

Rangers Roundup & Gazette

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25 cents

Rangers Fall to Braves on Opening Day, 13-8

JONES COUNTY, GA. The JCALL C-Ball Rangers opened their season Saturday with a tough 13-8 loss to the Braves. But there was plenty for Rangers fans to feel good about.

First off, it was a glorious Opening Day, and the ol' ball team looked fantastic for their team photos. We can't say for sure, but early reports have it that left fielder Zack Chance had the biggest ear-to-ear smile in his individual picture—we'll keep you posted once pictures come in. Looking good, Zack!

Secondly, it is a sure thing that our Rangers yelled twice as loudly as any other team when they were announced in the Opening Ceremony. These guys have lungs! Unofficially, either third baseman Justin Franks or right fielder Chandler Sharp was the loudest Ranger. Lungs, these guys have—they can yell!

As far as actual *baseball* goes, the Rangers looked a bit shaky in the field early on, dropping a few balls here and there, and overthrowing other balls in the infield—here, there, and everywhere. ☺

The visiting Rangers jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the top of the 1st inning, but the Braves tied it up in the bottom half, then took a 7-2 lead in the 2nd. Our boys fought back hard, rapping out 15 hits for the game, but we just couldn't keep those Braves from touching home plate more than we did.

Offensively, several Rangers had great games. Leadoff batter Drake Daughtry had four hits in four at bats, scoring four runs, and knocking one ball off the top padding of the right-field fence for an inside-the-park home run. One *inch* from going over the wall there, Daughtry!



Hard-charging utility man Jesse Dixon went three-for-four, scoring three runs. This kid plays all-out, all the time!

Cleanup hitter Kyler Blair doubled twice, with three RBI (runs batted in), and shortstop William Allen Whiddon creamed a double in the 1st to drive in two runs. Second baseman Gregory Hunter hit the ball sharply as well, going two-for-three with two RBIs.

Pitcher/outfielder Will Pritchard was also two-for-three at the plate, and Donnie Hale got his first big hit of the season in the 4th, when the Rangers threatened but failed to drive him in.

Defensive highlights included William Allen Whiddon and Justin Franks combining on a beautiful play when William Allen threw a dart to Justin, who coolly applied the tag to retire a runner trying to reach third base. Drake Daughtry and Gregory Hunter also teamed up to get out a Braves hitter in a rundown between first and second base, and Gregory fielded a grounder cleanly and tagged a runner for an unassisted putout in the 1st.

On Deck: The Rangers take on the Yankees Tuesday at 6:00. The coaches ask that **players be at the ballpark at 5:00 Tuesday.** And **GO RANGERS!**

<i>Game 1 Line Score</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>E</i>					
Rangers	2	0	3	1	8	15	0	
Braves	2	5	4	1	x	13	17	0



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