
Rangers Roundup & Gazette

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25 cents

Heat, A's Defense Overcome Rangers

JONES COUNTY, GA. Tough night at the ol' ballfield Monday for the C-Ball Rangers. Playing shorthanded, the Rangers battled but came up just short, losing by a thin margin to the defensive-minded Athletics 10-8.

The game was tight throughout. Despite the oppressive 115-degree heat (with 130% humidity), each team scratched out runs and traded the lead back and forth for the first three innings. The Rangers kept putting the ball in play all up and down the lineup, but from the 4th inning on, the A's infielders kept pouncing on groundballs and making sure throws to first. The Rangers had no strikeouts in the last three innings but only one run to show for all their nice work with the bats.

Chandler Sharp and Zack Chance had the hardest luck, each putting the ball in play—Zack with his best hitting of the season—only to have the ball arrive at first base milliseconds before they did. Will Pritchard was in the “hard-luck-dagnabbit-club” as well. A telling statistic is that two of the Rangers’ eight runs were driven in on groundouts, one by Will and the other by Chandler.

“It was just good defensive baseball that beat us,” said Coach Chip. “There’s nothing you can do about that but tip your cap to the other guys and play hard as heck the next game.”

“I’m real proud of the way our boys hung in there,” he added. “We faced adversity [serious or continued difficulty], but we kept fighting and stayed in it till the end.”

<i>Game 12 Line Score</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>E</i>				
Rangers	2	4	1	0 0 1	8	14	1
Athletics	3	4	1	2 0 x	10	21	0

The adversity Coach Chip mentioned included all the players being visibly drained by the



heat. The worst of it was when standout pitcher and cleanup hitter Kyler Blair had to leave the game with heat exhaustion. The *Gazette* spoke to head trainer Stephen Blair an hour after the game and learned that Kyler was getting fluids and recovering nicely. He’s listed as “probable” for Thursday’s game. We’re betting on him coming back strong and getting 8 or 10 RBI’s!

Also “adverse” was the coaching staff—namely, Coach Chip—costing the Rangers a crucial run in the last inning by having the team bat out of proper order. “My bad completely,” Coach Chip said. “I’m still kicking myself for costing my guys an out in a close game.”

The Very Bright Side

JONES COUNTY, GA. While the 10-8 loss to the Athletics stung, especially since it ended the Rangers’ three-game win streak, there was much to feel good about in the game. Here’s a player-by-player breakdown of highlights:

#1 Gregory Hunter: the unanimous choice for game-ball-winner for his splendid positive attitude and determined effort from first out to last. 3-for-4 at the plate, one run, one RBI. Defensively: unassisted putout to end the 1st inning; two putouts in the 2nd; quick-thinking play tagging out a runner who overran second

(See “The Bright Side” continued on p. A2)

The Bright Side

Individual Game Highlights

(Continued from A1)

base in the 4th; putout in the 5th on a throw from third baseman Justin Franks.

#3 William Allen Whiddon: 3-for-4 at the plate, one run scored, one RBI. Very smooth underhanded “6-4” toss to Gregory for an out in the 2nd. Now second on the team in both runs scored and RBI’s.

#4 Kyler Blair: 2-for-4 batting, two runs scored, two runs driven in. Fielded well on the mound, mere *millimeters* away from “web-gem”-quality catch of a popup. Two doubles, now leads team with 15 doubles on the year. Outstanding guts and heart, as always.

#7 Zack Chance: 0-for-4 batting, double-dog *robbed* twice on groundballs—one hit so hard the first baseman had the out before Zack had the chance ☺ to leave the batter’s box. Strong throw in from the left-field fence to second base, getting revenge by *robbing* A’s runner of extra bases.

#8 Chandler Sharp: 0-for-4 at the plate, but hit the ball hard each time up, *triple*-dog robbed by outstanding defense! Fielded two balls cleanly when pressed into service at pitcher, perfect throw to third base for final out in 5th inning.

#10 Drake Daughtry: 4-for-4 hitting (of course!), three runs scored, two doubles. Two unassisted putouts in 3rd inning; *sensational* diving stop of a throw from pitcher Chandler Sharp to hold runner at first base in the 5th. Played with heart all game long—also of course!

#11 Justin Franks: 2-for-4, one double, one run scored, two runs driven in. Cool-headed “pick” of a groundball and perfect throw to second for a putout in the 5th. Snagged “Sharp” throw (from Chandler ☺) in the 5th, “snow-coned” it but held on for the big out!

#34 Will Pritchard: Hitless, but put the ball in play three times and knocked in an RBI in the 2nd when he *scorched* a ball the Athletic fielder *miraculously* gloved on one hop. First Rangers’ outfield assist of the season on fantastic throw to second base. Attaboy Will!

Stat Watch:

<i>Batting average</i>	AB	H	AVG.
Drake Daughtry	46	44	.957
Gregory Hunter	38	29	.763
Kyler Blair	43	32	.744
William Allen Whiddon	43	31	.721
Jesse Dixon	28	18	.643
Justin Franks	36	21	.583
Will Pritchard	40	19	.475
Donnie Hale	25	8	.320

<i>RBI (Runs Batted In)</i>	G	RBI
Kyler Blair	12	28
William Allen Whiddon	12	25
Gregory Hunter	11	18
Chandler Sharp	12	13
Will Pritchard	12	12
Justin Franks	11	11
Drake Daughtry	12	10
Jesse Dixon	8	10

<i>Runs Scored</i>	G	R
Drake Daughtry	12	35
William Allen Whiddon	12	22
Kyler Blair	12	21
Gregory Hunter	11	15
Justin Franks	11	12
Jesse Dixon	8	10

<i>Home Runs</i>	G	HR
Drake Daughtry	12	3
Jesse Dixon	8	2
Gregory Hunter	11	1
William Allen Whiddon	12	1



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on premise cardio movie cinema playing movies 24 hours a day. Please come experience the world of Georgia Athletic Club in Forsyth, Georgia.

On Deck: the Braves Thursday, practice at 5:15, game at 6:00. **Let’s get back to those winning ways, Rangers! Go, Rangers!**