

# The Redneck Roundup

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## Rednecks Hit-and-Run to Victory in LCS Opener

Denham Springs, LA (CNS) - Carlos Delgado's first inning tape measure homer and Mickey Morandini's 2-run shot in the 7<sup>th</sup> off Livingston starter Curt Schilling weren't enough to overcome the Rednecks' hit-and-run hijinks in the first game of the Clemente League Championship Series. The runnin' Rednecks used their patented "motion offense" to KO Ely ace Pedro Martinez and earn Schilling the victory in a 9-4 donnybrook at the Redneck Roost Saturday afternoon before an overflow crowd in 105 degree heat.

Schilling faced 32 batters in his 8-inning stint. He allowed all four Tzzz runs (3 coming on the two dingers) on six hits while striking out eight and walking only two. Turk Wendell retired Ely in the 9<sup>th</sup>, overcoming an error by catcher Jason Varitek.

Martinez took a 1-0 lead into the home half of the first and set the Rednecks down in order, fanning Livingston MVP Edgar Martinez in the process. In the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mark Grace coaxed a lead-off walk - joining Kenny Lofton and Edgar in the "100 walk" club. Clemente League batting champion (.360) Tony Gwynn immediately followed with a hit-and-run double, scoring Grace with the tying run just ahead of rightfielder John VanDerWahl's throw. Robin Ventura's slow chopper moved Gwynn to 3<sup>rd</sup> as Nomar Garciaparra's juggle erased any chance of nabbing Tony. Chris Stynes put the Rednecks ahead to stay with a brilliant squeeze bunt to score Gwynn. An obviously shaken Pedro got Jason Varitek on deep fly to right to end the Redneck rally.

The teams traded zeroes in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Schilling downed the Tzzz in the 4<sup>th</sup>, picking up his seventh K along the way. In the home half, Mark Grace led off against Martinez again. This time Grace roped a single to right to set the stage for Tony Gwynn. Suspecting a play, Pedro brushed Gwynn back and Piazza almost picked Grace off of first, but Mark sneaked back in safely. Gwynn stroked the next pitch through the shortstop hole as Garciaparra broke to cover second on another hit-and-run. Robin Ventura scored Grace with the Rednecks' third run when he beat Carlos Delgado's bid for a 3-6-3 DP.

Livingston broke the game open in the fifth. Deivi Cruz fanned to open it (one of his three whiffs in the game), but Kenny Lofton found the gap and reached with a double. Then Edgar the Great turned on a Pedro heater and hooked it just inside the left field foul pole for a 2-run homer and a 5-1 Redneck lead.

Moises Alou followed Edgar's dinger with a scorcher that hit third base and bounced into the corner for a double. Pedro finally retired Mark Grace, getting him on an infield pop-up, but Tony Gwynn worked him for a walk, setting the stage for Robin Ventura's bases-clearing double as Gwynn gambled and beat Garciaparra's relay to the plate.

Ely began to mount a comeback in the sixth. A double by Delgado, a passed ball on Varitek and an infielder grounder by Piazza closed the gap to 7-2. In the seventh, the Tzzz clawed back to within three runs as Morandini launched his two-out two-run homer off Schilling.

After the seventh inning stretch, Edgar Martinez chased his namesake by drilling a lead-off single. Only Edgar's lack of speed kept the hit from being a double. It was the ninth hit off Pedro, and Butch Kelly II had seen enough. He brought in Juan Acevedo to face Moises Alou. Livingston manager Warren Wool immediately countered by pinch running for Edgar with super sub Rich Amaral. Alou jerked Acevedo's first pitch down the leftfield line past a diving Bill Mueller and Amaral challenged weak-armed Darryl Hamilton in a race for the plate. Amaral won the race and the Rednecks upped the score to 8-4. Mark Grace wasted no time in scoring Alou as he drilled another double past the diving Mueller. Gwynn walked for the second time (a real rarity); but Acevedo settled down and retired Ventura, Varitek and Cruz to end the inning and the scoring for the game.

In all, the Rednecks popped 11 hits including 5 doubles and Edgar's homer. Martinez led all batters with 3 hits and Robin Ventura contributed 3 RBI. Alou, Grace and Gwynn each scored two runs, as did Ely's Carlos Delgado.

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Schilling, who was 22-8 in the regular season, picked up the victory and Pedro Martinez (25-6 in the regular season) took the loss. During the season, Schilling had edged out Martinez for the strikeout championship (284-278). In the game, he again edged out Pedro 8-7.

Game two of the Clemente LCS will feature two lefties. Ely's Brian Bohanon (20-2, 3.41) will challenge Livingston's Boomer Wells (24-6, 2.69).

In the regular season, Livingston edged out Ely by two games although the Tzzz held an 11-7 margin in head-to-head meetings between the two teams. The Rednecks finished at 116-46 and Ely at 114-48. Both teams dominated the team statistics in the Clemente League. Ely led the league in batting average (.309), Livingston was second (.307); but the Rednecks reversed the standings in on-base average (.378 to .376).

Ely out-homered the Rednecks 252-200 and had 41 triples to Livingston's 33; but the Rednecks led in doubles 332-330 and in stolen bases 112-95. The

Rednecks big edge over not only Ely but the entire Arriba Baseball Confederacy was in "patience." The Rednecks fanned only 819 times while drawing 653 bases on balls. The only other team in all of baseball to strike out less than 1000 times was the New Jersey Turnpike, but they drew only 556 walks. The Durham Bullmoose and the Dunstable Sticks walked more than the Rednecks (690 and 661), but each of those teams fanned more than 1100 times.

Livingston and Ely finished one-two in the Clemente League (and the ABC) in just about every team pitching category. Livingston led in ERA (3.35), Quality Starts (103), Shutouts (15), fewest Runs Allowed (590) and Bases on Balls (360). Ely posted an ERA of 3.39, 101 Quality Starts, 14 Shutouts, and tied Thornhill for the top spot with 45 saves. But the Rednecks led the ABC by a wide margin in Strikeouts-to-Walks ratio — 3.2 (1149-360) to Ely's second-best 2.9 (1372-473). The Rednecks also posted an amazing 2.2 BB/9 IP mark; Ely was third with 2.9, just behind Carolina's 2.8.



Game Box Score on Following Page

7/22/2000 9:33 pm

Ely Tzzz at Livingston Rednecks

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Ely Tzzz	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	4	6	0
Livingston Rednecks	0	2	0	1	4	0	2	0		9	11	1

ELY	FT	AB	R	HRBI	BB	SOLOB	AVG	LIVINGSTON	FT	AB	R	HRBI	BB	SOLOB	AVG
D. HAMILTON, lf		4	0	0	0	0	1 .000	K. LOFTON, cf		5	1	1	0	0	2 0 .200
C. DELGADO, 1b		4	2	2	1	0	1 0 .500	E. MARTINEZ, dh		4	1	3	2	0	1 0 .750
N. GARCIAPARRA, ss		3	0	0	0	1	2 1 .000	R. AMARAL, dh		0	1	0	0	0	0 0 -
M. PIAZZA, c		4	0	1	1	0	1 1 .250	M. SIMMS, dh		1	0	0	0	0	0 0 .000
D. STRAWBERRY, dh		4	0	0	0	0	2 1 .000	M. ALOU, lf		4	2	2	1	0	0 1 .500
J. VANDER WAL, rf		4	0	1	0	0	0 1 .250	M. GRACE, 1b		3	2	2	1	1	0 1 .667
D. WHITE, cf		4	1	1	0	0	1 1 .250	T. GWYNN, rf		2	2	2	1	2	0 0 1.000
B. MUELLER, 3b		4	0	0	0	0	0 2 .000	R. VENTURA, 3b		4	0	1	3	0	0 4 .250
M. MORANDINI, 2b		3	1	1	2	1	1 0 .333	C. STYNES, 2b		3	0	0	1	0	1 4 .000
Totals		34	4	6	4	2	8	J. VARITEK, c		4	0	0	0	0	0 3 .000
BATTING								D. CRUZ, ss		4	0	0	0	0	3 0 .000
2B: C. DELGADO (1)								Totals		34	9	11	9	3	7

HR: C. DELGADO (1), M. MORANDINI (1)  
 RBI: C. DELGADO (1), M. PIAZZA (1), M. MORANDINI 2 (2)  
 TEAM LOB: 5  
 BASERUNNING  
 SB: N. GARCIAPARRA (1)

BATTING  
 2B: K. LOFTON (1), M. ALOU 2 (2), M. GRACE (1), T. GWYNN (1),  
 R. VENTURA (1)  
 HR: E. MARTINEZ (1)  
 S: C. STYNES  
 RBI: E. MARTINEZ 2 (2), M. ALOU (1), M. GRACE (1), T. GWYNN (1),  
 R. VENTURA 3 (3), C. STYNES (1)  
 TEAM LOB: 5  
 FIELDING  
 E: J. VARITEK (1)  
 PB: J. VARITEK

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PITCHING

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ELY (GAME 1)	T	FTG	SC	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	BF	IR	ERA
P. MARTINEZ, L, 0-1	R			26	6.0	9	8	8	2	6	29	0 12.00
J. ACEVEDO	R			2.0	2	1	1	1	1	1	9	1 4.50

LIVINGSTON (GAME 1)	T	FTG	SC	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	BF	IR	ERA
C. SCHILLING, W, 1-0	R			60	8.0	6	4	4	2	8	32	0 4.50
T. WENDELL	R			1.0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	.00

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HR: P. MARTINEZ (1), C. SCHILLING 2 (2)

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GAME DATA

Day Game played on Wednesday, March 8,2000  
 Regulation Game, Time: 19:28m