

Rangers Roundup & Gazette

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25 cents

Sweet Agony!

JONES COUNTY, GA. The Rangers wrapped up their two-game road series with the undefeated and first-place Yankees in thrilling fashion, falling 18-17 in a game that saw six lead changes. This one wasn't a nail-biter, folks, it was a whole-finger-biter!

For the third straight game the Rangers couldn't hold a lead in the late innings, this time up 17-11 in the middle of the 5th, then 17-16 in the 6th when all three Yankee batters reached base to win in "walk-off" fashion.

But what a wild ride we had getting there!

Top of the 1st – The first six Ranger batters get on base, five Rangers score. Highlights: Justin Franks's two-RBI double and Chandler Sharp's sacrifice fly bringing Justin in for the fifth run. *Rangers up 5-0.*

Top 3rd – The Rangers "bat around," all nine players coming to the plate. Highlight: Will Pritchard's hard single to right-center driving in his second RBI of the game. *10-6 Rangers.*



AP Photo, Lizzy Daughtry
CF Will Pritchard takes aim at a slider in the 3rd inning.

Top 4th – Seven Ranger hits, five more runs. Highlights: Donnie Hayle triples down the third-base line, Zack Chance doubles to score Donnie. *Rangers 15, Yankees 11.*



Top 5th – Five more Ranger hits, two more runs. Highlights: William Allen Whiddon triples, scoring Drake Daughtry; Kyler Blair singles, scoring William Allen. *17-11 Rangers.*

Where was a big thunderstorm when we really needed it?!? If only C-ball games were just *five* innings!

Bottom 6th – No outs, two on, Yankee single drives in both runners: Game over. *Highlight: none at all!*

<i>Game 7 Line Score</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>E</i>
Rangers	5	0	5
Yankees	5	1	5

Where'd the Defense Go?

JONES COUNTY, GA. After playing mostly sparkling defense for several weeks, the Ranger defense—well, it seems to have vanished! Coach Curt, who now has the Jones County sheriff on speed-dial, had to be restrained from calling to request a "BOLO" (Be On the LookOut) for the Ranger defense.

Second baseman Gregory Hunter and pitcher Kyler Blair both scooped up grounders and made strong throws to Drake Daughtry for putouts at first, but that was about it as far as Ranger highlights in the field go. Coach Curt vowed to distribute "Missing Defense" posters this afternoon, offering an unspecified cash reward for information leading to its recovery.

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Rangers Bats Explode!

JONES COUNTY, GA. While the defense couldn't preserve the win, the Rangers' batters hit the daylights out of the ball in Saturday's loss to the league-leading Yanks. The Rangers outhit the Yanks 26 to 23! Every Ranger in the lineup got on base, and all nine either scored or got an RBI (run batted in).



AP Photo, Lizzy Daughtry

2B Gregory Hunter in a familiar place: on base, that is!

Fans in the filled-to-capacity stands marveled to see the improved Rangers hitting. Drake Daughtry, the team leader at the plate, had four hits in five at-bats, scoring twice and driving in one. Outfielder Donnie Hayle tripled, scored, and drove in one.

William Allen Whiddon went 3-for-4, with two runs scored and two knocked in; Zack Chance doubled and drove in one; Gregory Hunter was also 3-for-4, scoring three runs.

Hitting third in the order, Kyler Blair was a perfect 4-for-4, scoring three times and driving in two. Chandler Sharp was 2-for-4, scoring twice and driving in *three RBIs!*

Will Pritchard and Justin Franks are both *really* getting their groove on at the dish: both had four hits in four at-bats, both doubled twice. Will scored a run and drove in three; Justin scored three times and drove in four. Now that's serious offensive production!

"How did they do it?" you may ask? The *Gazette* sent an undercover investigative reporter to Wednesday's practice and discovered that the Rangers' front office appears to have brought in a professional

hitting instructor, Rutland High School coach Wally Pritchard!

Rangers management is keeping tight-lipped about the matter, neither confirming nor denying the hiring of Coach Pritchard. But if you look carefully at the photograph on p. A1 of today's *Gazette*, you'll notice a man in white shorts and blue shirt behind the screen at home plate who looks *suspiciously* similar to Coach Pritchard. Mysteriously, the top of the original AP photograph was cut off with dull, ragged scissors. Mysterious indeed!

Stat Watch: Team Leader Board

<i>Batting average</i>	AB	H	AVG.
Drake Daughtry	25	23	.920
William Allen Whiddon	23	17	.739
Kyler Blair	23	17	.739
Jesse Dixon	20	12	.600
Gregory Hunter	19	11	.579
Justin Franks	21	11	.524
Will Pritchard	21	7	.333

<i>RBI (Runs Batted In)</i>	G	RBI
Kyler Blair	7	18
William Allen Whiddon	7	15
Justin Franks	7	7
Chandler Sharp	7	6
Jesse Dixon	6	5
Will Pritchard	7	3
Gregory Hunter	6	3

<i>Runs Scored</i>	G	R
Drake Daughtry	7	20
William Allen Whiddon	7	12
Kyler Blair	7	8
Jesse Dixon	6	8
Gregory Hunter	6	5
Justin Franks	7	5

<i>Home Runs</i>	G	HR
Jess Dixon	6	2
William Allen Whiddon	7	1
Drake Daughtry	7	1



This is Hurricane Country and we are "Surging for Excellence"!

On Deck: Next up are the A's, Monday afternoon, practice at 5:00, gametime 6:00. **Let's go, Rangers, let's beat those A's!**