/triple combo bringing in one. A Coffman single plates Treese and is promptly followed by four consecutive hard singles by Jackie Fox, Jerry Hinson, Carol Rumberger (RBI) and Sean Curry (2 RBI's) – 5 runs.

As AD came to bat "*Hit Me With Your Best Shot*" was booming from the field speakers! Would AD pay this off with a big inning? Not quite, but apparently Bill Reese was "all ears" as he banged an inside the park home run to the fence for their lone run.

End of 5: Ponder HW – 13 / AD - 2

As Ponder HW came to bat in the 6th the question was can their hitting barrage continue? The answer came quickly as they sent nine batters to the plate resulting in another 5-run inning. Six consecutive singles by Werstein, Catron, Ty “Money Man” Nelson, Captain Flatt/2 RBI’s, Braam/1RBI, Riley/1RBI followed by a Treese double and a Fox RBI single closed out the scoring. A withering attack indeed.

The good news for Coach Ken is there is no quite on this AD team. Too many leaders for that...everything is important! Folsom starts their response with a sharp single followed by a Ken Ford double and a Calverley single plating 2 runs. Dougherty follows with his 3rd single of the evening and a walk to Coach Ken loads the bases. Sue Kamrath’s third single of the game drives in the 3rd run. Berthold knocks in the 4th and final run of the frame.

End of 6: Ponder HW – 18 / AD - 6

Home Plate Umpire Danny Thomas calls for the “Flippy Flop” and AD stays on the offensive. Soule gets things started with her second hit of the game. Reese sends her to third on a hard double. Luay “The Supplement Plan” Ashoo knocks in a run via a fielder’s choice. Wardlaw follows with an RBI single. A Folsom single sends Wardlaw to 3rd bringing Ford to the plate who launches a sac fly/RBI. Despite Mick’s third hit the rally fizzles to end the contest.

FINAL SCORE: Ponder HW – 18 / AD - 9

Postscript:

The takeaway for Coach Laffey – the offense is explosive – the team now understands that with a measure of focus they have the potential to consistently play solid defense – the goal here is to build on this game’s performance.

For Coach Kamrath the message is simple - “*no quit here*” – his is a team with much experience that will serve them well for the balance of the season and into the playoffs.

The playoffs are looming...seeding battles continue. Are you ready? Stay tuned!!!

“For the Glory”

Trivia Answer: On July 25, 1956, the Great **Roberto Clemente** became the only MLB player to hit a walk-off inside-the-park grand slam in a 9-8 Pittsburgh Pirates win over the Chicago Cubs, at Forbes Field. **“Raise the Jolly Roger”!!!**