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Lots of fight left in Majors

Wed, July 22, 2009

By **MORRIS DALLA COSTA**, FREE PRESS SPORTS COLUMNIST

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The qualities that have driven the London Majors' resurgence were evident, keeping them in a game they had no business being in.

The London Majors eventually lost the first game of their Intercounty Baseball League doubleheader last night at Labatt Park, an 8-4 decision to Barrie Baycats.

The Majors did a lot of things wrong. Their top starter on the year, Pierre Milville Deschenes gave up a big first inning. The Majors left a lot of runs on base, failing to hit in clutch situations. They also committed a couple of mental errors, the last one coming with the last out of the game when Ryan Cattrysse thought a close play at first had resulted in the third out. He wandered off third heading to the dugout and was thrown out trying to get back.

But despite all the failings and trailing 5-0 after two innings, they scratched and clawed back into the game.

It's been this kind of effort that has allowed the Majors to win nine-of-10 games heading into last night's doubleheader.

"We didn't come through in the clutch. A couple of times we had the bases loaded and didn't do anything," said Majors manager Roop Chanderdat. "But I was proud of our team. Pierre didn't have his 'A' stuff but he kept fighting back.

"We're in every game, even when a team



Majors shortstop Jordan Dreiling throws over Barrie's Dave Latour during an 8-4 Baycats win at Labatt Park yesterday. At left is Majors second baseman Vince Burke. (Morris Lamont, Sun Media)

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scores. We don't quit. That's how you know we've turned the corner. We believe in ourselves. We know we can come back. You look up there, we have seven hits but we hit at least five balls at people, balls that could have scored some runs."

Deschenes wound up going all seven innings in the first game. Chris England got the win, going five innings, giving up four runs, five hits and four walks.

The Majors had a great chance to take control of the game in the sixth. Down two, they loaded the bases with none out and the middle of the order up but didn't get anything.

That hasn't happened very often in the Majors hot streak. They've hit the ball hard over the last 11 games with a lot of guys stepping up.

Alan Cattrysse is one of those guys. A player with enormous talent, Cattrysse hadn't played much baseball in the last two years. It took him a while to get his swing and edge back but now that it's back, he gives the Majors a legitimate five-tool player.

"We're playing better because we've finally found our lineup," Cattrysse said. "We have speed and power at certain spots in the lineup. We have guys getting clutch hits. We all know our role in the lineup. We can all play with a certain approach which helps in baseball. Guys are picking each other up which is huge. We know what we're doing when we come to the ball park."

Cattrysse got away from the game because he wasn't having fun. The success the team has found is making the game fun again. Cattrysse says it's brought the team closer, another reason for the turnaround.

"The guys are awesome. We have a core of guys that hang out every single night. We're going to be friends for life," said the Chatham native.

In the nightcap, the Majors got timely hitting and a strong performance from first time starter Aaron Boag to win 6-5.

The Majors play the Hamilton Thunderbirds Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Labatt Park.

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