

# The London Free Press

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### Majors one win from sweep

Wed, August 2, 2006

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### A shutout win over Kitchener gives

### London a firm grip on the quarter-final.

By **ERIC BENDER**, FREE PRESS SPORTS REPORTER

Lefty Erick Perez pitched a tidy six-hitter over seven innings and third baseman Peter Babcock supplied the RBIs as the London Majors shut out the Kitchner Panthers 6-0 before 575 fans last night at Labatt Park.

The win gives London a 3-0 grip on its Intercounty Baseball League best-of-seven quarter-final.

The Majors could complete the sweep with a win tonight in Game 4 in Kitchener. Right-hander Tom Van Kasteren, who the Panthers have beaten only once in three years, is to take the mound for London.

Perez, a Venezuelan import who also beat Kitchener in the opening game Friday, fashioned a 7-2 regular-season record.

"You can just feel the confidence in the dugout with Perez out there," Majors manager Roop Chanderdat said.

Perez again used his eephus -- a slow, high- arching breaking ball -- to keep the Panthers at bay. He struck out five and walked none.

Setup man Adam Arnold retired the Panthers in the eighth and closer Josh Palmer shut them down in the ninth.

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"It was good to see they didn't get a game under their belt and get any momentum," said Babcock who has been hitting at a better than .400 clip, but was short 13 plate appearances for official league recognition.

That honour, however, fell to Majors centre-fielder Brad McElroy, who copped the batting title.

McElroy did not play last night because he had wisdom teeth extracted. He's expected back in the lineup tonight.

Babcock had four RBIs on the night on a sac fly, a single and a double. He also scored one run himself.

London right-fielder Kevin Virtue knocked in the other two runs.

Kitchener pitcher Joel Scott, who went the distance, had control problems and the Majors took advantage by running into scoring position on three wild pitches and two passed balls. He gave up eight hits and had four strikeouts.

He also hit four batters.

Chanderdat said control was Scott's problem, but when he hit left-fielder Ryan Gauthier to lead off the third, it was intentional.

Gauthier stole a base in the ninth inning in Game 2 Sunday with the Majors leading 12-4. Apparently, the Panthers weren't pleased.

With Scott's wildness, the Majors ran with abandon last night. They got picked off twice, but stole seven bases in addition to moving up on the pitches catcher Ben Kangas couldn't corral.

Game 5, if necessary, will be at Labatt Park Friday at 7:30 p.m.

**MAJORS 6 PANTHERS 0**

London leads 3-0.

## Sports Headlines

Röthen in Big Apple  
Open loses Inkster  
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Knights champs still close  
Open loses Inkster  
Knights champs still close

Sports Briefs  
Lidle making waves  
Landis expects same result  
Wanted ball, got elbow  
Sabres re-sign Afinogenov  
Yesterday's highlights  
Tigers ride Guillen cycle  
Weir Watch  
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With links to Scotland  
Pro modifieds roll into St. Thomas  
**Majors one win from sweep**  
Falcons to tackle unbeaten champs  
Kubica to replace Villeneuve in Hungary

#### SPORTS NEWS

**Ottawa Senators captain Alfredsson re-elected to NHLPA executive**  
STOCKHOLM, Sweden (CP) - Ottawa Senators captain Daniel Alfredsson has been re-elected as a vice-president of the NHLPA's interim executive committee.  
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