

Home Tint (1-4-2) vs. 407 BBQ (4-1-2)

Tuesday, May 28, 2024 / Attendance: (21)

This first round playoff game pits Hal Wasson's second seeded **407 BBQ** (4-1-2) squad against Coach Riley's seven seed **Home Tint** (1-4-2). On paper it would appear as though this game is 407 BBQs to lose, but not so fast, during the regular season these two battled to an 11-11 tie. The winner will face SafeLifts, a 25-7 blow-out winner in their 1st Round game. So, buckle up buttercup and let's get this party started!

As has been the case each Team's "subs" will play a major role in the outcome (with Home Tint sporting 4). Considering regular season performance and their head-to-head regular season tie, the pregame line comes in at "**407 BBQ (-9)**" with the over/under at **28**.

The Press Box crew was primed with the full of life, Jim "*The Voice*" Reese on the mic, "*Mr. Positivity*" Johnny Blecher handling the book and Pat Lewis the big board. The Umpire Crew (sponsored by Eagle Eye Care) of John Basse HP, Danny Thomas (1B) and Larry Studinski (3B) were in position as 407 BBQ's Ace Pitcher, Gary Warrick, took the bump.

As has become common place, despite surrendering a walk and two singles to Braam and Lewis, Warrick balances it with two K's, and with the assistance of a fine play at the plate that nailed Vaka, posts the first goose egg on the board. Despite the early 3PM start 407 BBQ applied the hot sauce to their bats manufacturing a 5-run first off well placed singles from the bats of Alexander, Warrick, Wasson, Mathiessen, (a walk to Tina Moore), Coffman, Moore and Day.

End of 1: Home Tint – 0 / 407 BBQ - 5

Working his magic, Warrick again shuts down Home Tint bats surrendering only a single to a relative League unknown with high potential, Clint Owen. Not to be outdone, another of the League's veteran pitchers, Steve Bentley, shuts down the 407 BBQ keeping them off the scoreboard. Singles by Catron, Louis "*Mr. Perseverance*" Berthold, Sharice D Moore and Alexander were off-set by Home Tint's timely defense.

End of 2: Home Tint – 0 / 407 BBQ - 5

In the top of the 3rd, Dobson gets things started for Home Tint with a single, however, Warrick continues his wizardry and with assistance of solid infield play keeps Home Tint off the board. Not to be outdone, pitcher Bentley and the Home Tint defense match that facing only four and posting a goose egg of their own.

End of 3: Home Tint – 0 / 407 BBQ - 5

Home Tint's offense breaks through in the 4th inning. Rookie Jeff Vaka, who has been turning heads this season, gets things started lacing a double. Following an out, Mike "*Wild Giraffe*" Braam drives in Vaka. Slocum drills a double setting the table for L-Train Lewis who singles scoring the second run. A fielder's choice off "*Gentleman*" Weldon Wallace's bat brings in the 3rd and last run of the inning for Home Tint.

407 BBQ extends their lead by plating 5 in their half of the inning. A leadoff single by Coffman gets the party started followed by a Moore single and a walk to Day. Following an out, with the bases loaded, the flood gates open. Catron and Berthold come through with RBI singles bringing Sharice D Moore to the plate who promptly delivers a triple to right field driving in 2 more. Warrick singles scoring Moore from 3rd for the final run of the frame.

End of 4: Home Tint – 3 / 407 BBQ - 10

Home Tint responds with a run in their half of the 5th via singles off the bats of Dobson and Bentley and an RBI single by Jerry "*The Percussionist*" Hinson.

407 BBQ eyeing a semifinal matchup at 6PM against SafeLift's to advance to Saturday's Champyinzship Game (that's a Pittsburgh thing) – looks to extend their lead. Coach Wasson opens the inning drilling a double to RCF. Mathiessen drives in Wasson with a double of his own. Randy Kelley plates Randy with a single. Coffman's third single of the game and a Jack Moore RBI fielder's choice drives in the 3rd and final run of the inning.

End of 5: Home Tint – 4 / 407 BBQ – 13

Home Tint looking to claw their way back into the game gets a jump start from Carol "*Heinz 57*" Rumberger who goes opposite field scorching a single to RCF. Braam laces another to RCF and Slocum delivers his own to load the bases for L-Train Lewis who drives in 2 runs with a single. Wallace drives in another with his own base rap. 3 runs in with 2 on and no outs. Clint Owen with 2 hits already in the game strides to the plate. Owen gets his pitch and hits a screaming line drive that finds the glove of SS Alexander's glove who converts it into a double play. Warrick gets the final out to get out of the inning.

Home Tint pitcher, Lewis, keeps his Team within reach setting down 407 BBQ facing only four batters aided by a double play turned by his infield.

End of 6: Home Tint – 7 / 407 BBQ - 13

So, we enter the buffet inning with Home Tint needing 6 to tie and 7 to capture the lead. Bruce Horeftis does his job by leading off with a single. Dobson reaches on a fielder's choice bringing Joe Wolfinger to the plate. Wolfinger proceeds to smash a line shot to the right side – Coffman who physically gutted through this game proceeds to grab the hot shot and complete and unassisted double play to end the game.

Final Score: Home Tint – 7 / 407 BBQ – 13

Postscript:

The story of this game for both Teams was pitching and defense – kudos to the pitchers and position players. At the plate 407 BBQ out hit Home Tint (25-17) with the explosive hit metric even at (12% / 11.8%). Only 5 extra base hits were registered in the game.

The pitchers and defense for both Teams kept this game close, however, the two 5-run innings posted by 407 BBQ was too much for Home Tint to overcome.

Home Tint beat the spread (407 BBQ -9) with the under paying out.

Next Up:

407 BBQ (2nd seed) moves on to face a tough FaceLifts squad (6th seed) in this evening's 6 PM matchup for a spot in Saturday's Championship game.

Weather permitting, Thursday evening's other semi-final game features a resurgent Farmer's Team (5th seed) facing top seed Tommy's High-Tech Automotive.

Be sure to mark your calendars to be at the Field of Dreams for the League Championship Game Saturday at 11AM. *The RRSA will be sending out updates so "stay tuned"!*

This Day in Baseball:

• **1996** – *In the Orioles 12-8 win over Seattle in the Kingdome, Cal Ripken blasts a grand slam and two two-run round-trippers, giving him a career high eight RBI's. The Baltimore shortstop's younger brother, Billy, also goes deep for the Birds, making it the second time the siblings have both homered in the same game.*

"For the Glory"