

State Farm vs. Home Tint

Was it the cooler weather and the gentle breeze coming in from the west? Perhaps it was the inspiration of Scotty (Scooter) Wilson filling in for Coco at the helm. Or maybe it was knowing they had Johnny B. and Jeff Peck right there on first and third, sending runners around the bases like road runners chasing Wile E. Coyote! Whatever it was, the State Farm offense was on fire Thursday night, and the crack of the bat could be heard clear down at the 18th hole! But let's back up...I'm getting ahead of myself.

Before State Farm could even step up to bat, Home Tint had put five runs on the scoreboard. It all began with lefty Jeff Duncan beating out a ground ball for a single to spark the Home Tint offense in the first. That was followed by a shot to left field off the bat of Mike Flatt and a hard hit grounder in the hole between short and 3rd by Dale Frazier to drive in the first two runs of the contest. Mike Lorenc, the Home Tint shortstop, then drew a base on balls to load the bases for Ken Ford, who promptly drove the ball hard down the right field line for a 3 RBI inside the parker! And just like that, the challenge was in the air. How would State Farm respond? Well, you guessed it. They came back hard and fast with five runs of their own. As a team, they hit for the cycle...all in the first inning! Three singles (Ken Kamrath, Spencer Folsom, Mike Hodson), two doubles (Scott Wilson, Steve Bentley), one triple (Mike Moss), and one inside the park home run off the bat of Mike Braam! They had the Home Tint fielders chasing down fly balls and line drives in every direction! So before most of the faithful fans had even had a chance to settle themselves into their comfy seats, the score was 5-5, and we were headed to the second.

Now this is where the story line changes. The next five innings proved to be a bit of a drought for the Home Tint offense. Call it bad luck...good defense...home team advantage. Call it whatever you like. Home Tint just could not put a run on the board. But it wasn't for lack of trying...that's for sure. Let me show you...or tell you...what I mean.

Inning number two:

Tiffany Ramzy (How fun to see that sweet lady back out on the field!) hit a hard shot to short and came within a whisper of beating out the throw to first. Great hustle, Tiffany!

Inning number three:

Tom Neagli drove the ball hard to right field for a long single. Nice hit, Tom!

Inning Number four:

Jeff Duncan sent a fly ball out to short center field for a single. **Mike Flatt** followed with a hard drive to State Farm's third baseman, Ken Kamrath. Ken tossed it over to Nancy Rogus at second, who somehow made the catch despite the blinding sun coming in from the west! **Dale Frazier** then hit another shot out to right field for a single, but Nancy Rogus again put the brakes on with a phenomenal catch on a high fly ball at second base. (If it weren't for Nancy, I think Home Tint is on the board this inning!)

Inning number five:

Tiffany Ramzy (again) drove the ball hard up the left side for a single. **Myron McKinney** followed with a fly ball to the right side for a single, and **Louis Berthold** sent a shot just out of the reach of the State Farm shortstop. Mike Moss was all over it in short center, however, and made a stunning play, gunning down the runner at third base.

Inning number six:

Marti Harnly ripped a shot down the 3rd base line for a single.

Lots of great beginnings...but Home Tint just couldn't quite string all those hits together in the same inning to spark a run producing rally, so at the end of six, those first five runs were still their only claim to fame.

As for State Farm, well, like I said, the State Farm offense was on fire! In the second inning, State Farm once again went for the cycle, but fell short, only managing four singles (Sue Kamrath, Scott Wilson, Tom Gunther, and Nancy Rogus - I KNOW, I KNOW...that name keeps coming up!) and a double (Mike Braam) for a total of four more runs, making the score **9-4 in favor of State Farm at the end of two.**

The third inning was quiet, with both teams showing some strong defense, and refusing to let any runners cross the plate, but State Farm would come back strong again in the middle innings, scoring three in the fourth, and one more in the fifth off the strength of line drive singles from the middle of the State Farm lineup. (Ken Kamrath, Steve Bentley, Spencer Fulsom) Then in the sixth, seeing that strategy worked well, the State Farm offense once again "singled them to death," scoring four more runs off four singles (Bob Kuhfuss, George Keller, Nancy Rogus, Tom Gunther) and a screaming triple off the bat of none other than Mike Moss to make the **score 17 - 5 at the end of six.**

Trailing 17-5 as the buffet inning commenced, Home Tint had a big hill to climb. All star announcer George Wendt made the call as Ken Kamrath made one of the highlight catches of the night, snagging Mike Flatt's tomahawk down the 3rd base line. Super Stud, Dale Frazier (3/3, Dbl, Trip, RBI) tripled on the next at bat to give Home Tint some hope. Mike Lorenc, a defensive wall at shortstop for Home Tint, then doubled, driving in Dale Frazier for a run, and Ken Ford (2/3, HR, 4 RBIs) singled to move Lorenc over to third. Home Tint wasn't giving up...but the State Farm defense would once again prove too much. Fittingly, Coach Scotty Wilson (in place of Coco) made that last put out and **State Farm headed home with a hard fought 17-6 victory.**

High fives and handshakes were shared all around. Bob Riley recorded the final out in the scorebook; Jacquie Maurer shut down the scoreboard; Umpires Bob Collins and Bill Hackley called it a night after calling a great game. Another evening at the Field of Dreams had come to an end. The season is half over folks! Come join us next week and see what the fun is all about!