

## **Braves Beat Aces in 10**

by Matt Tymann

June 27, 2008 - HERNDON—What's the best remedy for struggling bats? If you were the Herndon Braves on Friday night, it was five pitchers combining to throw ten innings, without giving up a single run.

In a game that featured some notably bizarre team statistics, the Braves toppled the visiting Alexandria Aces in ten, 1-0. Starter Pat Devlin combined with relievers Sean Holliday, Vinny Lally, Blake Hassebrock, and T.J. O'Grady on the extra-inning shutout. O'Grady earned the win for Herndon (6-11), and improved to 1-0 on the season.

Alex Ferrera scored the only run of the game in the bottom of the tenth inning, when Aces' third-baseman Vinnie Sangemino made a throwing error while attempting to prevent Shane Davis from advancing to second base on a Drew Gehringer grounder. Ferrera had walked with one out in the inning, and Davis had followed with an infield single.

The run capped off a wild game, in which the Braves managed a shutout despite surrendering six hits and eleven walks. Alexandria (5-9) stranded an incredible sixteen runners in the game, leaving at least one on base in every inning. Shortstop Daniel Bierce reached base all five times he came to the plate, on four walks and a hit, and was left stranded each time. Right fielder Tommy Grandieri and second baseman Adam Clark combined to leave ten of their teammates on base in their eight at-bats.

Herndon stranded eight runners of its own in the game, but plated the only run that mattered in the form of Ferrera. For his part, Ferrera was indisputably the best Brave offensively, as he singled twice besides drawing that tenth-inning walk. Davis was the only other Herndon player to reach base more than once, as he added a walk to go along with his all-important single.

Designated hitter Jared Norris joined Bierce as the two Aces to reach base at least four times in the game, with Norris walking three times and singling once. Like Bierce, he was stranded by his teammates every time he got on base.

The other notable stat in the game was the amount of non-swinging strikeouts registered by both teams. Aces' hitters struck out looking eight times in ten innings, and the Braves added six more backwards Ks. The bottom of the eighth inning saw all three Herndon batters strike out looking.

In total, there were twenty-three strikeouts in the game, with Alexandria starter Cody Walden throwing eight of them. Walden went seven innings without giving up a run, but had to settle for a no-decision. Aces' reliever Brandon McCreery, who came in to start the ninth inning, took the loss to fall to 0-1.

Next up for Herndon is a road game against the Rockville Express on Saturday evening at 5:00 PM. The 4-11 Express are in last place in the Cal Ripken Sr. League, but do hold a

2-1 season series lead over the Braves. Rockville won the only meeting between the two at Knights' Field, 4-2 this past Wednesday. Herndon's probable starter is Joe Devlin, who is currently 0-3 with a 5.00 ERA.