

The Redneck Roundup

Alou's Clutch Hit Sends Series to Game Seven

Denham Springs, LA (CNS) - Moises Alou's third hit of the game, a soaring fly ball over center fielder Rondell White's head, scored David Nilsson from third base with 2 outs in the bottom of the 9th inning. Alou was credited with a single off Trevor Hoffman. The blast sealed a dramatic come-from-behind 4-3 victory for the Rednecks over the Ely Tzzz, and sent the Clemente League Championship Series to a winner-take-all seventh game.

Alou batted after Edgar Martinez struck out with Nilsson at 3rd and Kenny Lofton on 1st and the game tied at 3-3. Lofton had greeted Hoffman, who relieved losing pitcher Juan Acevedo, with a "frozen rope" single to left field. Lofton's hit was so sharp that Nilsson couldn't score from 2nd. He held at 3rd as Darryl Hamilton fielded Lofton's liner on one hop. Chris Stynes had sacrificed Nilsson to second after the Aussie drew a lead-off walk from Acevedo. It was then that manager Butch Kelly II called upon Hoffman — his ace closer who saved all three of the Tzzz victories at Ely.

The 9th inning heroics capped a tense, hard-fought, but sloppy game in which the Rednecks clawed their way to a 3-3 tie in the bottom of the 8th. Ely starter Brian Bohanon had nursed a 2-1 lead from the 5th inning. After Eric Davis rocked Livingston reliever Turk Wendell for a solo homer in the top of the 8th, Kelly decided to replace Bohanon with Juan Acevedo to face Edgar Martinez leading off the Redneck 8th.

Martinez foiled the strategy by drawing a walk, his third base on balls of the game and one of six given up by Ely hurlers. Moises Alou forced Martinez with a grounder to Morandini, but beat Garciaparra's relay to first to avoid a double play. Robin Ventura then drilled an Acevedo fastball into the pickup truck section for his first homer of the series and tied the game at 3-3. It was Ventura's second hit of the game and sixth RBI of the series.

Earlier, Ventura had driven in the first Livingston run in a bizarre turn of events. The Rednecks had the bases loaded with one out in the home 5th after Ely had

pulled ahead 2-0 in the top of the 5th on Sean Berry's solo homer off Redneck starter Bret Saberhagen. Chris Stynes opened the Livingston 5th with a bloop single. Lofton forced Stynes at second, but then Kenny stole second base with Edgar Martinez at the plate. Bohanon pitched around Martinez and walked him, setting up a double play possibility. Alou punched a single to left to load the bases and bring up Ventura.

Ventura hit a high fly ball into the right center field alley. White chased after it but couldn't corral it. Kenny Lofton had held up at third to see if White would make the catch, but Martinez had broken from second to get an extra jump, knowing that he would have to hustle to score. When White couldn't make the catch, Lofton broke for the plate, but Martinez had already passed him. White fired the ball towards home plate and Garciaparra alertly cut it to Morandini at second base, who tagged Ventura out.

Lofton had crossed the plate prior to Ventura's putout at second, so his run counted, but the inning ended with the score 2-1 in favor of Ely. The umpires ruled that Martinez was out number two when he passed Lofton and Ventura was out number three. So, Ventura earned the distinction of singling into a double play and getting credit for an RBI.

Before the strange happenings of the 5th inning, Saberhagen and Bohanon had matched zeroes through three frames. Saberhagen allowed a hit in each of the first three Ely at-bats, but was aided by double plays in the first and second. Bohanon got into trouble in the first on back-to-back walks to Martinez and Alou, but wriggled off the hook.

In the 2nd, Bohanon got right back into a jam by giving up a lead-off double to Mark Grace and following it with a walk to Eric Young. He again worked out of it without allowing a run by getting Jason Varitek and Lofton on line drive outs to Morandini at second with an infield fly by Stynes sandwiched between. In the 3rd, Bohanon again escaped unscathed when Eric Davis ran down Tony Gwynn's 2-out bid for an RBI double with Alou, who

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had singled, running from first.

Ely finally broke the scoreless tie when Mike Piazza cracked his second home run of the series with two outs in the top of the fourth. After Piazza's dinger, Ely threatened to break open the game, but Saberhagen, as Bohanon had been doing, managed to wriggle out of the jam. Garciparra followed the Piazza shot with a single, stole second, and went to third when Jason Varitek's low throw skipped by Stynes. Eric Young then made a fine play on Darryl Strawberry's slow bouncer to end the inning.

Tim Crabtree relieved Saberhagen in the Ely 5th after Berry's homer made the score 2-0 and Rondell White smacked a double. Crabtree retired all three batters he faced and stranded White at second. He also worked a perfect 6th, striking out the side and finishing with four K's and no base runners in his two innings of work.

Turk Wendell took over for Livingston in the 7th and promptly bobbled Mark Grace's soft toss on Strawberry's bouncer to first, allowing the Strawman to reach on the second Redneck error of the game. Varitek bailed Wendell out by nailing Strawberry on an attempted stolen base. Not contented with his errant fielding, Wendell then plunked Sean Berry and Rondell White in succession. On the very next play after he hit White, Wendell missed the bag at first as Grace fielded Morandini's grounder and made the toss to Wendell.

The Turk's second error of the inning loaded the bases with only 1 out and the speedy Daryl Hamilton at the plate. Somehow, Wendell induced Hamilton to ground into a 4-6-3 double play to get out of the inning without allowing a run.

Bohanon retired the Rednecks in order in the 7th. That set the stage for Eric Davis' 8th inning homer to stretch the lead to 3-1 Ely. It could have been worse for Wendell in the 8th. Mark Grace saved another error when he scooped Eric Young's bad throw on Delgado's routine bouncer just before Davis launched his moon shot. Wendell then fanned Piazza for the second out. Nomar Garciparra followed with a base hit to center field but was thrown out by Kenny Lofton

when he tried to stretch it into a double.

When Bohanon departed at the beginning of the Redneck eighth, he had allowed just the one run on five hits and had walked four.

After Ventura's home run tied the score at 3-3, Wool brought in Doug Brocail to replace Wendell for the Ely 9th. Unlike Wendell's two inning circus, Brocail pitched an uneventful 9th, retiring the three batters he faced. That led to Nilsson's lead-off walk off of Acevedo when he pinch hit for Varitek.

Brocail earned the win with his scoreless 9th. Acevedo was tagged with a blown save and the loss. Each team had 9 hits; the Rednecks committed 3 errors to none for the Tzzz, but they turned those important three double plays to the "one" for Ely. Each team also struck out six times; the three Redneck hurlers did not issue a single walk. Ely walked six; two of whom scored.

With the series now even at three game apiece, Jamie Moyer will oppose David Wells for all the marbles.

Box score on following page.



7/28/2000 10:44 pm

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

ELY	FT	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB	AVG	LIVINGSTON	FT	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB	AVG
D. HAMILTON, lf		4	0	0	0	0	1	4	.111	K. LOFTON, cf		5	1	1	0	0	0	3	.200
C. DELGADO, 1b		4	0	1	0	0	0	1	.286	E. MARTINEZ, dh		2	0	0	0	3	1	2	.381
J. MABRY, 1b		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	M. ALOU, lf		4	1	3	1	1	0	1	.417
E. DAVIS, rf		4	1	1	1	0	1	0	.417	R. VENTURA, 3b		4	1	2	3	0	2	4	.167
M. PIAZZA, c		4	1	2	1	0	2	0	.227	T. GWYNN, rf		4	0	0	0	0	1	3	.318
N. GARCIA PARRA, ss		4	0	2	0	0	1	0	.227	M. GRACE, 1b		4	0	2	0	0	0	0	.333
D. STRAWBERRY, dh		4	0	0	0	0	1	1	.050	E. YOUNG, 2b		3	0	0	0	1	1	1	.333
S. BERRY, 3b		3	1	1	1	0	0	0	.429	J. VARITEK, c		3	0	0	0	0	0	2	.077
R. WHITE, cf		3	0	2	0	0	0	0	.286	D. NILSSON, ph		0	1	0	0	1	0	0	.143
M. MORANDINI, 2b		3	0	0	0	0	0	2	.188	C. STYNES, ss		3	0	1	0	0	1	2	.222
Totals		33	3	9	3	0	6			Totals		32	4	9	4	6	6		

BATTING

2B: R. WHITE (1)

HR: E. DAVIS (1), M. PIAZZA (2), S. BERRY (1)

RBI: E. DAVIS (2), M. PIAZZA (4), S. BERRY (1)

GIDP: D. HAMILTON (1), E. DAVIS (1), N. GARCIA PARRA (2)

HBP: S. BERRY (1), R. WHITE (1)

TEAM LOB: 5

BASERUNNING

SB: N. GARCIA PARRA (2)

CS: D. STRAWBERRY (1)

FIELDING

DP: 1

BATTING

2B: M. GRACE (3)

HR: R. VENTURA (1)

S: C. STYNES

RBI: M. ALOU (6), R. VENTURA (3) (6)

GIDP: R. VENTURA (1)

TEAM LOB: 9

BASERUNNING

SB: K. LOFTON (1)

FIELDING

E: J. VARITEK (2), T. WENDELL (2) (2)

DP: 3

PITCHING

ELY (GAME 6)	T	FTG	SC	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	BF	IR	ERA
B. BOHANON	L		63	7.0	5	1	1	4	4	28	0	2.84
J. ACEVEDO, SOP BS, 1; L, 0-1	R			1.1	2	3	3	2	1	8	0	7.20
T. HOFFMAN	R			.1	2	0	0	0	1	3	1	3.86

LIVINGSTON (GAME 6)	T	FTG	SC	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	BF	IR	ERA
B. SABERHAGEN	R		41	4.0	7	2	2	0	1	17	0	4.50
T. CRABTREE	R			2.0	0	0	0	0	4	6	1	.00
T. WENDELL	R			2.0	2	1	1	0	1	9	0	2.25
D. BROCAIL, W, 1-0	R			1.0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	.00

HBP: T. WENDELL 2

HR: J. ACEVEDO (1), B. SABERHAGEN 2 (2), T. WENDELL (1)

GAME DATA

Day Game played on Wednesday, March 15,2000

Regulation Game, Time: 14:46m