

State Farm vs Eagle Eye Care  
9/15/22

Thursday evening proved to be another beautiful night for softball here at the Ranch. As the sun peeked through the clouds and a gentle breeze whispered softly through the infield sand, the men and women in Eagle Eye red and State Farm gray lined the baselines along the Field of Dreams and honored our country with the singing of our national anthem. Eagle Eye then took the field behind pitcher Tom Doty, as Scooter Wilson got ready to lead things off for State Farm. The umpire crew of Laderach, Fowler, and Hackley took their places; Home plate umpire, Bob Laderach called, "Batter Up," and we were off!

State Farm wasted no time, scoring four runs off five hits before they were shut down with three straight outs courtesy of some strong defensive play by the Eagle Eye infield. Eagle Eye then came back with two runs of their own in the bottom half of the inning, led off by lefty Steve Ward's drive to right center field which he stretched into a stand up double. Dave McKie then sent a shot to center field, setting the table for Craig Bishop who drove a hard grounder through the hole between 1st and 2nd, scoring both Steve and Dave. **End of one..State Farm leads 4-2.**

As the second inning opened, Eagle Eye's defense stepped up again, immediately shutting down the first batter on a deep fly to left field. Unfortunately for Eagle Eye, State Farm was not to be held down, busting out five more runs off six hits including four singles, a hard grounder past third that landed Randy Matthiessen on second base, and a line drive to center field off the bat of manager, Coco Ondina, that would have likely been an inside the park homerun, had five runs not already scored. Phew...those State Farm bats! But now it was Eagle Eye's turn...and they certainly weren't giving up. Nancy Rogus got things started with a base on balls. This was followed by three well placed singles off the bats of John Jordan, Linda Cawley, and Henry Moore, allowing Nancy to score. Another hard hit grounder to the shortstop scored John for the final run of the inning. Eagle Eye hadn't closed the gap...but they were definitely hanging in. **End of two...State Farm 9, Eagle Eye 4.**

The third inning brought some hope to the Eagle Eye fans, as their determined defense held the State Farm bats to just two runs, thanks in no small part to third baseman Rocky Dudley, who fielded all three outs, including a 5-3 double play to end the inning. State Farm did get their licks in, however, with Steve Courtney legging out a hot shot to third base for a single to open up the inning. The Rumberger duo (Carol and Jeff) then packed a one-two punch, delivering infield and outfield singles respectively, allowing Steve Courtney to cross the plate for the first run. Steve Bentley and Mat Curtis combined for two more hits to drive in the second run of the inning before Eagle Eye shut them down and got their turn at the plate. Maybe this would be their inning! Dave McKie thought so. He started them off with a long fly ball to left center field that he thought about stretching into a double...until he saw the ball headed to second before he was halfway around first. No worries! Craig Bishop stepped up to the plate and proceeded to hit a huge fly ball out to deep right field, allowing the speedy Dave McKie to find his way to third,

before scoring on Rocky Dudley's single down the third base line. Sadly though, that was the end of the Eagle Eye scoring. **End of three..State Farm 11, Eagle Eye 5.**

The fourth inning saw a pitching change, as Eagle's Eye's Sean Curry took over for the ever sharp Tom Doty. The new arm, though, proved to be just what was needed to baffle, bewilder, and befuddle those pesky State Farm bats. They suffered their first goose egg of the night! Unfortunately for Eagle Eye however, State Farm's pitcher, Steve Bentley, returned the favor, serving up an almost perfect inning, and ensuring that **after four the score remained...State Farm 11, Eagle Eye 5.**

On to the fifth we went. State Farm was still smarting a bit from that goose egg back in the fourth. They were looking to score some runs. Coco stepped up to bat and sent a long fly ball out to center field for a double. Here we go! Steve Courtney liked what he saw, and drove a scorcher under the glove of the third baseman, scoring Coco. The Rumberger duo then doubled up again for infield and outfield hits, this time with Jeff landing on second for a double. When the dust settled, Steve Courtney had scored, and State Farm had runners on second and third with no outs. Oh my...those bats were at it again! Steve Bentley decided he wanted in on the action and sent a line drive shot out to centerfield...unfortunately straight into the glove of the expertly placed Dave McKie. Unlucky! But State Farm wasn't done. Mat Curtis popped a double, scoring two, followed by Mike Hodson's infield shot single to the shortstop that allowed the fifth run to score. That ended the top half of the inning. Eagle Eye stepped up to plate, but the State Farm defense proved to be too much. Three up...three down. **End of five...State Farm 16, Eagle Eye 5.**

We headed to the sixth with State Farm holding a commanding lead. But Eagle Eye was still battling and managed to force State Farm into putting another goose egg on the board, despite a hard hit single to center field off the bat of Scooter Wilson. When Eagle Eye stepped up to bat in the bottom half of the inning, they knew time was running out. Steve Ward was quick to get them started with a hard shot to second base for an infield single. Dave McKie, in his "2009 Robson Ranch" red jersey was quick to follow suit with his own infield single to short. Two on...nobody out. Two quick outs later and Sean Curry stepped up to the plate. Time for a two out rally! Sean hit a drive to left field that scored Steve Ward. Tom Doty then drove a ball through the hole between first and second, scoring Rocky. Ed Cawley stepped up to bat. He drove it through the hole between shortstop and third. Nancy Rogus, not to be out done, punched it hard to second base for an infield single, scoring Sean. The score was now **State Farm 16 - Eagle Eye 8.** Could a comeback be in the cards? Unfortunately for Eagle Eye..not this time. Home plate umpire called for the "flip flop" in the buffet inning, and Eagle Eye had one more opportunity, but after Linda Cawley's infield single that sparked a ray of hope, the State Farm defense shut them down, ending the game with a **final score of State Farm 16 - Eagle Eye 8.**

It was a well played game among friends and neighbors with strong defensive and offensive displays on both sides. Thanks for the entertainment, folks! Also, we can't forget to give a huge

shout out to our press box crew, Jacquie Maurer running the scoreboard, Bob Riley keeping the book, and George Wendt on the microphone. Great work, folks! See y'all next time!