

Wise Health vs. Eagle Eye Care.
Green (well...sort of..) vs. Red.
0-3 vs. 3-0.

Folks, if you weren't there, well, I'm not sure I can do it justice. You missed a wild one!

Wild hits, wild catches, wild throws (oops!), even a few wild calls...it was just wild all around...not a better show to be had on a Thursday evening in Spring here at the Ranch.

It started early, as it usually does here at the Field of Dreams. In fact, when this reporter walked up to the field at what she thought was game time, there were already three runs on the scoreboard, with one more on the way. Before I had time to settle my chair, find my drink, and grab a working pencil (a girl has to be comfortable, after all!), the home team had scored four runs of their own, and we were off and running! All tied up at four runs apiece. Buckle up. Things were about to get...well...you know...wild!

Eagle Eye threatened in the top half of the second with a lead off single off the bat of Jackie Fox and a sharp line drive over third base courtesy of Ed Cawley. Hopes were dashed however, when Coco shut down the inning with a double play at short that prevented any runs from scoring. Wise Health now had the momentum...and they were going on the offensive. It was their turn to swing the bats. Bill Hackley started off with a sharp line drive toward third, but Dave Riddle was up to the task...one out! Mike Jaensch then drew a walk in anticipation of Louis Berthold's screamer over the shortstop into short left field. Runners on first and second...still one out. Wise is looking to take the lead. After another out recorded by shortstop, Jim Hupp, Becky Milby steps in and draws a walk. She's quite a hitter folks. I'd walk her too! But now Wise had bases loaded with two outs and speedy Bruce Horeftis stepping up to the plate. He hits a shot...I mean a shot...up the middle. But remember who's over there...Jim...the vacuum...Hupp...who scooped it up and stepped on second base for the final out of the inning. **At the end of two, the score remained Wise Health 4 - Eagle Eye 4.**

If the second inning was all about defense, the third and fourth innings were all offense. The visiting Eagle Eye, in their dashing red jerseys, scored five runs off eight hits, including an inside the park home run by Tim Winiesdorffer that was juuuust off the glove of Spencer Folsom in left field. Wow! What an effort! What a hit! People pay good money to see stuff like this, and we get to see it all here at the Field of Dreams for free! But I digress. Wise Health, in their "Go Get 'Em Green" weren't about to roll over and play dead. Oh no! They scored four runs of their own, taking advantage of a triple off the bat of Dave McKie, a double by Larry Lewis, and a string of singles off the bats of Pat Lewis, Christa Prim, and Rod McDonald. Now that folks, is how you put together a rally! The inning ended with just a bit of controversy as each team had slightly differing versions as to how the catch was made on the Bruce Horeftis sinking line drive into short center field. However, lead umpire Gary Warrick's skilled diplomacy and calm demeanor quickly allowed cooler heads to prevail, though I think I may have overheard him asking on the way back to the plate, "Are we having fun yet?" (Of course we are! Great job, Gary!) At the **end of four**, we still had quite a battle...a competition, I mean... **Wise Health 8 - Eagle Eye 9.**

The bats continued to pop in the late innings as both sides jockeyed for the lead. Eagle Eye scored six more runs in the fifth and sixth innings, while holding Wise to two, widening the score to **15 -10 with Eagle Eye in the lead at the end of six.**

Home plate umpire quickly stepped in, calling for the flip flop, and Wise Health stepped up to bat. Five runs down...three outs left. Here we go.

Bruce Horeftis stepped up to the plate begging, "Please walk me! Please walk me!" So they did. Runner on first. Coco then hit a hard grounder to second for an infield hit. Runners on first and second, Dave McKie up to bat. He promptly drove a hard liner into left field for his second triple of the game. Two runs scored. Wise is now down by 3 with a runner on third and no one out. Those fans that had started to leave...yeah...they turned around. This one isn't over quite yet. A sharply hit ground ball to the shortstop led to the first out of the inning, but that was followed by three base on balls to load up the bases and score another run. Wise was down by two with bases loaded, one out, and Christa Prim headed up to bat. Clyde whispered a word of encouragement as Christa approached the plate. Larry Lewis yelled wise words of advice from second base. The crowd grew silent as Christa stepped into the box. Boom! She slapped a single up the middle. Two runs scored! The crowd cheered! The game was tied! Eagle Eye, a little shell shocked perhaps, but still eager to demonstrate their defensive prowess, ended the scoring with two quick outs, including a stellar play by catcher, Nancy Rogus, who picked up a chopper in front of the plate, and launched a dart over to first for the third out of the inning. Now it was their turn. All they needed was one run to prevent this game from ending in a tie. Could they do it? Linda Cawley led off for Eagle Eye with an infield single to the shortstop. Henry Moore then drops a fly ball into short left center, allowing Henry to reach first safely, but catching Linda at second for the first out of the inning. Jim Hupp then stepped in and hit a sharp grounder to third for an infield hit, putting runners on first and second with one out. The fans were holding their breath. Here comes the pitch. Tim Winiesdorffer drove it to left field hard...and long...all the way to the fence. Henry took off from second. He was giving it all he had! He was rounding third with Johnny B. was urging him to slow down from the press box...easy, Henry, easy...but Henry just pressed on. Ohhh Henry! He scored! **Eagles win! 16 - 15!**

I told you...this was a wild one! There were some great catches...and there were some bloopers. There were some hits...wow...there were some hits! And well...there were some choppers in front of the plate. But that throw...that throw was something to see! There was some controversy...but both teams shook hands and congratulated each other on a good game at the end. It was all such great fun! If you missed, come out and catch a game next week. We'd love to see ya!

I'd be remiss if I didn't take a minute to thank our heroes behind the scenes:

In the pressbox:

Johnny B - keeping us all entertained and informed with his skills on the microphone
George Wendt - keeping the scorebook in order and keeping track of the all important stats
Sean Curry - running the scoreboard - trust me, it's harder than it looks!

Our Umpires for the Night:

Gary Warrick - leading the team behind the plate
Mark Mills - Making the calls at 1st base
Carol Rumberger - Making the calls at 2nd/3rd