

May 6th Game Report:

“Dog Gone It” vs. SafeLifts

It's 3:00 PM on a Monday afternoon and we're here at Our Field of Dreams, being led once again by Rhonda Gunther in our National Anthem. Coaches Mike Lorenc (of the SafeLifts) and Ken Kamrath (of the Dog Gone Its) agreed to compete at this time, making up a game that had been rained out previously. These are two very evenly matched teams – so even that I'm guessing the game ends in a tie. Let's see how it plays out.

Inning #1

Going on the mound for the home team SafeLifters is their ace, Sean (The Prez) Curry, known for his high, arcing knuckle curves and precision accuracy. He needs to face only 3 batters in the top of 1st (thanks to the first of three SL double plays on the afternoon). The Wissink Duo (Kelly and Jay), known for their explosive bats and lightning speed, got the SafeLifts off to a quick start, but Dog Gone It, the DGI team also had their ace pitching this afternoon – none other than the bearded one, Steve Bentley, who promptly put out the fire.

After 1, the scoreboard showed **two zeros** (so far, my prediction is looking good).

Inning #2

The next inning was fruitless once as well, Dog Gone It, for DGI – as the double play once again came to the aid of the SL's (this time, of the 1-4-3 variety). Fortunately for the SafeLifters, they started hitting and never let up until Dan Shanahan (2B), Dale Hill, Tom Gunther, Bryan Bravard, Jim Burke, Mindy Shanahan, Kelly & Jay had produced enough hits to post a 5-count on the scoreboard. **After 2 innings, SL - 5, DGI – 0.**

Inning #3

Each team produced only 1 run during the 3rd. David Popejoy rattled the center field fence for an RBI double for DGI. Tim Jeske didn't take long to reciprocate, denting the same fence to start the bottom of the 3rd. After Tim trotted home on Coach Mike's RBI hit to center, **the score after 3: SL - 6; DGI – 1.**

Inning #4

Whoa – who let the dogs out? First came a swarm of singles by Tim Williams, Deb Hinson, Steve Courtney, and Theresa Tucker. Then came the big-bat guys – as Jerry Hinson and Luay Ashoo both doubled, netting 2 RBI's each. 5 runs in before we could say “dog gone it”. SL's half of the inning looked promising initially, with hits by Hill, Gunther, and Bravard, but after squeezing 2 runs across, DGI pulled off a tricky 6-4-5 double play. **After 4 innings, the score was SL – 8, DGI – 6.**

Inning #5

DGIers picked up where they left off the previous inning, with Rick Ketrang and Steve Bentley stroking back-to-back doubles, followed by an RBI single by Glen Wilson. But SL's biggest friend – the double play – ended the inning when Jim Burke fielded a hard grounder, tagged the runner going to second, then fired to first for the twin killing. In the bottom half of the inning, SL's high-powered top of the lineup, consisting of Jay Wissink, Tim Jeske, and Coach Lorenc each had the DGI outfielders retrieving balls at the fence. **And after 5, SafeLifts held a 3-run lead, 10-7.**

Inning #6

Inning 6 was a repeat of Inning 4, with the same contributors posting hits, but with Bob Kriz joining the party. The closing act to the inning was Luay's long triple, chasing in runs 4 and 5 for the inning. SafeLifts, who scored in every inning (except the first), felt confident they could regain the lead as they sent Dan The Man Shanahan to lead off the inning. And he did not disappoint. Boom – a leadoff triple to dead center. The trio of Hill, Gunther, and Bravard produced base hits, just as they had the previous two earlier at-bats. But a Steve Courtney-initiated double play quickly extinguished the fire. **Going into the Buffet Inning, we had a tie ballgame on our hands. 12-12.**

Inning #7

Before Announcer-Karaoke Singer Tim Trotter had finished his singalong to another Cher song, Rick Ketring was once again standing on 2nd base with yet another one of his 2-baggers. SafeLifts defense began to sparkle once again, as SS-delux Tim Jeske showed off his smooth fielding and STRONG arm, then Jay Wassink followed with a long-running catch (his 3rd of the day). After one DGI run crossed the plate, SafeLifts came to the plate and you could hear friendly bets being made in the stands as to the anticipated outcome of the game. SL's Murderer's Row came to the plate and started pounding the ball. Kelly Wissink lifted her patented high drive to right-center, then hubby Jay followed with 3-bagger. Strong-armed Tim one-hopped the center field fence with ease. But Robson Softball Stuff happened and, somehow, Dog Gone It, SafeLifts managed to push just one run across the plate before the final out was registered.

Final Score: Dog Gone It - 13; SafeLifts – 13. Dog gone it.

A big thank you to our seasoned and top-notch umpiring crew – George Wendt, Mike Braam, Bob Richardson. And joining Kareoke Tim in the Pressbox was Jay Parker on the book and Carol Rumberger pushing the Scoreboard buttons. Also a special thanks to Jay Parker and Johnny B for providing stats and notes about the game, so this game reporter could do his job.

Tie games realistically should be the result of relatively even offensive statistics. But how about this: The team batting average for both teams was .605%. Both teams had the same number of extra base hits. Both pulled off multiple double plays.

And FYI, here is a recap of the offensive stats that stand out in this contest:

Triples – Luay Ashoo, Jay Wissink, Dan The Man Shanahan

Doubles – Jerry Hinson, Luay Ashoo, David Popejoy, Rick Ketring (2), Dan The Man, **Tim Jeske (3)**

1000% Batting Avg – Tim Williams, Theresa Tucker, Jerry Hinson, Rick Ketring, Jay Wissink, Dale Hill, Tom Gunther, Bryan Bravard

4-RBI Game – Jerry Hinson, Luay Ashoo

Cheers, Dale Hill

