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SPORTS OTHER SPORTS

Palmer wins again as Majors take 2-0 lead
Wed, August 13, 2008

By [RYAN PYETTE](#)

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The London Majors have jumped out to a quick two-game lead in their Intercounty Baseball League semifinal series.

For the rival Oshawa Dodgers hitters, facing pitcher Josh Palmer is getting old real fast.

With a weather-induced five-day break between Games 1 and 2, London manager Roop Chanderdatt opted to come back to his ace starter and Palmer responded by tossing a five-hit shutout in an 8-0 victory over the Dodgers last night at Oshawa's Kinsmen Stadium.

It was Palmer's 10th complete game of the season and his third of the playoffs. He beat his Oklahoma Baptist University teammate and Oshawa star Adam Garner, who didn't make it past the sixth inning.

"I was a little bit worried about (Josh) early -- he was leaving the ball up because he was having trouble with his footing," Chanderdatt said, "but we made an adjustment and he moved over on the mound and he was fine."

Palmer also started in London's 7-4 win in Game 1 at Labatt Park. He wasn't expected to be back until Game 4 or 5, but a weekend postponement and rescheduling of the series changed all that.

"I had Ryan McGorman go for us (on the weekend)



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before (Game 2) got postponed, but decided to go back to Josh because of the big break in between games," Chanderdat said. "We sent him home for a few days because his family lives near Oshawa (in Bewdley near Peterborough) so he's been resting up and waiting for this one."

London scored four times in the fourth inning, three in the sixth and added a single run in the eighth. Right fielder Kevin Virtue hit two doubles and had two RBIs, left fielder Rudy Vallejos had two singles and three RBIs and first baseman Jess Bechard hit a solo home run, his third of the playoffs.

With the reliable Palmer on the mound, the Majors wanted to get him some runs early.

"That was my pre-game talk," Chanderdat said. "When you're going against good pitchers (like Garner), you can't let them get in their groove. We were able to get four in the fourth. It started the same way we have been doing it lately. Get a guy on, a bunt, and they make a few errors and then you have a couple of runs.

"That's the way we like to do it."

The two teams play Game 3 in London tonight and the Majors plan to start Adam Echlin, who carried a no-hitter into the seventh inning in his last start in the closeout game of the first round against Hamilton.

"Adam's been chomping at the bit and he wants to get out there and we'll give him the ball," Chanderdat said. "We're happy with the way we've started but we know it's going to be a long series. That's a good Oshawa team."

A London win tonight will give the Majors a stranglehold in a series that won't have another off-day -- weather permitting -- until it's over. Because of the backlog of rain dates, the series had to be reset with the potential to play six straight days, last night included.

MAJORS 8, DODGERS 0

(London leads best-of-seven Intercounty quarter-final 2-0)

Game 3: Tonight, 7:30 p.m. at Labatt Park.

Game 4: Tomorrow, 8 p.m. at Oshawa's Kinsmen Stadium

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SPORTS NEWS

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