

Game Report - ProScapes vs. Ponder Hardware

[4/17/2024]

Well Folks, this humble Reporter is (impossibly) filling in for RRSB Legend, Player and Game Reporter extraordinaire, Clyde Ziegler, on this Game Report. 'Not-to-be-too disappointed though, as you will read from the Master himself, with his coverage of game number 2. (Anyway, this was the better of the two morning games as both of those 2 Senior Teams slept through much of it). So, just bear with me for the re-cap of today's early game of Senior Co-Ed League play, between Proscapes Landscaping vs. the Ponder Hardware team.

This mid-April, crazy weather, finally seemed to be cooperating, as both teams warmed up for their mid-week, early-morning, impending clash, despite the humid conditions. The stands were packed, as usual, mainly because of those excellent RR SoftBall giveaways. This week's featured Ponder's Star Manager and Player, Johnny Blecher, 'bobble heads,' going to the first 10,000 fans who passed through the Field of Dreams gates. These bobble heads were unique, as Johnny's plastic likeness, holds a bat in his left hand, and a silver writing plume in his right, to honor his softball prowess at the plate, and the pen acknowledging his great and colorful, weekly game reports for all of us. It appears, Robson Ranch spares no expense, what-so-ever, when it comes to our Softball games and keeping our fans happy, excited and entertained....

So, with hats covering each players' heart, we sang the Stripes off our "Star Spangled Banner." 'Speaking of Stars, the excellent officiating crew, led by Coco at home plate, along with Kevin Buckrucker at 1st, and Brian Bravard at 3rd., verified the line-ups with Ponder's exceptional Ponder Team Manager/Player, Dale Hill, and ProScapes' aforementioned brilliant baseball mind and Manager/Player, Johnny B.

The upstairs box was professionally manned by Play-by-Play announcer, Ken Quarfoot, scorekeeper Susan Yonkin and the scoreboard action, left to-the-more-than-capable hands of Gary Warrick. After Home Ump Coco gave us a hardy "play ball..." we were, hopefully, underway for a great game.

Top of the 1st Inning....

After some initial excitement, ProScapes' Pitcher, Carl "The Italian Stallion" Caruso, began his mowing down of Ponder's line-up. Allowing just singles from Robert Cox and Mike Conley and an RBI single from John Thompson before ending the inning with only minimal damage.

Bottom of the 1st....

Ponder's Pitching Machine, Paul Vargo, started ProScapes' 4- run inning with a lead-off HR to Bruce Prager, who literally flew around the bases when the ball rolled towards the outfield fence. Scott Wilson immediately followed with a single, but was forced out at 2nd. Singles from Peter Day, Jim Burke, Shield Jones (with 2 RBI's) and Jackie Fox's (1 RBI) all sandwiched between 2 force outs to end the rally, but produced 4 runs for the Home team.

After 1 Inning....

Ponder 1

ProScapes 4

2nd Inning....

Carl had a fine pitching and defensive inning, allowing just a single from Rick Porter, who eventually was forced out to end the quick inning. No runs scored by

Ponder.

But, turn-about is fair play, when Paul returned the favor to ProScapes, (except) for an inconceivable dribbler between 1st and 2nd that went for for an-inside-the park-HR by Star Manager/Player Johnny Blecher. (Johnny was obviously paying tribute to the packed stands with their bobble-heads). 1 added RBI for Jonny B. and his team.

Ponder 1

ProScapes 5

3rd Inning....

Ponder squeaked in 2 runs in the 3rd., on an infield single from Bobby Duncan around a pop-up out, a monster single from Manager Dale Hill to CF, a line drive out to 1st, and a 2 RBI Triple by Mike Conley, that scored Bobby and Dale to close-up the score. Good defense from ProScapes infield ended any further damage.

Despite 3 consecutive singles by Mike Braam, Peter Day, and a 1 RBI single from Carl C., to help his own pitching effort, the Ponder defense had 3 consecutive force-outs to end the inning with their own great defensive play. We have a close game folks.

Ponder 3

ProScapes 6

4th Inning....

Carl kept the pitching magic going in the top of the 4th after an opening single by John Thompson left him stranded after 3 quick outs, including an outstanding defensive play from Shield Jones at 3rd to end the inning. No runs scored.

Ponder had a bit of their own defensive magic as they managed a 1-2-3 out inning and no runs scored by ProScapes. The game remainder a close one after 4.

Ponder 3

Pro Scapes 6

5th Inning....

Lead-off singles by John Harnly and Paul V., was quickly nullified by more defensive stand-out plays from ProScapes infield, as the inning ended with no runs scored.

The top-of-the 5th proved to be the game-changing inning for ProScapes as they busted the game wide open with a hard, lead-off single by Johnny B., and one from Bruce P., when Scott Wilson hit his in-the-park, 3 RBI HR. (Scott broke his own world record for rounding the bases). And, if that weren't enough, Mike Braam followed with is solo shot for a round-tripper. (Mike was flying, we had to check the re-play to see if actually touched all 4 bases - he did). With no outs, ProScapes wasn't done yet, as they produced 4 straight singles from Peter D., Carl C., Jim Burke, and the final RBI single from Shield J., as the 5th run crossed the plate - and - with all 3 outs yet to be recorded. But, the game wasn't out-of-reach yet folks.....the 6th and "buffet" inning was Ponder's for the taking, or was it...?

Ponder 3

ProScapes 11

6th Inning....

With the "buffet inning" on the line, Ponder Hardware reached inside their toolbox with a lead-off single from Dale H. that knocked the skin off the ball to CF. After a pop-out to Scotty at Short, Mike Conley came through with another single (for his 3 for 3, 2 RBI game). A quick pop-up out followed, bringing Ponder to its final out. But it wasn't over yet, as John Thompson (3-3 and 2 RBI's) hit his 3rd single of the game to drive in Dale. John Westbrook continued the comeback, 2-out rally, with the first WALK of the game and loaded the bases. That allowed Jerry Bennett to single and get another RBI across the plate but, a force-out at 3rd abruptly ended the game with only 2 runs scored. Nice try Ponder but ProScapes closed the hardware store.

Final Score Ponder 5 ProScapes 11

(Post Script)

The game, as usual, was lot's of fun
Keeping us all happy, healthy and young
Our fans in the stands always cheer and shout
So, this is Game Reporter Lee...'checking OUT...!!!