

Well Lulu, you blew it. While you were sitting down in Houston watching a blowout basketball game you could have been here at the Ranch watching a real barn burner. Yes I am telling you Adams Furniture and Ponder Hardware came to play and they brought their big bats with them. It was a perfect night, balmy temps and not much in the way of winds relative to what is normal in Texas as the tumbleweed rolls over miles and miles of nothing.

The game started out with a surprise; Jackie Fox 'Ms Dependable' hit a grounder to Mike Jaensch at third who threw her out at first. Lulu, you tell me, when does Jackie not get at least a single, well I'll let you check the record book. Anyway, Jerry Hinson singled but then Mike Braam hit a hard line drive to Randy Matthiessen for the second out. Bryce Treese followed with a hard smash deep to left center but Spenser Folsom moved over to pull it in for the third out. Well, what do you say, the top of the batting order and all of that power and nothing, nada, zero. You say, 'good defense' and move on to the bottom of the first.

Jerry Bennett starting out for Adams blasted a line drive and Bob Riley at third made a great catch for the first out. It looked like this was going to be a great defensive struggle, but then all of a sudden Adams took the covers off of their bats and started swinging away. The Adams batters seemed to find a hole for every grounder or pop fly in spite of Ponders good defense. Shields Jones, Randy Matthiessen singled, Dale Hill and Spenser Folsom doubled and then Rocky Dudley and Tiffany Ramzy singled, driving in 4 runs. After a force out at second the inning ended with Adams up 4 – 0.

The action continued as Bob Riley came to bat for Ponder. Bob doubled and Rick Werstein strolled to first on a walk. Sean Curry hit a pop up to short left which Dale Hill snagged over his right shoulder, twisting his body while running back. Dale looked down into his glove happy to see the ball was there, a great catch by Dale, holding the runners on base. Randy Catron singled to drive in Bob, but the inning ended with only one run.

Adams then picked up where they left off. Just like the ball had eyes, every hit found a hole and with singles by Christa Prim, Steve Bentley, Lois Gibson, Jerry Bennett, Shields Jones, Randy Matthiessen and a double by Dale, kept runners crossing the plate and the inning ended on the five run rule with Adams leading 9 – 1 after two.

Things improved for Ponder in the third. The Jackie we know singled as did Jerry H., bringing up Mike Braam who hit one all the way to the fence bringing in Jackie and Jerry. Everyone knows that once Mike starts running he just isn't going to stop, so while they were chasing down his ball at the fence Mike kicked in the turbos and was chasing down Jerry, who was nervously looking in his rearview mirror as he turned third to see how close Mike was getting to his heels and all the while Debbie Hinson coaching at first is screaming at Jerry to RUN, RUN, RUN. Well fortunately no runners were hurt in this action. Mike was credited with an in the park home run and two RBIs, but Jerry was still looking over his shoulder to see if Mike was going to pass him on the way to the bench. It seems like it was time for the big hitters as Bryce Treese followed up on Mike by driving a shot to the fence for a double and then Bob Riley took his turn sending another one to the fence to drive in Bryce. The Adams outfielders were now looking for the oxygen as they made their way back to the bench after four runs were scored by Ponder, with the score 9 to 5 Adams.

Things settled down really quick for Adams in the bottom of the third. Other than Tiffany's single there wasn't much to write about, let's move on to the fourth, score still 9 – 5 Adams.

Sean Curry took his turn hitting one to the fence for an easy double. Matt Curtis was thrown out at first on a great play by Mike Jaensch 6 – 3. Randy Catron was thrown out at first and then Sean was picked off at second for the third out, no runs.

Things weren't much better for Adams in bottom of the fourth, so let's just jump ahead to the fifth, score still Adams 9 – 5.

Just as the crowd was getting lulled into nap time, Johnny Blecher came to the rescue with music, wit and charm as he does for every game when he is the announcer. Up until the fourth when the game quieted down Johnny's press box compatriots, John McNemar keeping the scorebook and Bob Potter on the score board were kept plenty busy with all of the action on the field. A big thanks to all three of them and to all of the other volunteers who man the press box throughout the season, and make the game so enjoyable and exciting for all of the fans.

It seems Johnny and his music pepped up the Ponder team as well, Ty Nelson, Mike Slusher, Rojean Cossairt, Jackie Fox and Jerry Hinson all singled driving in two runs. After a couple of force outs and a catch by Spenser Folsom of a long ball to left by Mike Braam, the inning ended with the score now Adams 9 – 7.

Johnny's music also woke up Adams because they came out with their bats swinging. Shields started things with a single to be followed with hits by Randy and Dale, but Randy was later forced at second leaving runners at 1st and 3rd when Spencer blasted a shot to right for a triple driving in two more runs. Spenser's contract might be up for a renewal as he had one heck of a game, going 4 for 4 with a single, two doubles and a triple and 8, mind you 8 RBIs. What a day for Spenser. But back to the game, Mike Jaensch singled to score Spenser. With three runs the score was now Adams 12 – 7.

But Ponder doesn't give up easily as they stormed into the sixth with doubles by Bryce, Bob R, and Matt and singles by Rick and Sean, 4 runs scored, with the score now Adams 12 – 11. Folks we got us one heck of game, I told you that you would be sorry for missing this one Lulu.

While Adams actually got four hits in the sixth, no runs scored, so it was really getting hot in the kitchen, and still 12 – 11 Adams going to the seventh.

Ponder was pumped by their come back so far and wanted more and they got more AND MORE! I am not going to just keep repeating the same names over and over, so let me just put it this way. Starting with their dependable lead off Jackie and going through the whole line up until it was Jackie's turn to bat AGAIN, everyone got a hit to score for 9 more, did you hear me 9 more runs. What a fantastic showing by everyone on the Ponder team. The reason the five run rule didn't apply was because Ponder entered the last inning behind Adams and was allowed to score as many runs as they could. If Ponder had not scored the game would have ended without Adams batting in the seventh inning. However, because of Ponder's run scoring bonanza Adams would get the chance to pull it out, so on to the bottom of the seventh.

After an inning like that it would be a great time to give credit to the great umpire staff for the job of overseeing all of the action in this game, so we give a big shout out to Danny Thomas at home plate, Nancy Rogus at first and Ken Kamrath as the

rover. This game never gave them a moment's rest because of the constant action, even when no runs were scored.

Now it was Adams turn to fight back starting with a single by Randy and a double by Dale. Then Spenser Folsom, RBI King for a Day, got his last two RBIs with a double. Mike Jaensch hit to first, then Rocky Dudley was cheated when Bob Riley made a great catch for the first out. Two more quick outs and the game was over with Ponder Hardware staging a huge comeback to win 20 to 14 over Adams Furniture.

What a great game, congrats to both teams for their sterling performance. I can't wait for the next game, and I'll bet Lulu will show up this time. The excitement of this game even wore me out, so reporting with a cold adult beverage in one hand and a keyboard in the other, your exhausted reporter is Ken Quarfoot.