

Who's taking you to the airport?
BOOK ONLINE!
www.robertq.com
519-673-6804 or 1-800-265-4948

The London Free Press

IN TUESDAY'S PAPER

Taxi coverage! Read our story on the accessible cabs public meeting online and in print



Monday, 14 July, 2008 [Subscribe](#) [News Research Centre](#) [Place a Classified Ad](#) [Advertise](#)

A few clouds
22°C

FULL CONDITIONS



- Home
- News
- Local News
- Blogs
- Videos
- Opinion
- Columnists
- Today
- Sports
- [Sport Index](#)
- [Euro 2008](#)
- [Golf Guide](#)
- [High School Sports](#)
- [Hockey](#)
- [London Knights](#)
- [Motorsports](#)
- [Soccer](#)
- [Western Mustangs](#)
- [Other Sports](#)
- Business
- Classifieds
- Photo Galleries
- Your Sports
- Your Music
- Citizen One
- Our Five/Your Five

WEEKLY

- [Wheels Auto Seller](#)
- [Jobboom Careers](#)
- [See Our Daily Advertisers](#)
- Homes
- [Home Seller](#)
- Travel
- [Summer Destinations](#)

FEATURED

- [Podcasts](#)

SPORTS OTHER SPORTS

On a Major streak
Mon, July 14, 2008
INTERCOUNTY BASEBALL LEAGUE: London finds itself on top following a successful run of five games
By RYAN PYETTE

Email	Print	Write	Size: A A A
Share:		+	Help

Vince Burke believes the first-place London Majors will succeed in the Intercounty Baseball League playoffs.

It's not all the winning they do. It's what happens after a loss.

"When we lose a game, we come back and win eight straight," the 24-year-old third baseman said yesterday. "You need a streaky team like that in the playoffs. When you lose, you have to bounce back and reel off a bunch of wins in a row. That's what this team is capable of right now."

It wasn't just the 13-8 victory over the Hamilton Thunderbirds before about 500 fans at Labatt Park that made Burke feel that way. It was the whole week -- the busiest of the Majors' season -- where they won all five games to surge to top spot two games ahead of the Guelph Royals, who they'll end the regular season against at home on Sunday.

Heck, it's been all of July, for that matter. The red-hot Majors have won nine of their past 10 and haven't lost since splitting a doubleheader at home with the Oshawa Dodgers on Canada Day.

"We have depth and



London Majors second baseman Jeff Helps tags out Hamilton Thunderbirds centre fielder Matt Bekar during the early innings of their Intercounty Baseball League game yesterday at Labatt Park. The league-leading Majors won 13-8. (MIKE HENSEN, Sun Media)



What a Place to Live
Single Family Homes

starting from **\$251,900**



- Event Listings
- A River
- Festivals of Music
- Corner Office
- Shop Frugal Fridays

Find a Business
 Find a Person

ADVERTISERS

- Announcements & Events
- Automotive
- Computer & Electronics
- Education
- Financial Services
- Food & Entertainment
- Health & Wellbeing
- Home Furnishings
- Miscellaneous
- Real Estate
- Retail Shopping
- Service
- Sports & Leisure
- Travel
- Advertiser Directory

ABOUT YOU

- Health

SPECIAL SECTIONS

- Summer Destinations
- Home Magazine
- Driving Green
- M Magazine
- Outdoor Living
- Spring Drive '08
- Success Stories
- Sifton Properties



OUR SERVICES

- Place an Ad
- Contact Us
- Subscribe
- Become a Carrier
- Newspapers in Education
- Your Newspaper

that's what gets us through," said manager Roop Chanderrat. "We went to Stratford without three regulars on Saturday and it wasn't easy (a 4-3 squeaker in 12 innings won on first baseman Jess Bechard's RBI double), but we still found a way.



Canoe Klix Advertise!

Stocks info
Get info on stock quotes and news. Search from 14 search engines in 1.

Customize a Dell desktop
Available with Windows Vista & more Build your own desktop online now!

Looking for a house
Thousands of homeowners listings, properties from the major realtors.

Compare mortgage rates
Find the lowest mortgage rates in Canada.

Free 4 year warranty
New arrivals daily. Credit problems online credit application.

"First place and the pennant would be great and we control our fate, but we're not going to do anything different. It's Josh Palmer's regular turn to start (on Friday) and he's going to start. The guys who are supposed to play are going to play. We're not changing anybody just to try to clinch first."

The Majors have proved this much -- they don't fall apart and wilt when things don't go in their favour. They trailed Hamilton early and finally took the lead in the fifth inning on a go-ahead single from Bechard.

Minutes later, he got the boot for an incident after he'd been caught stealing. So did third-base coach James Sinfield, who got run after getting in the face of third-base ump Joe Serratore.

How did the rest of the London crew respond?

They piled on nine runs in 1 1/3 innings off left-handed reliever Erin Boag to turn a nail-biter into a blowout.

Second baseman Jeff Helps, a Petrolia native, had two RBIs on three hits, none of which left the infield. Shortstop David Narodowski had three hits and five RBIs, including a three-run homer in the seventh.

Toshi Sasa, who beat out an infield roller with a bad hamstring, went four-for-five. Burke added three hits himself and marvelled at the resiliency of the Majors lineup.

"He (Bechard) is a veteran guy and he's sacrificing himself for the rest of us out there (by getting ejected)," said Burke, who is from Georgetown.

"You're losing a big bat there but that's the thing about this lineup, someone else steps up. If I go oh-fer and have an off game . . . seven other guys are going to step up.

"We'll have pitchers step in and play positions. We have a 35-year-old right fielder come in and do a job when we're short. Guys are playing all over and hitting. It's been like that all year."

Burke played third base yesterday and made a couple of good stabs in the hole. He's been working with Kyle Piwowarczyk at the hot corner and the two have combined to become a pair of strong utility players for Chanderrat.

[General Comments](#)
[Terms and Conditions](#)
[Privacy Statement](#)
[General Contest Rules](#)

[ON CANOE.CA](#)

[Horoscopes](#)
[Lotteries](#)
[E-Cards](#)
[Crosswords](#)
[TV Listings](#)
[Canoe Auctions](#)

"(Kyle's) been great at helping me and it's extra pressure I put on myself to try to play a bunch of different positions," Burke said.

"But it's fun. You have different roles but sometimes I even like sitting on the bench and watching these guys play.

"There's a lot of talent here."

The Majors, who haven't won the pennant since 1988, have guys capable of hitting home runs. But they don't live or die with the long ball.

They'll bunt enough to make a Moneyball sabremetric's head shake and their largely left-handed hitting lineup is a threat at any time.

Hamilton starter Coogie Freeland didn't give up an extra-base hit until catcher Mason Reilly's two-out double in the fourth inning. But then, he walked right- fielder Kevin Virtue, Sasa cashed in an RBI-single and Burke hit a chopper to second that Jon Saporsantos threw in the dirt to first, allowing two more runs to score.

Just like that, the Majors had a 3-2 lead -- all the damage done with just one out to spare.

London starter Adam Echlin, who's been lights-out all season, surrendered three runs and 10 hits over seven innings for his seventh win in eight decisions.

"What can you say about him?" Chanderdat said.

"Maybe in a game where he didn't have his best stuff, he hung in there for seven innings and did a great job."

GET NEWS LIKE THIS AND MORE DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR
London Free Press home delivery for only 50¢ a day **CLICK HERE**

Sports Headlines

On a Major streak

[Flyers bringing their new look back to London](#)

[Creamer captures seventh career win](#)

[Perry hard to ignore](#)

[May ties on runners to prep for training camp](#)

['It was totally improvised'](#)

[Lightning strike deal to lock up Lecavalier](#)

[Night stalker rules Chicago](#)

[Harlem Rocker's win spoils Triple Crown aspirations](#)

[Yesterday's highlights](#)

['It's the best I've seen him'](#)

[Broadcast access to Tiananmen still an issue](#)

[On with the Shew](#)

SPORTS NEWS

Lee, Sheets to start all-star game

Fired up about his first trip to Yankee Stadium, Ben Sheets had it all planned out. Arrive early and visit Monument Park, gaze up at that famous facade, drink in the entire experience the same way any fan would.

[FULL STORY](#) [More at SLAM!](#)

- Greece, Croatia, Slovenia, New Zealand win Olympic qualifying openers
- Davenport replaced by Wozniak at Bank of West Classic
- Attention surrounds A-Rod as All-Stars

meet media

- [Rivera or Papelbon? Who would close for AL?](#)

Powered by 

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Today](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Classifieds](#)

[Place an Ad](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Become a Carrier](#) | [Your Newspaper](#)



[Send a Letter to the Editor](#)

[CANOE home](#) | We welcome your [feedback](#).

Copyright © 2008, [Canoe Inc.](#) All rights reserved.

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