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# Rangers Roundup & Gazette

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## Victory!!! Rangers Top Blue Jays!

JONES COUNTY, GA. Showing little rust from the spring break layoff, the short-handed Rangers earned their first win of the season Monday night, defeating the Blue Jays 13-2. The Rangers' bats came to life in dramatic fashion, with the first five hitters in the lineup all going three-for-three at the plate. The defense was strong too, taking a shutout into the fourth inning before the feisty Blue Jay pitcher, Katie Tanner, knocked in two runs.

"This thing was tense from the beginning, more than the score showed," Coach Chip said in the dugout after the game. "Without Donnie [Hale] and Gregory [Hunter] in the lineup, we were really thin with only eight players. We had to make adjustments."

Will Pritchard was slated for his first start at catcher, but he was shifted to center field, and Justin Franks moved from third to second base in Gregory's absence. Unconfirmed (and quite possibly parental!) sources told the *Roundup & Gazette* that Gregory's homework complications will "probably, hopefully, never, *ever* interfere with his baseball schedule again!"

The patched-up defense had shining moments. Chandler Sharp's long throw from right-center to shortstop William Allen Whiddon in 1<sup>st</sup> led to William Allen's hustling tag of a Blue Jay hitter mere inches (perhaps feet) from third base. Drake Daughtry fielded a grounder and applied an unassisted tag for a key out in the 2<sup>nd</sup>. In our mission of reporting the "whole story," we must note that Coach Curt missed two foul pops behind the plate, but then he didn't know he would be catching until just before gametime. ☺

But as the score indicates, the Rangers' bats broke out for the first time this season in a really big way. Drake Daughtry reached and scored three times, tripling twice and doubling. All three of Daughtry's hits were long fly balls into the outfield fence. Clearly it won't be long before he's knocking the ball out of the park! William Allen Whiddon had three hits and two RBI's, also scoring three runs. Steady-as-a-rock



cleanup hitter Kyler Blair doubled three times, scoring twice and driving in three.

Sparkplug Jesse James Dixon received the game ball from the coaches for his hustle at third base and for going three-for-three at the plate, driving in a big four RBIs. He doubled, tripled, and scored his first inside-the-park home run. That kid charges hard around those basepaths!

Three Rangers got their first hits of the young season, led by infielder Justin Franks, who went three-for-three with two RBI's. "Justin's back!" said Coach Liz. And with great enthusiasm, she added, "We won! We won, we won, we won!"

Where were we? Oh yes, first hits. Chandler Sharp singled in the 3<sup>rd</sup> scoring Justin Franks to record his first RBI of the season. Zack Chance doubled and got his first RBI, too, with a rocket shot to the right side of the infield in the bottom of the 1<sup>st</sup>. With the guys in the lower half of the batting order getting hot, the rest of the league had better look out for these Rangers!

<i>Game 3 Line Score</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>E</i>
Blue Jays 0 0 0 2	2	5	0
Rangers 5 3 5 x	13	17	0

**On Deck:** The Rangers take on the Braves Saturday morning at 10:00; **pre-game practice at 9:15.** How about another WIN! **Let's do it, RANGERS!**