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Red Sox do a number on Majors' home turf

Sat, June 13, 2009

London didn't help itself by making four errors in the first six innings and allowing another run on a passed ball in an 11-7 setback at Labatt Park

By RYAN PYETTE

Nine-and-a-half months ago, the Brantford Red Sox celebrated their latest Intercounty Baseball League title with a Game 7 win at Labatt Park.

They still look right at home on London's diamond.

In a rematch of last year's championship series, Brantford cemented itself as contenders again while the London Majors proved there's still some work to do after an 11-7 loss before 600 last night.

The normally sure-handed Majors made four errors in the first six innings and allowed another run on a passed ball. The defeat dropped London to 6-7.

"We're a good defensive team," London manager Roop Chanderdat said. "But it was one of those games. You can't give Brantford those kinds of opportunities because they'll take advantage of it. (Starter) Mike Mitro, I thought, pitched great. He came back after being injured the last few weeks and gave us a good start. (Reliever) Craig Bate had an off night but he's been phenomenal for us."

The Red Sox, still sporting many of the familiar names that have made three straight league final trips, improved to 10-5.

Brantford shortstop Lee Delfino highlighted a four-run third inning with a three-run blast to left field off Mitro.

"There's some good memories here," Delfino said. "It was a great seven-game series last year. London was shorthanded but scrapped right till the end. Usually, we've struggled here the past three years. It's funny but a lot of us are getting older and starting families. This team was supposed to be just a one-year thing (with the 2006 title) but with the support of Brantford and the ownership we've got, how could you not want to play?"

"A lot of us have stuck with it."

London right-fielder Phil Delisle answered Delfino's blast with a two-run homer to left-centre in the fourth

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and Majors catcher Mason Reilly cut the lead to one with a solo shot in the fifth.

Brantford broke it open with a three-run sixth. Josh McCurdy's sacrifice fly scored catcher Wayne Forman, third baseman Hyung Cho knocked in Al Stephens with a single and former Toronto Maple Leaf Joe Colameco scooted home from third when a Bate pitch eluded Reilly.

Delisle, a junior playing for the St. Thomas Tomcats, added his second homer in the eighth.

"We see a lot of potential there," Chanderdat said. "He made a couple of good catches in the field and even the balls he made outs on, he hit hard."

Tomorrow, London heads to Toronto for a doubleheader against the Maple Leafs starting at 1 p.m. at Christie Pits. The Majors' next home game is a unique Tuesday morning contest at 11 o'clock at Labatt Park against the Mississauga Twins.

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