

## **State Farm vs Rodney Landscaping**

**Monday, 10 Oct 22**

After the game, Announcer Jimmy Reese asked me if I wanted the scorebook. I said, "why?" "Because the schedule has you, JB as the game reporter." Good thing Bill Maynard keeps an excellent scorebook and Bob Potter was up in the Box keeping Jim & Bill straight as he operated the scoreboard.

Steve Pratt umpired behind the plate and tried his darnedest to get a grip on Rodney's pitcher, George Wendt, but to no avail. George was flying high and smiling all night. It was great to see Greg Laffey back in town and at the Field. He umped first and Bill Hackley handled the other side of the infield.

We occasionally hear, "On any given night..." On any given night any one of our RR Coed teams can put together a whole game and look good. On this night, two teams played well and we had a tie game until the bottom of the seventh.

Neither team scored in the first. Carol Rumberger (3/4, RBI) and Coco (3/4, Triple, 3 RBIs) singled for State, as Jamie Baggett calls us. Debbie Hinson and that cheeky, grinning George Wendt (3/4, RBI) singled for Rodney, as Rodney calls himself.

State pitcher, Bob Kuhfuss (2/2,RBI), knocked in the first run of the game and Sue Kamrath (3/3) singled to start an All Star night at the plate. Rodney did one better bringing in two runs behind Jerry Hinson's ( 3/3, RBI) double, and singles off the hot bats of Jackie Fox (3/3 RBI) and Luay Ashoo (3/3, Dbl, 2 RBIs).

State brought home 3 in the third and was poised to pick up two more when George Went into his high wire act and seemingly dropped the ball straight down from the most incredible of heights and nicked the corners of the plate. Game MVP George, single-handedly, shut down State to cut off the rally in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Rodney scored two of their own and we had a tie game; **4-4 after 3 innings.**

Sue K, Kuhfuss, George Keller (2/3, RBI) and Jamie Bagget (2/3, RBI) manufactured one in the 4<sup>th</sup> for State Farm. Rodney picked up 3 of their own behind Jackie, Steve Wardlaw (2/3, 2 RBIs) and Luay's line drive double. Daniel Patrick applied the Coup de Grace with his 2 RBI single.

Rodney showed us why they are considered to have one of the best infields in the league with Bryce Treese at 3<sup>rd</sup>, Laderach at SS and Hinson's, Debbie and Jerry on the right side of the infield. They ate up everything thrown their way and made short order of State Farm. The Usual Suspects (Wendt, Treece,

Jerry H, Jackie, Steve Wardlaw and Luay) showed up in the bottom of the 5th to put 3 more on the board for Rodney.

Both teams were quiet in the 6<sup>th</sup>, well, all that is except Randy Matthiessen. Randy kept yelling, “mine” and caught hits from 3 of the only 4 pitches thrown that inning by Wendt. Like George needed a break. He was still grinning. Carol Rumberger did return the favor making a nice catch on Randy’s fly ball in the bottom half of the inning.

Off to the 7<sup>th</sup> with Rodney trailing 5-10, but what a rally. Sue K kicked it off. Kuhfuss, Keller, Jamie B, and Carol all singled and Coco cleared the bases with a triple. Fittingly, Randy M killed the rally snagging another fly ball in center field.

Rodney made short work of it in the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup>. Laderach doubled and just like he was doing all evening, Bryce Treese smoked one over SS for the winning RBI and a winning score: **Rodney Landscaping 11 – State Farm 10.**

Really was a good game with fine plays, big hits and exemplary sportsmanship. Now I don’t want to make a habit of it, but State Farm showed they can have a fun & a lively after game

party even after losing a nail biter. Or maybe it was just the hospitality of Carol & Jeff Rumberger.

Cheers,

Johnny B