

## **Thunderbolts Power Past Braves**

by Matt Tymann

June 22 – Herndon, VA —Brandon Boykin had five RBI, including a three-run home run, to lead the Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts to an 8-2 victory over the Herndon Braves on Sunday at Braves' Field.

Boykin's homer came in the second inning, and scored Kendall Bolt and Billy Barber. Bolt had walked to lead off the inning, and Barber had been hit by a Sean Holliday pitch. That sequence was indicative of a general trend, as the Braves (4-8) gave up eight runs on just six hits, walking seven and hitting Barber.

Four of those seven walks were to leadoff batters, and Mike Lang reached base on a passed ball, after striking out to lead off the seventh inning. None of the Thunderbolts' hits led off an inning.

Things looked good early on for the Braves, as Drew Gehringer hit a leadoff home run to give Herndon a 1-0 lead. But Thunderbolts' starting pitcher Wade Newman didn't give up another hit in his five innings of work, only allowing one run in the fifth off of three wild pitches.

Herndon finished with three total hits, the other two coming in the sixth inning, off the bats of Connor Mullee and Michael Cheatham. That put runners on the corners with just one out, but Dusty White got Alex Ferrera to ground into an inning-ending double play, and the Braves never got another scoring opportunity.

Lee Bolyard walked twice for the Braves, and Gehringer added two walks to go with his first-inning home run. Those were the only two Herndon players to reach base more than once in the game. Mark Riffe scored the team's other run, getting hit by a Newman pitch in the fifth, and then advancing to second, third, and home on three wild pitches.

Boykin, who was two-for-four on the day, earned his other two RBI in the fourth inning, when he scored Barber and Nick Rivers on a single off of reliever Matt Simone. The hit gave Silver Spring-Takoma a 6-1 lead.

Bolt was the only Thunderbolt to reach base three times, off of a single and two walks. Barber and Gerardo Hernandez each had an RBI, with Barber's scoring Bolt in the fourth inning, and extending the lead to 4-1.

Newman earned the win for Silver Spring-Takoma (7-6), and improved his record to 1-0. Holliday took the loss for Herndon, and fell to 0-3 on the year.

The Braves are now 2-1 on the season against the Thunderbolts. Herndon won the first game of the two-game set on Saturday night, by an 8-3 final. The first game between the two came at Blair Stadium this past Wednesday, with the Braves prevailing 12-4.

Next up for Herndon is a road game against the Youse's Maryland Orioles tomorrow night, with the first pitch scheduled for 7:00 PM at Bachman Park. The Orioles are 8-3 on the season, half a game out of first-place Bethesda. Youse's also has a 3-0 lead in the season series against the Braves, winning all three games by shutout. Joe Devlin (0-2, 3.95) is the Braves' probable starter.