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final. He has been in big games before and Majors manager Roop Chanderdat had little trouble naming him to start against tough Sox lefty Brad Hogeterp.

"It was all about Mike Mitro," Chanderdat said. "He'd be a No. 2 or 3 starter on most other teams but he knows his role here. He just came in and shut them down. It was a great performance -- a great team win."

London scored a pair in the fourth and fifth on two-run doubles by Rudy Vallejos and Jess Bechard to take a 4-0 lead. But they clinched it in the sixth during the Christian Ruiz Show.

The centre-fielder stretched flat out and robbed Brantford's Jason Gotwalt of a double with a highlight reel grab. He got up, hit the cutoff man and doubled off Red Sox runner Josh McCurdy, who had rounded second thinking there was no way Ruiz would make the play.

That was the last threat for Brantford. Ruiz then went to the plate in the bottom of the inning and hit a bomb that cleared the right-field fence.

"I've never seen a better catch this year," Mitro said. "Incredible. Play of the game."

"He's the best defensive centre fielder in the league," Chanderdat added. "It was a great play, but on the bench, we knew he was going to catch it."

Though they're confident with Adam Echlin going tomorrow night in Brantford, the Majors know the Red Sox aren't done yet. There's a reason the club has been to the league final three straight years and beat London in five games in 2006.

They all know that this has been a homer series. No one has won on the road yet.

"We're going to talk about how it's time," Chanderdat said. "We want to get a win in Brantford but we know they're going to be tough, especially at home."

The last two playoffs, the Majors' season ended on a field that was their Everest -- Arnold Anderson Stadium at Brantford's Cockshutt Park. This time, the Majors hope it does again -- but in elation.

"We grinded it out, we had some big hits with two outs and hopefully, we can win on their field," catcher Mason Reilly said. "But they aren't going to go lightly."



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Neither did London last night. They struck first in the fourth inning on a two-out, two-run double by Vallejos. The Ottawa native and 2006 IBL rookie of the year blasted a Hogeterp offering over the head of Brantford centrefielder Al Stephens to give the Majors the early edge.

Intercounty playoffs

Majors 5, Red Sox 1

(London leads best-of-seven IBL final 3-2)

Game 6: Tomorrow, 8 p.m. at Brantford's Arnold Anderson Stadium

Game 7 (if necessary): Friday, 7:30 p.m. at Labatt Park

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**Stuart Broad takes 5-23 to lead England to 10-wicket win**


NOTTINGHAM, England - Stuart Broad took a career-best five wickets Tuesday to lead England to a resounding 10-wicket win over South Africa in the second one-day international at Trent Bridge.

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