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Majors bats silenced by Red Sox

Mon, July 10, 2006

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

Brantford Red Sox pitching muted the potent bats of the London Majors yesterday at Labatt Park.

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Brantford's Steve Murray (4-2) held the Intercounty Baseball League's top hitting team to five hits in eight innings and closer Ryan Rickman shut down the Majors in the ninth for a 9-0 whitewash before about 400 fans.

"It was one of those days," said Majors field manager Roop Chanderdat. "We're a little beat up."

The Majors lost a 12-inning heartbreaker Friday at home to the Kitchener Panthers.

The Majors are still a couple of games away from getting several injured players back, namely third baseman Peter Babcock, shortstop Mike Ambrose and pitcher Tom Van Kasteren.

Import pitcher Erick Perez (7-1) will miss two games in the rotation because he returned to Venezuela for his father's funeral.

"We'll be all right, but we want to have home-field advantage," Chanderdat said, thinking ahead to playoff positioning.

The fourth-place Red Sox (19-10) are now hard on the heels of the third-place Majors (18-8). "They are team to beat right

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now," Chanderdat said. "They're right in the mix."

Until lately, it's been London, Toronto and Barrie as the three top runners.

Red Sox catcher Wayne Forman, a former Major and London Werewolves player, acknowledged his team's move in the standings.

"It's a matter of time before you learn how to play together. You don't want to gel too early or too late."

Forman was part of an 19-hit onslaught, going two-for-five, while four teammates had three hits or more.

Baseball dominates the Foreman household. His wife Erin was playing softball on the weekend and will join the national women's baseball team at the world championship in Taiwan later this month. They live in Grimsby.

A couple of youngsters were the only bright lights for the Majors, centre-fielder Brad McElroy and third baseman Brian Blackburn each hitting two hits.

Designated hitter Chuck Roberts had the only other hit as the Majors mustered just six base runners.

Majors starter Hiarali Garcia (3-2) pitched five innings and gave up five runs on 12 hits. Mike Mitro was dinged for five hits and four runs in 2 1/3 innings of relief.

Red Sox first baseman Jason Gotwalt cranked a first-inning three-run homer over the fence in left. They added two more runs in the fourth and left no doubt with a four-run eighth. A triple by left- fielder Josh McCurdy scored two of those runs.

The Majors have 10 games left, including tomorrow night in Stratford when rookie Adam Arnold is expected to get the start.

They play in Kitchener Thursday and return to Labatt Park Friday to play Hamilton at 7:30 p.m.

RED SOX 9

MAJORS 0

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

