

## **ProScapes Landscaping vs. Wise Health – Wednesday, May 17**

What a beautiful day to have a picnic and that's just what we had at the Field of Dreams this Wednesday. The Wise Health team hosted everyone for Hot Dogs, chips, and drinks on this beautiful day as we witnessed two thrilling games.

We had everything in the first game, several 'It only happens in the Seniors League' moments, and even a buzzard.

In the booth Dave Riddle acknowledged the "sellout crowd" thanked them for getting here despite the traffic jam on I-35. Rick Rubin pushed the buttons on the scoreboard as he does every Wednesday, and Clyde Ziegler was in the middle, keeping the scorebook.

No instant replays today thanks to a stellar job by our umpires – Stu White behind the plate, Coco Ondina at 1B, and Andy Bradshaw at 3B.

Sharon Deputy threw the opening pitch of the game for a strike and Proscapes wasted no time putting two runs on the board in the top of the first. Bruce Horeftis made a running basket catch to take a hit away from David McKie. Trivia #1: What major league great was known for making basket catches?

With Bobby Duncan making his pitching debut, wearing lots of protective gear, Wise Health posted a 4 spot. Jackie Fox knocked in two with a single. Manager John Thompson early in the inning sent in the speedy Caruso as a pinch runner and he scored. The inning ended with a long running catch by Bill Smiley off the bat of that speedy Caruso.

After one inning, Wise Health 4, Proscapes 1.

In the top of the second, Proscapes rebounded, coming back with a five run max inning. After the bases were loaded with nobody out, Sharon retired the next two batters. Scott Wilson then delivered a key, bases loaded single to drive in two. Gary Wisner brought in the fifth run with a base hit. This writer has not seen Gary Wisner retired in any AB this year. What a season he is having.

Wise Health responded posting their second consecutive 4 spot. With the bases loaded, Ramiro Escamilla cleared the bases with a 3 RBI double. Two Seniors League moments, in that bottom of the second; well, three actually. (1) Since pitcher Bobby Duncan was on base to end the top half of the inning, the game was delayed as we were awaiting for Bobby as he put on his wonderful protective

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pitching gear. (2) John Perini hit a pop up that almost hit 1<sup>st</sup> base and resulted in a triple. (3) Bruce Horeftis, in two plate appearances took eight consecutive pitches all for balls, yet had an RBI.

After two innings, Wise Health 8, Proscapes 7.

In the third, David McKie led off for Proscapes. Just yesterday, he had an injection in his knee, but yet today was out playing ball - only in the Seniors League. Proscapes managed only one run on just two hits. Second basemen Rick Werstein, with the bases loaded, ranged far to his right to field a ground ball off the bat of pitcher Bobby to get the third out of the inning.

In the bottom of the third, [Video](#). Carl Caruso drove in a run with the bases loaded. Henry Moore, mimicking Bruce, drives in a run with his second consecutive walk. Manager Bill Smile makes a pitching change and Garry Warrick retires the next two batters. But Wise Health records their third consecutive 4 spot.

After three innings, Wise Health 12, Proscapes 8.

The fourth was an inning of number **7**'s. In the top half of the inning, Mike Slusher, wearing **#7**, had a pinch runner Gary Warrick, wearing **#7** and hit a ground ball to first baseman, Greg Laffey wearing **#7** who touched the base for an unassisted putout. In the bottom of the inning, it continues. Greg was batting, wearing **#7**, catching was Mike Slusher wearing **#7**, running for Greg was Bruce H, wearing **#7**, and Greg hits a fly ball to left, caught by the left fielder for an F-**7** out. Go figure. By the way, Greg chose **#7** because his boyhood idol was Mickey Mantle. Bruce's boyhood idol was Al Kaline, so he chose **#7** thinking that was Kaline's number. Bruce subsequently learned Kaline wore **#6** but our favorite player Bruce still proudly wears his **#7**.

Back to softball. Sharon continued her great pitching, shutting down Proscapes in the top of the fourth. The inning ended when Scooter Wilson, wearing **#22** came to the plate having gone **2** for **2**, and hits a ground ball to **2<sup>nd</sup>** baseman Rick Werstein, who makes yet another great play to end the inning. Just saying. In the bottom of the inning, Wise loaded the bases three different times but scored only two runs.

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After four innings, Wise Health 14, Proscapes 8.

Coming to bat in the final, buffet inning, ProScapes needed six runs to tie the game. And that's when the buzzard appeared, circling the field for some reason. Then we saw the reason as the first five batters all reached base including doubles by McKie and Randy Brewer. Three runs in; 14-11. The buzzard was still circling but now at a lower altitude. With the bases loaded, a fielder's choice drove in a run and a second fielder's choice drove in a second run. 14-13, bases loaded, two outs. As Jackie Fox would say, we have a barn burner. Buzzard's flight pattern now contains diving motions as Sharon delivered the pitch .... Ground ball to Ron Schwertner, who steps on 3<sup>rd</sup> for the final out. A great comeback comes home just short and the buzzard flies away.

Final Score: Wise Health 14, ProScapes Landscaping 13.

