

Bombers Earn Split With 4-2 Win

by Matt Tymann

July 6, 2008 HERNDON—In his first game with the Herndon Braves, catcher John Lynch made quite the first impression. He reached base in all three plate appearances, including a solo home run and a single, and scored both of his new team's runs.

Unfortunately, the incumbent Braves couldn't match Lynch's production, and they ultimately fell to the College Park Bombers, 4-2.

Lynch, batting ninth in his first game with Herndon (9-15), didn't get his first at-bat until the third inning, which he promptly led off with a single. Drew Gehring followed up a Mycal Jones strikeout with a single of his own, and then Joe Charron singled in Lynch for the Braves' first run of the game. Gehring also came home on the play, but was called out on a very close play.

The Bombers (9-9) had already put three runs on the board, thanks in part to some Herndon defensive mistakes, so the score stood at 3-1 through three. After Cory Todhunter scored on a wild pitch in the fourth, College Park led 4-1, with only two earned runs and two RBI.

Lynch's home run came in the fifth inning, and cut the Herndon deficit to two. The Braves would then threaten the lead in both the sixth and seventh innings, but were not able to plate another run. The game lasted just seven innings, as it was the second of a doubleheader.

In the sixth, Charron led off with a single, and then was sacrificed to second by Alex Ferrera. A Matt Simone walk, followed by a wild pitch from College Park starter Jacob Lago, put runners on second and third for Shane Davis, who was only a day removed from a two-home run game against Youse's Orioles. Davis hit the ball well, but Bombers' center fielder Craig Lanzarotta made a good play to snag it for the last out of the inning.

Then, in the seventh and final inning, Lynch reached on a hit-by-pitch with one out. Mycal Jones hit into a fielder's choice, and then Gehring singled to bring up the winning run in the form of Charron. But Lago completed his abbreviated complete game, striking out Charron to clinch the split for College Park.

Lago improved to 1-2 with the win, and lowered his ERA almost a full point from 5.05 to 4.08, despite giving up seven hits in the seven innings. Starter Pat Devlin took the loss for Herndon, dropping his record to 0-1.

Besides recording the final out of the sixth, Lanzarotta also had a good day offensively for the Bombers. He finished just one for three, but also managed to reach base after striking out to lead off the first inning. He would advance to third on an error by Jones,

and eventually score on an RBI groundout by Ben Sobocinski. Lanzarotta's one hit was an RBI single in the second, which drove in Clay Duncan.

The game officially counts as a road loss for Herndon, as College Park played as the home team despite being on Braves' Field, due to field availability issues. The Braves still lead the season series with the Bombers 2-1, with two more road games and one more home game to play.

Herndon next plays on Tuesday night at 7 PM, when the Braves will host the Rockville Express. With two wins on Sunday, the Express is now 8-14, and out of last place in the Cal Ripken Sr. League. They trail the Braves by percentage points for sixth place out of the eight teams in the league. Rockville also leads the season series with Herndon, 3-1. The Braves' probable starter for Tuesday's game is Derek Anderson, who is currently 0-2 with a 3.78 ERA.