

2023's 1st Game Report:

March 27 - State Farm vs. Argyle Dental

As yours truly pulled into a full parking lot 45 minutes before game time this evening at Our Field of Dreams, it was clear that EVERYONE was ready for the OPENING DAY of Robson Softball. And it wasn't the free parking promotion our Board had going for tonight. Finally, there was softball again at Robson. In addition to the "old faithfuls" in attendance, many "newbies" were on hand to experience first-hand the excitement of seniors playing a kid's game – a game they had played many, many years before. Folks came from far and wide, including College Station's Mama Berthold, who didn't want to miss seeing her little Louis doing what he loves to do ... a lot. Everything seemed so perfect for an evening of softball. Our Field of Dreams, with its recently-applied playing surface, was in immaculate condition. Our Field Guru, Ron Schwertner, and his partner-in-crime, Mike Braam (better known as our Commissioner) looked like two new proud papas as they gazed out over their masterpiece that they (along with others) had spent so many hours preparing.

Following the booming rendition of our National Anthem over the newly installed speaker system, Sean Curry and the entire hard-working Softball Board welcomed everyone to the game. The jam-packed stadium roared with excitement as Bob Kuhfuss – yes, THE Bob Kuhfuss, took the field to deliver the first pitch. Why Bob? Because Bob was a part of the first Robson softball board, the first Robson softball game – back before we even had a field to play on. Just a few years after the Mayflower arrived on our eastern shores. And, he's played every year since ... and is still subbing for us this year

As Johnny Blecher, on the mic for the night, announced the first pitch by State Farm's Joe Lecroy to Argyle Dental's Bob Laderach, every player on the field felt like they were back on the school playground again, conjuring up memories (some true, some possibly exaggerated) – ready to enjoy 7 innings with friends – both new and old. Home plate umpire Bob Collins raised the right arm, signifying strike one, which was the signal for Pat Sabo to post the call on the Scoreboard, and for Carl Caruso to make note in the Scorebook. We were off and running.

Inning #1

Bob Laderach and his Argyle Dental (AD) buddies came hitting right out of the shoot. Bob was joined by Steve Wardlaw, Ken Kamrath, and Joe Dougherty with singles, combined with a double by Ken Ford and a long drive-to-the-fence triple by Mick Calverley. Dianna Duncan led off the bottom of the inning with a single, quickly followed by one-baggers from John Gauthier, and Carol Rumberger, and 2-base hit by hard-hitting Mike Lorenc.

After 1 inning: Argyle Dental 5, State Farm 3.

Innings #2 -3

The next two innings belonged to the State Farmers – both defensively and offensively. After the Argylers were held scoreless in the 2nd, four consecutive hits by Weldon Wallace, Steve Wardlaw (2B), Coach Ken Kamrath, and Ken Ford produced 2 runs, before Mr. Smooth – John Gauthier - turned a hard grounder up the middle into an inning-ending double play. Sweet. Meanwhile, Coach John Coffman's Farmers lit up the scoreboard with 5-counts in both innings. Speedster (and Robson Rookie) Peter Grasser began the 2nd by legging out a single (a close call, accurately called by Mr. Reliable, Danny Thomas, serving as 1st base umpire), then followed by hits from Joe Lecroy, Coach Coffman, Dianna Duncan (who's even faster than Peter), and punctuated by the season's first home run -a screaming line-drive to the fence by – Mr. Smooth. In the 3rd, the SFers put on a real power show for the sold-out crowd. It began with a 2-bagger by Rookie Frank Kaker, then BOOM, another HR – by clean-up hitter Mike Lorenc, then finesse-hitter (and ladies golf President) Carol

Rumberger, power-hitting lefty Steve Ward, and Rookie (yes, another State Farm rookie – 5 in all on the team) Bill Maynard contributing hits, just before Speedy Peter G sent the yellow ball to the fence for a bases-clearing triple.

After 3 innings: State Farm took the lead, 13-7.

Innings #4-5

The 4th inning was all about pitching and defense, followed by Neil Diamond entertaining the crowd with “Sweet Caroline” . Announcer Johnny B., between innings, kept everyone informed as to the awesome and numerous sponsors that contribute to the Robson Softball experience. Their contributions allowed for the teal blue Argyle Dental jerseys, the State Farm steel-gray jerseys, the aforementioned new playing surface, and much more. In the 5th, Argyle was out to let everyone in the stands know this game was not over. All-around athlete Cheryl Soule’s base hit was the first of SEVEN consecutive Argyle dingers, with contributions coming from Bob Laderach (2B), Weldon Wallace, Steve Wardlaw, the Two Kens, and that Mick Calverley guy again. 5- runs, no outs. State Farm added a couple more in the bottom of the inning. Frank Kaker legged out an infield hit. As Announcer Johnny B. described it, “Frank can run fast for a big guy ... or for a little guy, for that matter.” Mike Lorenc (3rd extra-base hit of the evening) and Steve Ward contributed doubles, sandwiching in yet another hit by Golf Prez Carol (her 3rd of the evening).

After 5 innings: State Farm was holding onto a slim 15-12 lead.

Innings #6-7

The 6th produced only one State Farm run, meaning the Dentals would need 4 to tie. First up – Mama Berthold’s pride and joy. And Louis didn’t disappoint, lining his third hit of the game down the 3rd baseline for a triple (but Louis only made it to 2nd). Then, the craziest thing of the evening occurred. Bill Reese (Jimmy Reese’s brother, according to Johnny B. {not}), dropped a single into left and Louis stayed at 2nd. Then there was discussion as to whether Louis should have been given 3rd on the play (3rd base umpire Bob Richardson’s mic was not working, so we didn’t know exactly what the issue was). Anyway, during the discussion, Louis moseyed on down to 3rd, and play resumed. But wait – the alert home plate umpire Bob Collins knew something didn’t look right. Announcer Johnny B. asked, “What, Louis, you thought no one would notice?” Scorebook Keeper Carl Caruso had already awarded Louis a “stolen base”, the first in Robson history according to Kuhfuss, and the first in Louis’ history, according to Mama Berthold. Well, despite the exciting beginning of the inning, Argyle couldn’t regroup and ended up squeezing out just one more run.

Final Score: State Farm 16, Argyle Dental 13.

Game #1 of 52 for the season was in the books. Fun times were had by all. Here are some standout offensive numbers that were contributed to the following players:

Mike Lorenc (3/3, 2-2B, HR)	John Gauthier (2/3, HR)	Peter Grasser (3/3, 3B)
Louis Berthold (3/3, 2B, SB)	Ken Ford (3/3, 2B)	Steve Wardlaw (¾, 2B)
Carol Rumberger (3/3)	Ken Kamrath (3/3)	Mick Calverley (2/3, 3B)
Joe Lecroy (3/3)	Weldon Wallace (3/4)	Frank Kaker (2/3, 2B)
Steve Ward (2/3, 2B)	Dianna Duncan (2/3)	Bob Laderach (2/4, 2B)

Cheers,

Dale Hill