

Rodney Landscaping vs. Home Tint

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Attendance: 57 (3 pets)

Hope springs eternal this time of year for the RRSA Co-ed Teams. With new rosters and limited practice time the challenge for each coach is to “hit the ground running.” The “League” welcomes many first-year players to the *Field of Dreams* in what is shaping up to be a banner Spring Season.

Following the playing of our National Anthem, partly cloudy skies and a chilly northerly breeze greeted fans as they settled in to watch the much-anticipated kick-off to the RRSA Co-Ed Season. The Press Box crew was primed with the venerable Johnny Blecher on the mic, Carl Caruso handling the book and Jackie Fox the scoreboard. The Blue Crew was in position with veteran umpire, Bob Collins, at HP, Danny Thomas at 1B and George Ruth manning 3B.

As the fans were still settling into their seats, Rodney Landscaping's lead-off batter, John Coffman greeted pitcher Jeff Vaka with a single. John “*Ole Reliable*” Gauthier bangs a triple knocking in the first run of the season. The opening barrage continues with a Cummings single, a Ziegler triple, Figueriedo single and Coach Grasser triple netting 5 runs for the visitors to close the top half of the inning.

Undaunted, Coach Riley's squad answered with 2 runs of their own. Carol “Heinz 57” Rumberger leads off with a single to center. Following a fielder's choice, Steve “Big Lefty” Ward drills a double scoring Dobson. Mike Slocum follows with a single driving in the second run before wily pitcher, Paul Vargo, gets the final 2 outs.

End of 1: Rodney Landscaping – 5 / Home Tint - 2

Rodney Landscaping keeps the pedal to the metal. Steve Tafoya leads off with a double followed by a Tracey Ginnings single moving Steve to 3rd. Stu White plates Steve with a sac fly. Wheeler and Duncan follow with consecutive singles loading the bases for pitcher, Paul Vargo, who plates all three runners with a most improbable triple before Vaka gets the last two outs.

Riding the momentum from his 3 RBI triple, Vargo sets Home Tint down in order.

End of 2: Rodney Landscaping – 9 / Home Tint – 2

Rodney Landscaping puts up another crooked number via a Ziegler lead-off double a Figueriedo RBI single, and back-to-back two-baggers by Grasser and Tafoya (2RBI's). Home Tint responds with 2 runs via four consecutive hard-hit singles off the bats of Vaka, Henry “*Hypnotoad*” Moore, Gary Warrick (RBI) and Joe Dougherty (RBI). To note, Ziegler closed out the inning on a marvelous, unassisted double play, tagging the runner going to third and firing to second for the final out.

End of 3: Rodney Landscaping – 12 / Home Tint – 4

Rodney Landscaping, looking to put this one to bed early, plates 5 more on five consecutive hits; Wheeler leads off with a single followed by singles off the bats of Jeff Duncan and Vargo to load the bases. John Coffman clears the bases with a triple before Gauthier plates runs 4 and 5 with a most improbable (home run? – he did navigate all four bases)

Home Tint, displaying no quit, returns fire with 4 runs. Ward starts off the rally with a bomb to right center for a HR followed by a quick trip to the oxygen tank. Slocum follows with a triple and scores on a Curry fielder's choice. Weldon Wallace keeps it going with a single. Owen reaches on a walk and a Donna Nikisch single loads the bases. Bruce "Wheels" Horeftis drives in two runs with a nice double before the side is retired.

End of 4: Rodney Landscaping – 17 / Home Tint – 8

Rodney Landscaping greets relief pitcher, Gary Warrick, with four consecutive singles to start the inning, however, only score 2 runs in the inning. Gary was aided by an apparent triple play that "*upon further review*" was a double play. With bases loaded, third baseman, Weldon Wallace, authored a pretty play by snaring a hard ground ball, stepping on 3rd for the force out and firing a BB to the plate for the second out. Confusion reigned when the forced player at 3rd continued running to the plate for the apparent 3rd out...but the Umpire Crew got it right and Warrick got the last out.

Feeling a comeback Home Tint got the bats going scoring 4 runs. Warrick leads off with a single followed by a Dougherty walk. Rumberger follows with a line shot to left. A Ward double and Curry single deliver the runs shaving the deficit to 7.

End of 5: Rodney Landscaping – 19 / Home Tint – 12

Rodney's bats remained hot entering the 6th with Stu White leading off with a single. Following a force out, Duncan delivers a single followed by a Coffman triple scoring 2 runs. Gauthier plates Coffman with a single and following a Cummings RBI single, Ziegler strikes again knocking in the 5th run.

Owen opens the Home Tint 6th with a single, Horeftis singles setting the stage for a Vaka shot to center for an inside the park round tripper before Vargo puts out the fire.

End of 6: Rodney Landscaping – 24 / Home Tint – 15

Home Tint enters the buffet needing 9 to tie, 10 to take the lead, however despite their efforts they can only muster one run on Dobson and Ward singles and a Slocum RBI.

Final Score: Rodney Landscaping – 24 / Home Tint - 16

Postscript Below...

Postscript:

The explosive hit metric (extra base hits) is a strong indicator of game outcomes. Today Rodney Landscaping won that battle 10-5.

Both Coaches and Players will learn from this game considering offensive and defensive strategies/techniques with the goal of placing the Team and Players in the best position to succeed. Weekend practices and individual player work will also play key roles.

The largest improvement is most often seen from game one to game two. Regardless, Rodney Landscaping and Home Tint will be tough Teams to contend with as we move through the Spring Season...

This Day in Baseball:

- **March 26, 1960** – Due to political unrest in the area, the Orioles-Reds series scheduled to be played in Havana is moved to Miami. Cincinnati, which has a farm team in Cuba wanted the exhibition games to stay on the island, but Baltimore's team president, Lee MacPhail, feared for his players safety.

"For the Glory"