

Farmers On to the Semis

Sean Curry's Farmers are off to the semifinals against Adams Furniture after a nail biting 21 – 19 cliff hangar over Coco's State Farm.

It was a great umpire crew: Mick Calverley (signaling two strikes with two fingers down vs. hook 'em up) behind the plate; Bob Laderach at 1st and Bill Hackley at 3rd. Paul Neal had the play by play with the lovely Pat Sabo on the scoreboard and John McNemar on the book.

It was almost like bookends for State Farm. They had a big first inning, scoring 5; scored 10 in the buffet and a measly total of 4 in between. Farmers, on the other hand, scored 18 in the middle innings. None the less, it came down to the last couple of bats with State Farm having the winning run at the plate as the game ended.

The Ladies: Kelly Wissink; Jackie Fox; Carol Rumberger; Sue Kamrath; and Jamie Bagget went a combined 17 for 20. That's pretty darn good! Our women are definitely stepping up their game!

Kenny Kamrath (4/4, Trip, 5 RBIs) hit a bases loaded triple to do the heavy lifting for State Farm in the first and it was a quick 5 spot.

Farmers came right back, chipping away like they did all night. Farmers scored 3 runs in the first behind the crafty, Bill Smiley's (3/4, Dbl, Trip, 2 RBIs) triple; 5 in the second with the big bats of John Gauthier (4/4, Dbl, Trip, 4 RBIs) and Gary Brown (3/4, 2 Dbls, 3 RBIs); and so on and so forth. It was a lot; Farmers wouldn't stop.

There were more stud muffins and studdettes than I can ever mention, but let me try:

- Scooter Wilson caught a highlight reel line drive off of Steve Wardlaw's bat in the 1st.
- Kelly Wissink (4/4, RBI) was her normal streaking self.
- Jeff Rumberger smoked a couple; but one, in particular, leading off the 2nd inning with a triple and then scoring. I also liked the one he snagged to end the 6th inning on Gary Brown's only out in his 4 at bats.
- Jay Wissink (4/4, 2 Dbls, 5 RBIs) had a measly (that's my word for this article) 4 hits and Steve Tafoya went 3 for 4 with 2 RBIs.

- Gary Brown (3/4, 2 Dbls, 3 RBIs) had a career night, burning the State Farm outfield for 2, count 'em, 2 doubles. And, Gary ain't that fast so think how far he had to hit those.
- Jackie Fox (3/4) caught a long fly ball while she was facing directly towards the sun. Plus, she hit one even further for one of her hits.
- Steve Courtney (3/4) almost single handedly did State Farm in, in the 5th inning. Steve backed into the grass and played Moss and Coco perfectly, taking the deep shots for the out at second.
- State Farm's George Keller (3/4, RBI) caught a dipping line drive, on the trot (we seniors seldom canter).
- Ok, so Gary Brown burned the State Farm outfield once more. He's starting to irritate me.
- Mat Curtis (4/4, 4 RBIs) put up the runs and showed a little offensive mustard.
- One of my favorites came in the 6th with Kuhfuss batting for State Farm. Bob ripped one up the middle. Sean Curry reached for it & just caught enough leather to redirect the hit. Johnny G. was screwed. He was breaking on the ball one way & all of a sudden it went a different direction. John could only belly flop on the ball, but he backhanded it to Courtney for the force out at second. Sweet play!

State Farm came up to bat in the buffet inning trailing 21 – 9. Led by Mat Curtis' (4/4, 4 RBIs) hot bat. State Farm batted

around, plus 3 more, putting up 10 runs in the buffet, and came up just short with the winning run at the plate. Did I say Sue K. lined one about as far into the outfield as any woman; most men for that matter.

Take all of that; it's great. Congratulations to Farmers and good luck to you and all of the semifinalists. But the State Farm after party reminded me what this softball at The Robson is all about. Gary & Debbie Warrick hosted. Gary said a blessing. Coco gave a heart felt end of season 'speech,' and we enjoyed each other's company. Coco and Judy Ondina showed State Farm what it means to lead a team. We definitely felt like winners.

See you next season.

Johnny B