

[Autos](#) [Careers](#) [Classifieds](#) [Homes](#) [Obituaries](#) [SUBMIT QU](#)

Canada Day Sale! All Glasses [1 pair \$38 | 3 pairs \$99] >> Shop Now

Hurry! Sale ends midnight July 1st

ClearlyContacts

Errors help Majors end losing streak

By MORRIS DALLA COSTA THE LONDON FREE PRESS

Last Updated: July 1, 2011 9:54pm

The fireworks were reserved for after the game.

But the London Majors had enough pop during their Intercounty Baseball League game against the Toronto Maple Leafs on Canada Day Friday to end their four-game losing streak with a 3-2 win in front of 3,126 at Labatt Park.

It was a pitching duel between Leafs' Marek Deska and Majors' Jordi Amargos.

But it took a timely rocket by Majors' Paul LaMantia to secure the win for Amargos.

Deska led the IBL in wins with five and strikeouts going into the game and went seven innings. He didn't get much help from his defence and really only struggled in one inning when the Majors scored two runs to take a 3-1 lead. Even then, his teammates committed a pair of errors that led to those runs.

That was the sixth inning when with one out, Tyler Graham reached on an error by Leafs' first baseman Dan Gibbons. Kevin Mailloux then singled him to third. A walk to Brownlee loaded the bases.

Then LaMantia ripped a liner to second that Leafs' Kyle DeGrace got his glove on, but couldn't hold.

Two runs scored to give the Majors the 3-1 lead.

"I just got slider up in the zone and hit it to right. That's my approach," LaMantia said. "I thought he was going to catch it. I don't know what happened.

"But it's nice to be able to do something on a big day like (Canada Day.) It was especially nice to be able to come up with a big hit when we really needed a win to pop out of the slide. We'll be getting back on track pretty soon."

The Majors have had some trouble with the bullpen and it has cost them. They really didn't want to waste the kind of pitching performance Amargos gave them. He gave up only five hits and two runs over seven innings.

"He was fantastic," said Majors' skipper Roop Chanderdat. "He just shut them down."

So they brought in Josh Palmer to close things out but he had a bit of an adventure. He got a great double play from Josh Chambers and new shortstop Josh Federico to quell a threat in the eighth.

Then he got Brandon Dhue to hit a soft liner to second baseman Kevin Mailloux with the bases loaded in the ninth to end the game. "With Jordi pitching, we put in our best defensive team out there," Chanderdat said.

The Majors' best defensive team included moving Mailloux to second from short and bringing in Federico to play short.

Mailloux had struggled a little defensively at short. "We asked Kevin to do a lot," Chanderdat said. "He was never supposed to play shortstop. He's a second and third baseman. The plan all along was to have Federico come in a play short. Kevin did a phenomenal job there. Now this is pretty much our team."

LaMantia says he likes the makeup of the team now. "Bringing in Josh Federico brings some consistency to our defence and solidifies another lineup spot," LaMantia said. "We've had a potent offence all year long."

For Chanderdat the win was more important in more ways that just stopping a four-game slide. With more than 3,000 people in the park, a good performance was important. "We need to win in front of a big crowd," Chanderdat said. "They see a good ball game, they'll want to come back."

The Majors have all the pieces in place. Chanderdat said "I have three or four pieces on the bench who can play and are interchangeable, but this is it."

As Advertised in The London Free Press

[Events](#) [Retail](#) [Food & Entertainment](#) [Automotive](#) [Homes](#) [Health](#) [Travel](#) [Miscellaneous](#) [View All Advertisers](#)

Copyright © 2011 London Free Press All Rights Reserved