

What a pleasant evening of softball for the makeup game between Rodney Landscaping with a record of 2-2 (managed by Steve Tafoya) and the home team Ponder Hardware also with a 2-2 record led by Greg Laffey. Everyone was basking in the glory of our tournament teams who kicked butt today in the Texas State tournament in Grapevine. Home plate umpire Bob Collins, assisted by Bob Richardson and John Basse called play ball and the press box crew of announcer Peter Day, scorekeeper Bill Maynard and scoreboard operator Donna Peck stood at the ready.

In the top of the 1st, Rodney put five runs on the board with a barrage of hits by Linda Caron, Mike Slocum, Jimmy Parker, Craig Bishop, Tom Doty, Dale Frazier and Bill Reese. Ponder comes to bat with perennial sub Kelly WIssink belting out a solid single. Kelly is still trying to figure out a way to play for both teams in a game. Jerry Hinson singled and cleanup hitter Bryce Treese rapped out a triple. Ken "crash" Ford brings him home with a single but the Rodney defense says no more runs, It's 5 to 3 in Rodney's favor after 1.

The 2nd inning is low scoring with some good defensive plays. Rodney can only manage one run and Ponder is held scoreless.

Rodney puts up another five spot in the 3rd thanks to a Mike Slocum double, Jimmy Parker rbi single, Craig Bishop single, and a Frank Castelluccio rbi single to load the bases. Dale Frazier belts a 2rbi double and Bill Reese singles for that fifth run. Ponder used some hardware from the store to get their bats going and they throw up a five spot. A Glen Stephens single, Kelly W single, Jerry Hinson rbi double, Coco rbi single, Bryce T 2rbi single, John Coffman single, Carole Rumberger single and Rick Werstein single led to the five runs. 11 to 8, Rodney on top after three.

Rodney's bats remain hot. Tom Gunther led off with a close play at first for a single, Paul Vargo entices a walk, Doreen Schewlin brings home a run with a single, Pat Durbin gets an rbi and Jimmy Parker gets a base hit to load the bases. Home run specialist Craig Bishop comes to bat and raps a nice 2rbi single. Frank C brings in the 5th run. Ponder leads off with a Ty Nelson Texas leaguer single, Randy Catron singles and Glen S singles to load the bases. Kelly W singles in a run and the bases remain loaded. Jerry H singles in a run and Coco brings home a run. Bryce T singles and then Ken Ford drives in two more to and Ponder puts up a five spot. The game is tight after 4 with Rodney leading 16-13.

The fifth inning is a defensive gem for both teams. Rodney leads off with a Tom Doty single and then the hard hitting Dale Frazier ricochets a sharp grounder off pitcher Sean Curry's shin for a hit. Sean was okay thanks to his shin guards (remember you can shop softball protection gear 24/7 at Amazon). Kelly W made a nifty defensive play at catcher on a tricky foul ball to get an out and the defense gets two more outs. No score for Rodney. Ponder pitcher Tom Doty snags two pop ups for two quick outs. Carol R hits a hard line drive single but the defense say no runs for you. Score remains 16-13 in favor of Rodney.

Rodney leads of the top of the 6th with singles by Doreen S and Linda C. Two outs follow with some solid infield defense and then John Coffman in left field makes a great out with an acrobatic shoestring catch and Rodney is shut down again. Ponder is hoping to get ahead with singles by Ty Nelson and Randy C but Rodney shuts them down. Linda Caron made a great defensive play at second base for an out and the defense held. Still 16-13 as we head to the buffet inning.

Rodney Landscaping leads off with a Craig B single, Frank C raps an rbi single, Tom Doty singles and then Dale Frazier clears the bases with a hard hit ball in the right field gap for an inside the park home run. Rodney brings their run total to 20 as they take the field. Ponder comes to bat and Craig B at first base snags a screaming line

drive off Coco's bat for the first out. Bryce T singles, Ken F doubles and John Coffman singles to load the bases. Sean Curry delivers a 2 rbi single but the Rodney defense digs in for the win with the final score of 20-15.

Jeff Duncan