

---

# Rangers Roundup & Gazette

Volume 2, No.5

Friday, April 29, 2011

25 cents

---

## Heartbreak!

JONES COUNTY, GA. The Rangers returned to action in a Thursday night thriller, taking a two-run lead in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning but falling 9-8 in the last frame to the A's. The boys hit well enough to win and played solid defense—until things unraveled in the field in the bottom of the 6<sup>th</sup>, when all four A's hitters reached base.

“Man, oh man oh man I thought we had this one!” Coach Lizzy said in the post-game press conference. Coach Chip added, “Gosh these guys are coming along. I know it hurts to lose when we were *this* close [about a centimeter, unofficially]. But our Rangers battled to take the lead and were within an eyelash of having our first come-from-behind victory.”

“Game 1 or Game 2,” he said. “We would have hung our heads after getting down 4-3 in the 1<sup>st</sup>, but we stayed strong and scrapped all up and down the lineup at the plate. And after all our hard practice on defense, we really looked good out there till the nerves got us in the 6<sup>th</sup>. We just ain't used to being in that position close and late. But we've been there now, by gum, and we'll dang sure get 'em next time!”

<i>Game 5 Line Score</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>E</i>
Rangers 3 0 2 0 3 0	8	12	0
A's 4 0 2 0 0 3	9	12	0

The Rangers led off the game with Drake Daughtry singling, Kyler Blair doubling, Gregory Hunter tripling, and Justin Franks crushing one into the fence for a run-scoring double, giving the Rangers a 3-0 lead.

Down 4-3 in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Rangers took the lead briefly when Jesse Dixon and William Allen Whiddon hit back-to-back inside-the-park round-trippers. Then in the 6<sup>th</sup> Drake, Jesse, and William Allen all reached and scored, thanks to RBI base-knocks by Kyler and Gregory, setting up the 8-6 lead heading into the last A's at-bat.



Despite the poor fielding and overthrows in the last inning, the Ranger defense continues to be improving. Zack Chance and Chandler Sharp made key throws from the outfield, and Will Pritchard is *really* starting to shine as a hustling and capable center fielder.

Offensively, the outfielders had tough luck at the plate, with only Donnie Hayle reaching base, although Will put good wood (er, aluminum) on the ball in his groundout in the 5<sup>th</sup>, and Chandler was once again robbed *twice* when A's fielders handled hard-hit line drives perfectly to throw him out at first.

Drake Daughtry's perfect streak at the plate came to an end when he grounded into a fielder's choice in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, but he shone on defense in the 1<sup>st</sup>, taking part in all three outs, catching one pop-up and completing two "4-3" putouts on quick throws from tough-as-nails second baseman Gregory Hunter.

Gregory also snared a pop fly, and Kyler Blair, under pressure, fielded a dribbler to the mound and made a smooth throw to first for an out. And in the AFLAC play of the game, Justin Franks fielded a tough liner at third, bobbling the ball momentarily but keeping his cool and making a perfect throw to first to retire the side in the 4<sup>th</sup>. Attaboy, Franks!!

**On Deck:** a much-anticipated rematch with the first-place Yankees on Monday night, practice at 5:00, first pitch at 6:00. **See all you Rangers Monday at 5:00!**