

Braves Score Three in First, Sweep Doubleheader

by Matt Tymann

June 29, 2008 HERNDON—Drew Gehringer doubled twice, hit a two-run home run, and finished with 3 RBI and 2 runs scored, to lead the Herndon Braves to a 10-2 victory over the Maryland Redbirds in game 2 of Sunday's doubleheader.

Herndon got things started early by plating three runs in the bottom of the first inning, scoring two on an error by Maryland shortstop Gerardo Caceres. Mike Galvin drove in the other run, scoring Joe Charron on the Braves' third single of the inning.

Gehringer accounted for the next three runs, doubling to knock in Shane Davis in the second, and homering in the fourth, scoring Eric Woodrow. That gave the Braves (8-12) a 6-0 lead through four, which would prove to be more than enough.

The Redbirds (6-10) did get a run in the fifth, as catcher Will Cooper came around to score on a Jeff Guthridge groundout. Cooper had walked to lead off the inning.

After Shane Davis singled in another run in the bottom of the fifth inning, and Jaeson Hudnall worked a scoreless top of the sixth, the Braves' bats really came alive in the bottom of the sixth. Gehringer and Joe Charron each doubled in the inning, and Alex Ferrera, Connor Mullee, and Matt Simone added singles. Charron and Mullee each picked up RBI, and Ferrera scored on a wild pitch, to give Herndon a 3-run inning, and a 10-1 lead.

Maryland scored its final run in the seventh and final inning, on another Guthridge groundout. Caceres, who had singled to lead off the inning, scored the run. The game was scheduled for only seven innings, as it was the second in a doubleheader.

Herndon starting pitcher Derek Anderson worked three and two-thirds innings of one-hit, shutout ball, before being removed due to a leg injury. He had been struck by a ground ball off the bat of Redbirds' left fielder Nick Wojnowski, but Anderson chased after the ball and threw it over to Simone at first for the second out of the inning.

Blake Hassebrock came in in relief, and gave up the one run in one and a third innings, earning his first win of the season. His record now stands at 1-0. Starter Brad Miller took the loss for the Redbirds, dropping his record to 1-2 on the season.

Charron, Mullee, and Galvin joined Gehringer with multi-hit games, each recording two hits on the day. Charron and Mullee each scored two runs in the game, and Galvin added a double to his first-inning RBI single.

The win earned the Braves a two-game sweep in the day's doubleheader, as they had beaten Maryland 9-8 in game 1. It also gave them a 2-1 lead in the season series, and vaulted the Braves past the Redbirds in the standings, into fifth place in the Cal Ripken Sr. League. Herndon is now six games behind the Bethesda Big Train, who lead the

league with a 13-5 mark.

Herndon's next game is Wednesday night at 7:00 PM, when they will host the 5-10 Alexandria Aces. The Aces and Braves are competing this season for the Commonwealth Cup, to be awarded to the winner of their six-game season series.

Currently, Herndon holds a 2-1 lead in the series. Keith Hessler (0-1, 3.38) is the probable starter for the Braves.