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Play ball

By John Matisz

When the Burlington Twins (3-10) travelled to London Tuesday morning, they ran into a Majors team looking to redeem themselves.

After failing to emerge victorious from a 20-hit effort versus the Ottawa Fat Cats on Sunday, the London Majors (10-2) cleaned up their act with a definitive 6-1 win.

Thanks to right-handed hurler Adam Paish, who went the distance to collect his squad's second complete game of the year, the Majors have become the sole possessor of first place in the Intercounty Baseball League.

"Phenomenal," said Roop Chanderdat, London's co-owner/manager, of his pitcher's performance.

"Adam Paish pitched a gem today. He's a pinpoint control pitcher. When he's on, he's a delight to play defence behind."

Paish allowed just a single run through nine innings of work. He managed to do so while surrendering five hits and striking out four. Paish's season earned run average is now 0.75 over a span of 12 innings.



Photo by Mike Maloney

London Majors Paul Lytwynec gets under both the ball and Burlington Twins shortstop Matt Spillman during Intercounty Baseball League action at Labatt Park on Tuesday afternoon.

The Mississauga, Ontario native said he purposely kept his pitches down in the zone against Burlington. It was a strategy that forced Twins batters to ground out more often than not. His aptitude for ball control helped London trim its error count from six on Sunday to only one on Tuesday.

"I just tried to throw strikes, get ahead of these guys," Paish said. "They're an aggressive team and they know how to swing the bat."

In his only other appearance in 2011, Paish earned a save on three innings of shutdown pitching versus the Hamilton Thunderbirds on May 20.

Burlington's starting pitcher Jeff Davis, who suffered the loss, put in four innings of three-hit, two-run ball. Davis was relieved by two righties, Bill Ralston and Shane Cole.

Majors catcher Tyler Graham, who had a 4-for-6 day at the plate during Sunday's hit parade, belted his fourth round-tripper of the season off Davis in the first inning.

From there, the Majors controlled the flow of the game and ultimately the lead.

"Today we came out with a goal in mind to minimize our errors and just stick together for the whole nine innings," said outfielder Cleveland Brownlee.

With a .409 batting average, Brownlee is enjoying a stellar season of his own at the plate. The league's RBI leader felt like the Majors play on Tuesday mirrored their pre-game outlook.

Chanderdat agreed with his player's comments.

"If you're going to make one error, it's one error – that's fine – shake it off and get over it."

To close out a busy four-game week, the Majors hit the road for consecutive contests versus the Kitchener Panthers (6-6) on Thursday night then Hamilton Thunderbirds (4-11) Friday night.

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