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### Majors hoping bats will revive

Wed, August 23, 2006

By **RYAN PYETTE**, FREE PRESS SPORTS REPORTER

After two straight road shutouts, the London Majors hope to ignite a power surge back at Labatt Park.

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The Majors' highly touted offence only mustered four hits, including one double, against Brantford Red Sox lefty Brad Hogeterp in a 1-0 loss Monday night to fall behind 2-1 in the best-of-seven Intercounty Baseball League final. Game 4 is at 7:30 p.m. tonight at Labatt Park.

The Majors, who scored 10 times in an extra-inning home win in Game 2 Sunday for their only runs of the series, will be up against right-hander John Ogiltree -- who started and shone in Brantford's series-opening 14-0 victory last Friday.

"We're a good-hitting team and we know we can put up a nine-, 10-spot at any time," London leadoff man and centre fielder Rudy Vallejos said. "We know their pitchers are going to come at us with a lot of off-speed stuff. Hogeterp was very patient with us and he had his good breaking pitch working.

"Ogiltree also can change it up, but he has a very hittable fastball and we owe him a couple."

Vallejos knows his mates wasted a commanding pitching performance from Josh Palmer, who three-hit the Sox but surrendered Hyung Cho's fourth-inning solo homer.

"Josh was great -- I was in centre and it was a good pitch, a

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slider, and Cho just got it," Vallejos said. "These two teams are pretty equal, Brantford and us. We know one or two runs isn't going to be enough, but once we get one, it'll get us going."

Vallejos said Brantford's Arnold Anderson Stadium isn't the reason the Majors haven't been scoring runs there.

"It's actually a good hitting background in Brantford -- there's a lot of green trees behind the fence," Vallejos said. "When you take batting practice, the sun's right in your eyes and that's tough but the games there start at 8 (p.m.), so it's pretty good. Their pitchers just did a good job with us there. They haven't been walking anybody."

London is expected to counter tonight with ace Erick Perez, who was lit up in the Game 1 blowout.

"It's the old cliché, you dance with the one you brought," Majors manager Roop Chanderdat said. "Erick just didn't have his good off-speed pitch in that last game. He wasn't tipping his pitches. He'll bounce back."

#### IBL CHAMPIONSHIP

Brantford leads best-of-seven 2-1

Game 4: Tonight, 7:30 p.m. at Labatt Park

Probable pitchers: London, Erick Perez; Brantford, John Ogiltree

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## SPORTS NEWS

### Gibby should keep his job

Caller to The FAN 590 yesterday afternoon: "We have to get rid of the manager ... he's a lunatic." First things first. John Gibbons is not a lunatic. He's no worse, no better, than Cito Gaston, who followed David Wells up the tunnel to angrily confront his lefty after their infamous mound spat in 1991.

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Proprietor and Publisher - The London Free Press,  
P.O. Box 2280, 369 York Street, London Ontario Canada N6A 4G1