
Rangers Roundup & Gazette

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25 cents

That's a Wrap!

Season Ends in Loss to Braves

JONES COUNTY, GA. As Charles Dickens once wrote, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." And so with the Rangers' final game of the 2011 JCALL C-Ball season. It wasn't exactly the "worst of times" Friday night, but it was a bit of downer that the season ended more with a whimper than a bang, as the Braves blew out the Rangers, 18-6. For the only time this season, the Rangers lost in fewer than six innings (because of the "mercy rule," where the game is declared over when one team leads the other by ten runs or more after four or five innings).

The boys started off as strong as ever, all-star Kyler Blair throwing to all-star Drake Daughtry for a "1-3" putout in the first, then all-star Gregory Hunter, hard-hitting William Allen Whiddon, RBI-machine Kyler Blair, and fiery "Willy-P" Will Pritchard all crossing the plate in the bottom half. It was 4-4 heading into the second.

Drake did his "usual" on defense in the 2nd, fielding a grounder and stepping on the bag for an unassisted putout. William Allen Whiddon gobbled up a liner at short and tossed to Gregory for a nice out in the 3rd. Drake and Gregory both scored in the 2nd. Kyler knocked in a whopping four of the team's six runs in only two at-bats. There were solid base hits by Jesse Dixon and Chandler Sharp. Justin Franks was *robbed* of an assist when the ump called the Braves runner "safe!" after Justin's throw clearly beat the runner to first. And there were solid-as-always efforts by Donnie Hale and newcomer Colin Hall. But other than these few gleams of the Rangers at their best—well, it just wasn't the Rangers' night. Enough said about that!

Game 16 Line Score	R	H	E
Braves	4	5	4
Rangers	6	11	0



On the other hand, it was the best of times just throwing and catching the ball and joshing around on the ol' ballfield with this very special 2011 Rangers ballclub.

We missed Zack Chance, of course—it's really something to see that huge, bright smile of Zack's when he makes solid contact on a ball hitting in the cage or on the field.

And only the players can say for sure, but I suspect we'll all miss Coach Curt's famous "flying butt-kicks" when some poor Ranger missed fielding a ball in practice. I know I sure will!

But easily the brightest highlight of the season for this sportwriter came in the break in action after the third inning. All of us sitting on the ground in the outfield, for once remembering *all three* of our "Three things to remember each game": "play hard every play; if something goes wrong, grit your teeth and say 'we'll get it next time'; and *concentrate*, every pitch, every batter."

Just plain "funning around" with the guys, teasing about the Rangers' girlfriends, seeing every one of the gang smiling and laughing all together at once, as a unit. Just hanging out together doing not much of anything for a few minutes—just feeling ourselves a true *team* together—this was the best of times, for sure, and not a bad way to go out on the season no matter what the scoreboard said.

(See "Rangers Close Out Season" continued on p. A2)

Rangers Close Out Season

(Continued from A1)

Clearing out his locker after all the players were gone, Coach Chip summed up the season this way: "From Day 1 to today, the end of the line, it's been an honor to coach these guys. They're a fine group of young men, each and every one of 'em. And individually and as a team, they all, each and every one, grew and improved over the season. And gosh-darn it, we had some *fun*, didn't we?"

Yes we did, Coach. We dang sure did.

Characteristically, Coach Liz chimed in, "And five whole different times, We won! We won, we won, we won!"

Right you are, too, Coach Lizzy!

Let's close with another quote from literature, with one mild change. As the incomparable Huckleberry Finn once said, "So there ain't nothing more to write about, and I am rotten glad of it, because if I'd a knowed what a trouble it was to make a [newspaper] I wouldn't a tackled it and ain't agoing to no more!" At least not till next time!!!

Good luck to each and every Ranger and every gentle reader. We'll hope to meet again soon.

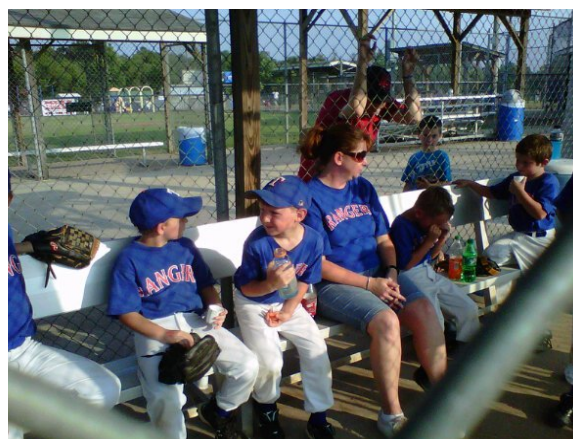
Party On, Rangers!

In fact, let's do all meet again *very* soon, 6:00 Monday at the ballfield for the league party!

JCALL officials have arranged what will surely be a marvelous time for all. Festivities will include such events as a whiffle ball tournament, tug-of-war competitions between teams (and coaches?!?), and trophy presentations for all teams. JCALL is providing five or six of those huge plastic "inflatable palaces," or "bouncers," and pizza and ice cold drinks, too. See you there, man!

Toughest Job in the League

A very special thank-you from all Rangers coaches, players, parents, and fans goes out to Team Mom Amy Pritchard. Mrs. Pritchard managed the smoothest-running, least chaotic, and best-behaved dugout in the league. What's most amazing is that she made it look easy. And it's *really, really* not!!



AP Photo by Lizzy Daughtry
Team Mom Amy working miracles in the dugout. You really are the best! Thank you for all you did for us all!

2011 Final Stats Leaders

Batting average	AB	H	AVG.
Drake Daughtry	57	53	.930
Kyler Blair	52	39	.750
William Allen Whiddon	53	38	.717
Gregory Hunter	49	35	.714
Jesse Dixon	33	22	.667
Justin Franks	45	25	.556
Will Pritchard	49	22	.449
Chandler Sharp	41	14	.341
Donnie Hale	30	9	.300

RBI (Runs Batted In)	G	RBI
Kyler Blair	15	37
William Allen Whiddon	15	29
Gregory Hunter	14	20
Justin Franks	14	13
Chandler Sharp	15	13
Will Pritchard	15	13
Drake Daughtry	15	12
Jesse Dixon	10	12

Runs Scored	G	R
Drake Daughtry	15	42
William Allen Whiddon	15	27
Kyler Blair	15	23
Gregory Hunter	14	19
Justin Franks	14	13
Jesse Dixon	10	11
Will Pritchard	15	9

Home Runs	G	HR
Gregory Hunter	14	3
Drake Daughtry	15	3
Jesse Dixon	10	2
William Allen Whiddon	15	1

Doubles		Triples	
Kyler Blair	16	Drake Daughtry	5
Drake Daughtry	14	William Allen Whiddon	4
Gregory Hunter	10	Kyler Blair	2
William Allen Whiddon	10	Donnie Hale	1
Will Pritchard	9	Gregory Hunter	1
Justin Franks	8	Jesse Dixon	1
Jesse Dixon	5		
Zack Chance	3		
Chandler Sharp	3		
Donnie Hale	1		



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