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Majors use final game to get set for playoffs

Mon, July 24, 2006

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London opens its Intercounty league playoff drive Friday at Labatt Park.

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

The London Majors accomplished everything they wanted to do yesterday -- except win the ball game.

"We're getting ready for the playoffs now," said Majors field manager Roop Chanderdat as they played their final regular season game, a 4-0 loss to the Brantford Red Sox.

The Majors had fourth place in the Intercounty league locked up coming into the game and know they will begin the first playoff round Friday at Labatt Park. They don't know who their opponent will be. Kitchener, in fifth place, Hamilton in sixth and Guelph, in seventh, have games to play.

It could be as late as Thursday before the Majors know who their opponent will be.

Intercounty playoffs won't begin until Friday in deference to arrangements surrounding the death of Oshawa Dodgers' owner and third-base coach Troy May, who was killed in an automobile accident. His two young children remain in serious condition.

Yesterday at Labatt Park, Brantford's Brad Hogeterp pitched a

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tidy complete-game six-hitter. Shortstop Lee Delfino led the Red Sox with two hits and two RBIs.

What Chanderdat wanted to accomplish in yesterday's was to qualify pitchers for the playoffs. Ted Kalnins needed one inning to qualify and Mark Voakes required 2 2/3 innings.

Chanderdat also wanted to get London's ace starter Erick Perez into a game. Perez hadn't pitched for more than three weeks when he left for his native Argentina upon the death of his father.

He worked five innings before Kalnins had to come in.

The Majors were also able to rest their injured third baseman Peter Babcock and first baseman Simon Galarraga. Both will be ready for the playoffs.

"We did everything we needed to do," said Chanderdat, "and still gave the fans a good game. We didn't roll over."

Catcher Ryan Mercier was released from the team last week, leaving Chad McKellar and Brian Blackburn as the two Majors catchers.

The Majors wrapped up the regular schedule 21-15. Brantford, in third place, is 24-12.

The defending champion Barrie Baycats have clinched first.

RED SOX 4 MAJORS 0

Sports Headlines

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SPORTS NEWS

Dunga named Brazil's manager

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) - Dunga, a former World Cup champion with no coaching experience, was announced as the new manager of the Brazil's national team on Monday, surprisingly chosen over candidates such as Vanderlei Luxemburgo and Paulo Autuori.

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