

Tommy Hi Tech First to the Semifinals

But

Not Without a Tussle from Rodney Landscaping

Spring 2024 Quarterfinals

Monday May 20th

Homeplate umpire Mike Conley hasn't found himself in that many on the field discussions since... well maybe never. But the stakes are high in the playoffs, and no one wants to go home. Even with playoff pressure, no one lost their temper or started yelling. Okay, okay, Jerry Bennett was having such a good night that he was trash talkin', but he limited it to Louis on the other team and Paco who was in the stands.

Conley was ably assisted with Steve Pratt who umpired first base and George Ruth handling the left side of the field. Bob Riley manned the scoreboard and Carl Caruso was on the scorebook with Johnny B on the mic.

Coach Peter Grasser had his visiting team, Rodney Landscaping primed and ready as they came out of the gates with a 5 spot. Coco, Coach Grasser and 'Stud Muffin' Steve Tafoya all doubled in Rodney's lightning start to the game. Laderach opened for Tommy's with a screamer down third base and Clyde Z's quick reaction gave us an outstanding play from both sides, but Tommy's started off with a quick out. Asha quickly got Tommy's parade started and Mike Moss's double ensured Tommy had 4 runs.

Rodney's Landscaping 5 – Tommy Hi Tech 4 After One

Moss put a dent in Rodney's hopes in the 2nd, getting a couple of quick outs with the help of Laderach digging one out of the dirt on the throw to first. Then 'Wheels', Jeff Duncan, Lee Figuerido and Dianna Duncan all singled to get things started. Coco caused havoc with a double, but Tommy's nipped the runner at third and Rodney came away with 3 runs. Tommy's started off with Klessig and Bennett singling then Coco pulled a defensive gem catching Silva's line shot over 2nd and doubled the runner off at first. Clyde finished off the donut for Rodney with a nifty pick up and throw to first.

RL 8 – Tommy's 4 After 2 Innings

Rodney's eeked out one run in the 3rd. Tommy's turned to the top of their batting order and made hay. Well, except for Laderach who hit a line drive to Coco. Melissa Werstein and Tommy Beaury finished off the 5 spot in style and we had a tie ball game.

Rodney's 9 – Tommy's 9 After 3 Innings

Coach Grasser brought in a great set of subs for the game, all of whom contributed significantly. James LaGesse was 2 for 3 on the night, you would have thought Louis Berthold was the coach as much as he was talking on the field (in a great way, so good to have Louis on the field), and Steve Bentley looked like a ringer going 3 for 3 at the plate. Steve took an extra base and scored in the 4th, he did the shimmy shake to dodge Klessig's liner at his kneecap and he fielded a ricochet for yet another out. Louis took another by himself

at 1st base. When Tommy's came up you know Laderach drilled one to right field. Right where Jeff Duncan had just moved to. Each team got a run.

Rodney's 10 – Tommy's 10 after 4 innings

A great defensive effort by Tommy's held Rodney to a single run in the 5th. First it was Moss fielding a grounder and nipping the speedy Dianna at first. Gauthier got the RBI with a double but a nifty pick up and throw by John LePrevost in right field to the cut man, Moss who nailed the runner with a throw to Laderach at third to get the 2nd out. That dude (Laderach) can play most anywhere. Coach Joe LeCroy did the mop up reacting to a line drive up the middle for the 3rd out. Tommy's 'ever ready' Aasha Jones and Dale Frazier, both a perfect 4 for 4 at the plate, scored to put Tommy's up by 1. A nail biter for sure.

Rodney's 11 – Tommy's 12 after 5 innings

'Stud Muffin' Tafoya (3 for 3 with a Dbl and HR) rocked the house with a gapper to the fence for a round trip, James LaGesse singled and scored as Bentley finished a perfect night at the plate. Tommy's Hi Tech, however, was having none of it. Bennett, Westbrook and LeCroy all singled and get this, Laderach missed all the outfielders and got his first hit, a double. Aasha singled, Dale tripled, and Folsom brought home the 5th run and Tommy's Hi Tech never looked back.

Rodney's 13 -Tommy's 17 after 6 innings

Rodney Landscaping had one more chance in the buffet, but it was not to be.

Final Score: Rodney 13 – Tommy's 17

There were some defensive gems, for sure, but the hitting stood out bigtime. In addition to Asha and Dale, Tom Beaury and Melissa were also perfect at the plate for Tommy's Hi Tech. Coco, Stud Muffin Tafoya and Bentley were perfect at the plate for Rodney Landscaping.

As always, a fun night at the Field of Dreams and on to the next quarterfinal match-up: Farmers vs. Dog Gone it on Tuesday night.

Cheers,

Johnny B