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# Rangers Roundup & Gazette

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## Improving Rangers Fall Short

JONES COUNTY, GA. The C-Ball Rangers played much better Tuesday night but still came up short against a strong Yankees team, losing 12-4. While the boys looked fairly sharp on defense, this time out their bats were held in check—mostly by good Yankees defense.

The Rangers fell behind early, down 8-1 after two and a half innings, but clawed back to keep it interesting when Kyler Blair knocked in Drake Daughtry and William Allen Whiddon in the bottom of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, making it 8-3 Yanks. Then eight straight Ranger hitters were retired, putting the game out of reach.

“This one hurt a little,” said Coach Chip after the game, “though we really saw great improvement in our play, especially in the field. If our guys keep their heads up, and keep believing in themselves, we’re going to start winning soon—really soon!”

The defensive improvement was evident throughout the game. Gregory Hunter and Drake Daughtry both caught sky-high pop flies—the ball Drake caught in the 1<sup>st</sup> appeared, from a distance, to have gotten wet from reaching the low-lying clouds! No, seriously, really and truly, it did, no lie!

Justin Franks made an unassisted force-out by fielding a ground ball and hustling to third base in the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Justin and Gregory teamed up also for a third-to-second throw-‘em-out play in the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Zack Chance made a super throw from left field to second base, Donnie Hale tracked down several balls in the outfield, and fire-plug Jesse Dixon seemed to make throw after throw from the left-center fence to the infield. The defensive player of the game was Gregory Hunter—the coaches unanimously awarded Gregory the “**game ball**” in the post-game meeting. In addition to the pop fly and the catch-and-tag already mentioned, he also made two clean pick-ups on hard-hit ground balls and then threw strikes to Drake Daughtry at 1<sup>st</sup> base to record the outs. As Coach Curt put it, “That Hunter kid was simply sensational!”



### At the Plate

Drake Daughtry continued his hot hitting by reaching base all three times up and scoring three runs. William Allen Whiddon doubled and reached base twice, driving in one and scoring the other Rangers run. Justin Franks rifled one ball just foul, so it’s clear his bat is warming up, and Chandler Sharp was double-dog *robbed* when his hard-hit ball in the 4<sup>th</sup> was snagged by the Yankee first baseman, who raced to the bag just 0.086 seconds ahead of the hard-charging Chandler.

Will Pritchard doubled *sharply* in the 2<sup>nd</sup> to extend his hitting streak to two games. Gregory went one-for-three, and he, too, was just plain *robbed* in the last inning when he nailed Coach Chip with the hardest-hit line drive of the evening. Unfortunately for Gregory—not to mention the coach!—when a hit ball strikes the pitcher/coach, it’s “out of bounds” and doesn’t count.

<b>Game 2 Line Score</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>E</b>
Yankees 3 1 4 0 2 2	12	20	0
Rangers 1 0 2 0 0 1	4	10	0

**On Deck:** The Rangers will practice this Saturday at noon; then they take on the Blue Jays Monday at 6:00, with **pre-game practice Monday at 5:00. GO RANGERS!**