

# Wise Health vs. State Farm – May 18th

Thanks to singles by Scott Wilson and Ken Kamrath, and Coco's triple, the State Farmers found themselves up 2-0 after the first inning.

But wait, we can't jump straight into the game like this, can we? I mean, for those who just want the facts of the game – who won / who lost – check out the bold print. For the rest of us, let's check out the stands and see who's here at The Field of Dreams. Jill is over on the Visitor's side, supporting hubby Hupp. Myron, here because he and his 4-legged companion love softball ... and serves as a good destination for a walk. Ed and Jay – supporting their fleet-footed wives. Matt, he's missing getting to play and hit his monster shots to left this season. Peter, checking to be sure all is working smoothly in the Press Box, where he has served so admirably as our Coordinator this season. Debbie – who loves being a loud and proud cheerleader for her VP man. And Ken and Richard and Killer and a near full-house this evening. And, of course, our season-ticket-holders – Deb and Jerry – as they arrive with what appears to be “we've-done-this-more-than-a-few-times” Lazy Boy recliners in hand. And what's cool is to sit and listen to them converse with the players waiting in the on-deck circle, since they know almost every player on a first-name basis.

Oh yeah, back to the game. Each team produced one run each in the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning, apparently waiting for everyone to get to the park before showing off their firepower. Pat Lewis and Jim Hupp set the table for their Wise Health teammates in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning as Clyde Ziegler, Dave McKie (2B), Becky Milby and Spensor Folsom (2B) came through with consecutive run-producing hits. And, not to be outdone, Susan Kamrath started the hit-parade for the State Farmers. By the time Scott Wilson, Gary Warrick Coco, Ken Kamrath, and the Carol & Jeff Rumberger duo contributed their damage, both teams had tallied 5 runs each. Result:

## **8-6, State Farm, after 3 innings**

If inning #3 was an offensive display, innings 4, 5, and 6 were all about defense. The Wise gang pulled off TWO double plays in back-to-back innings. Jim Hupp started the first one in a short-to-second-to-first DP. Then pitcher Larry Lewis caught a line drive, then fired to 2<sup>nd</sup> to catch the runner off base. And in the 6<sup>th</sup>, Jeff R's single to center went for naught when Pat Lewis put her quick-thinking and equally quick-footed maneuver to work. After chasing down the relay throw, she hurriedly dove back to the plate, just a split-second before the speedy Ken Kamrath came rumbling across home. The Farmers were equally efficient in the field as Bob Kuhfuss and Gary Warrick combined to set down 7 consecutive Farmers in order.

## **After 6 innings of play, State Farm led, 9-7.**

Between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> innings, Kirk Russell was playing the #1 Baseball Song of all time – no, not “Take Me Out To The Ballgame”, which was written by a guy who had never attended a baseball game. “Sweet Caroline” was playing and was just about to get to the good part when the umpire called “play ball”. Bummer. Idea: Could the Press Box and Umpire folks get together and implement a 5<sup>th</sup> inning stretch time, where everyone stands and sings along with Neil Diamond – “Sweet Caroline, bum, bum, bum ...”

So, at this point in the game, State Farm had led the entire time. But Wise Health had one last shot. Becky Milby led off with a screamer to left field, followed by singles from Spencer Folsom and Tony Ross. Down one run, John Martin hits a bullet down the 3<sup>rd</sup>-base line ... but it is speared by Gold-Glover Pat Snider. Rod McDonald then fires a missile toward second basewoman, Carol Rumberger, who calmly snatches it for out number 2. Up steps Larry Lewis, still down 1, and two runners on. Boom, as Larry lets out a grunt, the ball goes flying into right field, plating both runners. The Wise Healths were ahead for the first time in the ball game. And when Clyde Ziegler caught a bullet off the bat of Bob Kuhfuss for the 3<sup>rd</sup> out in the bottom of the inning, it was Hello Win Column for the Wise Gang.

**Final Score: Wise Health 10, State Farm 9.**

**Points of significant accomplishment during the game:**

**Game's Gold Glover:** Although a close 2<sup>nd</sup> going to Coco Ondina for his over-the-shoulder catch running from short into left field, the fielding gem of the night was provided by **Pat Lewis'**, with her quick action and thinking to get the runner at home plate. Congrats, Pat.

**Silver Slugger Award for the Game:** **Jeff Rumberger** was just one at-bat from hitting for the cycle. And what a smooth, powerful swing. Wait til we see him when he's injury-free.

**Pitchers:** How many games do you see the pitchers strike out more than they walk? Very few, if any. Tonight, 5 strikeouts, 0 walks ... and 0 home runs (with a 20 mph wind blowing out to left). Well done, Bob K, Gary W, Larry L, and Clyde Z.

**Press Box:** I wish I had taken a picture as I walked into the Press Box, with the backs of three guys facing me as they prepared for the evening. All were wearing the bright red team jerseys with white script that shouted "VOLUNTEER #1". Priceless. Kirk Douglas, Bob Riley, Bob Potter – thanks guys, for delivering an awesome service to all in attendance.

**Seven:** For Press Box, everyone on that team is #1. On State Farm, it seemed everyone wanted to be #7. Count them – FOUR # 7's. But why 7? Is it lucky #7? Or because Mickey Mantle was #7? Or were they married on 7/7/77? Whatever it was, I'm changing my number to #7 next year. Why? Because, between them – the four sevens – Warrick, Kamrath, Snider, Wissink – they accounted for 8 of SF's hits, 50% of their doubles, and 45% of the RBI's. Impressive, Sevens.

**Umpiring Crew:** And how about another stellar job by Danny Thomas, Mike Conley, and Cory Reiner. Kept the game moving at a quick pace while handling numerous close calls. And they handled a couple of tough calls, including one play at 2<sup>nd</sup> base that required a conference call and video replay review. Well done, men.

**Stat Leaders for the Game:**

**Three hits:** \_\_\_ Clyde Z, Jeff R

**Doubles:** \_\_\_ Dave Mc\_(2), Spensor F, Coco, Jeff R,

**Triple:** \_\_\_\_\_ Coco, Jeff R

Well-played, teams. Much more competitive and enjoyable than the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the evening's double-header (but the Mavs will rebound).

Cheers,

Dale Hill