

Feast or Famine
Ponder Hardware vs. Home Tint
Tuesday, 18 Apr '23

If you went home early, shame on you. Have a little faith. Home Tint may have been down early, but they're used to winning; they don't ever give up; and they highly dislike losing (junkyard dogs). Just to give you an idea of the drama of the evening: coach of Ponder Hardware, Greg Laffey, told me he got a call from his cardiologist to make sure he was ok giving up a 14 - 2 lead. It went down to the wire. It was 14 -14 going into the buffet and the margin of victory was just one run.

I was lucky enough to be subbing for Ponder. You know how sometimes there's just a good vibe in warm ups and it carries on into the dugout and out on to the field. Ponder had it. Even when they gave up the historic comeback numbers, they didn't crumble or flinch. And their after party, OMGosh, Taco Tuesday. One of the best parts of Robson Coed Softball are the after parties and Randy & Teri Catron would have beaten Bobby Flay.

How about those rookies! Glen Stephens of Ponder, an airline pilot by profession, went 3 for 3 with a double. Tim Jeske of Home Tint had a home run and 3 RBIs. John LePrevost was 2 for 2 before exiting with an injury.

Our Ladies are a chapter of their own. Rojean Cossairt led off with a single for Ponder and Jackie Fox did her normal excellent job batting, going 3 for 4 and an RBI. We'll talk about the Big Dogs and their bats later, but Home Tint's Ladies rocked the house. Nancy Rogus was a cool 4 for 4 with 2 RBIs, a highlight night for any of us. Carol Rumberger... Carol was the MIP (Most Impressive Player, sounds better than MVP) and was just in the zone. When Carol first came up I suggested to Bryce Treese that he back up into the grass since only he, the catcher and 2nd baseman can initiate the put out of a lady batter. Would not have mattered. I was playing deep rover (to be safe) and she ripped it over my head, burning us with a triple to the fence. She came up again and I said. "I'm not kidding Bryce, she can hit it," and she smacked one to the outfield again. I didn't have to say anything the last time, when Carol came up in the critical buffet inning with the game on the line. Bryce backed up into the outfield. Carol purposefully

poked one down the third base line for a single. “Facile”, or easy as we would say in English. Why are women so frustrating? No, that was a magical performance by Carol and all of the women on Tuesday evening.

The game was choppy. All Ponder through 3 1/2 innings with the score 14 - 2 for the Maroon. Luay Ashoo denied Home Tint long fly balls 3 times in the first 3 innings and again fighting the fierce wind with a leaping catch of one fixin' to sail over his head to the fence in the latter innings. And then no one seemed to catch anything hit by Home Tint as they found the gaps seemingly everywhere and Ponder started hitting it at the Home Tint defenders.

Oh you can be assured the Big Dogs ate:

Home Tint's: Ron Schwertner went 4/4 with 2 doubles and an RBI

Gary Warrick, 4 for 4 with a double and an RBI

Joe Nuttall, 4/4 with 2 dbls down the line owned Ponder

Ponder Hardware:

Crazy Legs Mike Braam, 4/4, Dbl, 2 Trips, 3 RBIs

Bob Riley, 4/4, Trip, HR and 4 RBIs

Bryce Treese, 4/4 with an RBI and a masterful handling of SS

Before I quit the teasing and get down to the last two innings, let's compliment our support team. Stu White, home plate ump, was on top of his game with support from Coco at 1B and Andy Bradshaw at 3B. No controversies. Paul Neal was our announcer and also contributed to this game report. Thank you Paul. Donna Peck was on top of the scoreboard (picture that) and Pat Lewis kept one of the most easily understood scorebooks of the season. Sounds silly, but keeping score can be a bit messy and complicated. Pat simplified it and made it easy for the game reporter. Thanks Pat!

With the score 14 - 9, Ponder came up in the top of the 6th with a chance to salt away the win. Four batters produced zippo for PH. Yikes.

Home Tint seemed to swell with confidence and proceeded to put on a hitting clinic in their half of the 6th. Nuttall doubled and Nancy Rogus lifted one over the SS. Ramiro (3/4, Dbl, 3 RBIs) doubled; John McNemar

singled and we were off to the races. Ron S doubled in the 4th run of the inning and David McKie (3/4, 2 RBIs) finished off the 5 spot.

Score 14 - 14 and we were ready for the buffet.

Ponder hadn't scored in 3 innings and you would think they might lose their confidence, their resolve. They didn't. Bob Riley tripled to open the buffet. Bryce singled, setting the table for Jerry Hinson (3/4, 2 Dbls, 4 RBIs) and he didn't disappoint, doubling to get in the second run of the 7th inning. Luay drove in the third run but that was the end of the scoring for Ponder, but they did get 3. Could they hold it considering the onslaught they had been facing?

Well, it started out very promising for Home Tint as Tim Jeske cleared the fence for a HR. Majestic, but I thought S__t, that's not good for us. Riley snagged a hot shot off the bat of Matt Curtis for an out, but then Home Tint went on a bit of a run of singles highlighted by Joe Nuttal's shot and Nancy getting her 2nd RBI to reach within one run of Ponder Hardware. But it was not to be. Ponder pitcher, Sean Curry (3/4), hung on for the victory even making the last put out himself and it was off to the after parties.

Final score: Ponder Hardware 17 - Home Tint 16. Both teams are now 2 wins, 2 losses.

Was it a good time? Way good.

Johnny B