

Big Fourth Inning Propels Braves to 9-8 Victory

by Matt Tymann

June 29, 2008 HERNDON—Coming into Sunday's doubleheader, the Herndon Braves had scored six total runs in their last three games. They bested that total in just one inning of game 1, on their way to a 9-8 win over the visiting Maryland Redbirds. Herndon (7-12) scored seven in the fourth inning, on seven hits, to turn a 3-2 deficit into a 9-3 lead through four, and then survived two Redbirds' rallies, to hold on for the one-run victory.

A three-run home run from Joe Charron rounded out the fourth-inning scoring, and provided an exclamation point to the Braves' highest-scoring inning of the season. Charron now leads the league by himself with four home runs on the year.

Every Braves' starter but two recorded a hit in the fourth, with the remaining RBI coming from Michael Cheatham, Shane Davis, Eric Woodrow, and Drew Gehringer. Davis' double was his second RBI two-bagger of the game, with the first driving in Cheatham in the second inning, and tying the score at 1.

The Braves' scored their other run on an Alex Ferrera solo home run in the third inning, which came after Maryland had taken a 2-1 lead on a Jeff Guthridge solo shot in the top of the inning.

There were six total home runs, easily the most in any Braves' game this season. Besides Charron, Ferrera, and Guthridge, Redbirds Mason Heyne and Adam Skonieczki also went deep, with Skonieczki homering twice.

Maryland (6-9) did not go quietly after falling behind by six runs, coming right back to score three in the fifth, off of Heyne's three-run blast, and then two more in the sixth from Skonieczki's second home run, to cut their deficit to a single run.

Heyne led off the seventh and final inning with a single, but reliever Dan Steers got the next three Redbirds' batters to end the game, and give Herndon its seventh win of the year. The game was scheduled only for seven innings, as it was the first of a doubleheader.

Starter Paul Rodriguez got the win for the Braves to improve to 3-0 on the season. He leads the team in wins, despite joining the team late, and working exclusively in relief before Sunday. Mike Thomas took the loss for the Redbirds, falling to 1-2.

Davis, Charron, Ferrera, and Cheatham each had two hits for Herndon, with Charron and Ferrera each adding a single to their home run. Cheatham and Ferrera each scored a pair of runs in the game, and Davis scored a run to go with his 2 RBI.

The win moves the Braves into sixth place in the Cal Ripken Sr. League, half a game ahead of the Alexandria Aces. Herndon sits six and a half games behind the Bethesda

Big Train for first place in the league. The season series between the Braves and Redbirds is now tied at one game apiece. Maryland had previously defeated Herndon, 9-2, at Bachman Park on June 14.