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## SPORTS **OTHER SPORTS**

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### **Eighth-place Thunderbirds whack Majors**

Thu, June 29, 2006

**London loaded the bases twice in the early innings, but couldn't push across any runs.**

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

The London Majors picked last night to get a stinker out of their system.

The third-place team dropped an 8-5 decision to the eighth-place Hamilton Thunderbirds at Labatt Park.

The Majors are now 14-6 in the Intercounty Baseball League.

Hamilton gained just its seventh win against 17 losses on the pitching of starter Saul Gonzales, who left after seven innings with an 8-3 lead.

The Thunderbirds jumped all over London starter Mike Mitro for five runs in the third inning.

The Majors had 13 hits and no errors, Hamilton had 11 hits and two errors.

It was a rescheduled game against Hamilton, which

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comes back to Labatt Park for a regularly scheduled game tomorrow at 7:30 p.m.

The Majors had the bases loaded in the second inning with one out, but failed to score. Again in the fourth, the bases were full with no result.

In the top of the third, a single by third baseman Andy Steeds produced the first run for Hamilton when he drove in second baseman Adam Montgomery, who singled and stole second.

The four-hit rally gave the Thunderbirds a 5-0 lead and Mitro was lifted in favour of Greg Shillington.

Hamilton added three more runs in the top of the fifth to make it 8-0.

In the bottom of the eighth, Majors centre-fielder Brad McElroy walked and right-fielder Kevin Virtue tripled to score McElroy. Virtue then came home on a wild throw to third.

The Majors added their third run in the bottom of the seventh when Kyle Piwowarczyk doubled and moved to third when McElroy grounded out. Virtue drew a walk and Piwowarczyk came home on a passed ball.

London got two runs in the bottom of the ninth before the Thunderbirds ended the threat.

Left-fielder Rudy Vallejos went to third on a single and a wild throw to first and scored on Piwowarczyk's long flyout to left field. McElroy got on with a single and scored on a Virtue double.

The good points on the night were the play of the league's two top hitters, McElroy and Piwowarczyk. McElroy was two-for-four and scored twice. Piwowarczyk was two-for-four, with an RBI and one run scored.

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Virtue was two-for-four with two RBIs and scored once.

Adam Arnold came in to pitch in the seventh inning for the Majors and mowed down the Thunderbirds from then on, recording seven strikeouts and no hits.

The Majors play the league-leading Toronto Maple Leafs in a doubleheader at Labatt Park on Saturday beginning at 4 p.m.

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## SPORTS NEWS

### Phillies end seven-game skid

The Philadelphia Phillies ended their seven-game losing streak Thursday night, using an outstanding pitching performance by Ryan Madson to defeat the Baltimore Orioles 4-0.

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