
Rangers Roundup & Gazette

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Rangers Stay Hot, Dominate Athletics

Surging Rangers Hold A's to 5 Runs; Whiddon, Daughtry Lead the Way

JONES COUNTY, GA. The C-Ball Rangers improved their record to six wins against eight losses by defeating the Athletics handily in Tuesday's "night-cap" game. The 14-5 victory was the team's fourth in their last five games—technically, counting a forfeit by the Blue Jays, the Rangers have five wins in their last six games. That's what you call a hot streak, sports fans!

Granted, the Athletics were shorthanded and had to feel the absence of a couple of key players, especially standout first baseman Jaisen Green. But the Rangers definitely played their best baseball of the season. They hit the daylights out of the ball up and down the lineup and scored in every inning. And they made splendid, even spectacular plays in the field, keeping the A's off the scoreboard in the last three innings.

"I tell you what," said Coach Chip, "this team made me so proud tonight I could almost—well, you'll have to give me a minute to clear my throat and wipe a few, uh, well, specks of dust from under my eyes. Give me just a minute."

Six or seven minutes later, the coach was composed enough to continue, "This is what the best teams do, they get stronger heading into the end of the season. And these Rangers battled and gutted it out in the heat, with all the guys contributing. Hitting, fielding, keeping cool under pressure—two double plays, man!" Those two double plays sealed the deal, snuffing out A's rallies in the 5th and 6th innings. Clutch, man!! Deee-fence!

Game 14 Line Score	R	H	E						
Athletics	2	2	1	0	0	0	5	13	0
Rangers	4	3	4	1	2	x	14	21	0



The first four Rangers scored in the bottom of the 1st, and the team never looked back, taking the lead for good in the 2nd. Eight Rangers came to bat in each of the first three innings. For those unfamiliar with the finer points of baseball, that happens only when lots of guys are crossing home plate!

But it was the clamping down of the defense in the final three frames that earned the good guys this big win. One more time—deee-fence!!!

Rangers Defensive Highlights

1st inning:

🍌 Outfielder Chandler Sharp fielded a ball at the fence and sprinted to second base in less than three seconds to hold an A's hitter to a long single.

🍌 First baseman Drake Daughtry scooped a grounder down the line and got the unassisted putout.

2nd inning:

🍌 First baseman Drake Daughtry snagged a line shot and got the unassisted putout.

🍌 Shortstop William Allen Whiddon caught a cloud-high pop fly to end the inning.

3rd inning:

🍌 First baseman Drake Daughtry ran in on a slow roller and tagged the bag—another unassisted putout!

(See "Rangers Defensive Highlights" continued on p. A2)

Rangers Defensive Highlights

(Continued from A1)

4th inning:

🍌 Pitcher Kyler Blair smothered a “come-backer” to the mound and threw to first for the final out with the top of the order on deck.

5th inning:

🍌🍌 Second baseman Gregory Hunter caught a popup and “doubled off” the Athletics runner by chasing him all the way to third. Unassisted double play!!! Stranded two runners on base to kill the A’s rally.

6th inning:

🍌🍌 Shortstop William Allen Whiddon, the game-ball winner, ended the game catching a mile-high pop fly (his second of the night) and racing to the second-base bag for *another* double play. Two “DP’s” in two innings!

Rangers Offensive Summary

JONES COUNTY, GA. At the dish the Rangers had an outstanding night as well. Zack Chance went 0-for-3, mainly because of questionable pitching. Where’s a relief pitcher when you need one? But all the other Rangers reached base and all but two in the lineup crossed the plate.

New Ranger Collin Hall, on loan again from the Blue Jays, rapped out two hits in three trips to the plate, scoring one and getting his first two Ranger RBI’s. Welcome aboard, son!

Drake Daughtry and game-ball-winner William Allen Whiddon both had four hits in four plate appearances, Drake scoring four and knocking in one, William Allen scoring three and driving in four. These two guys sure produce some runs!

Gregory Hunter belted his second over-the-fence homer of the season—this one landing atop the batting cage just like the other one. Beautiful! Also two runs scored and an RBI.

Ailing Jesse Dixon was 3-for-3, one run, one RBI; Kyler Blair went 3-for-4, scoring once and driving in two, also getting his second triple.

Justin Franks *shellacked* a hard liner that bounced over the fence for the team’s first ground-rule double—2-for-4 on the game, one run and two RBI’s.

Will Pritchard and Chandler Sharp each had a hit, putting the ball in play and testing the A’s defense in other at-bats.

Three Rangers Make All-Stars!

JONES COUNTY, GA. The votes are in, and three Rangers were selected for the JCALL All-Star team. In secret-ballot voting, the five C-Ball head coaches honored Drake Daughtry, Gregory Hunter, and Kyler Blair as being three of the top ten ballplayers in the league. Congrats to each of our Ranger All-Stars!

Brandon Cox, the Yankee skipper, will coach the All-Stars. He should be contacting parents of all C-Ball All-Stars with details, but the *Gazette* has unconfirmed reports that he wants to meet with parents of All-Stars this Saturday at 10:00 a.m. at our Highway 49 Baseball Complex.

Stat Watch:

<i>Batting average</i>	AB	H	AVG.
Drake Daughtry	50	48	.960
Kyler Blair	47	35	.745
William Allen Whiddon	47	35	.745
Gregory Hunter	42	31	.738
Jesse Dixon	31	21	.677
Justin Franks	40	23	.575
Will Pritchard	44	20	.455

<i>RBI (Runs Batted In)</i>	G	RBI
Kyler Blair	13	30
William Allen Whiddon	13	29
Gregory Hunter	12	20
Justin Franks	12	13
Chandler Sharp	13	13
Will Pritchard	13	12
Drake Daughtry	13	11
Jesse Dixon	9	11

<i>Runs Scored</i>	G	R
Drake Daughtry	13	39
William Allen Whiddon	13	25
Kyler Blair	13	22
Gregory Hunter	12	17
Justin Franks	12	13
Jesse Dixon	9	11
Will Pritchard	13	8

<i>Home Runs</i>	G	HR
Gregory Hunter	12	3
Drake Daughtry	13	3
Jesse Dixon	9	2
William Allen Whiddon	13	1

On Deck: makeup game vs. the Braves, Thursday at 7:30, practice at 6:45. Friday game at Braves @ 6:00 (5:15 practice) **Let’s keep the magic going—play hard these two more games, Rangers!**