

Batty Outing

Odom lasts two innings in initial start

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After all the hype had died down, and he could finally turn his focus back toward baseball, John Odom was back home.

He returned to the mound on Saturday, doing what he loved and where he had wanted to be for the past 18 months.

Under national and local media scrutiny for the past week after being traded to Laredo in exchange for 10 maple wood bats on May 19, the right-hander delivered an inauspicious outing in his first competitive action in 18 months.

Showing little control and command of his pitches, Odom (0-0), who sat out 2007 with a dislocation in his left shoulder and was under a pitch count for Saturday's game, threw two innings, allowing one run on two hits while walking one and striking out none, as Edinburg claimed a 9-5 win in 10 innings before a crowd of 2,058 at Veterans Field.

The Broncos fell to 9-8 with the loss as Edinburg improved to 8-8.

Coyotes starting right-hander John Maschino (0-0) got the no-decision, pitching five innings, allowing no runs on five hits and striking out five.

Broncos left-handed reliever Rusty Jones (1-2) got the loss, pitching 2/3 of the 10th inning and allowing four runs (all unearned) on two hits while striking out one.

Odom's start came with much anticipation, and in front of the Broncos' biggest crowd of the season.

He faced eight batters, allowing a leadoff single, then walking the next batter before forcing Daryl Jones into a double play to end the first inning.

His struggle came to light in the second inning as he allowed a leadoff double to Logan Wood.

Mayobanex Santana followed with a sacrifice to advance Wood before Eric Gonzalez flew out to the infield.

Odom walked Jason Arrowood in the next at-bat before Wood scored on a double-steal attempt.

Amado German grounded out to end Odom's brief night.

The Coyotes had frustrated Laredo with smart baserunning, scoring two runs off wild pitches and another on a double-steal attempt before a stirring Broncos rally in the ninth.

Ignited by Anthony Bennett's second RBI single of the game to start the inning, Dwayne White followed with a deep three-run homer to left field tied the game with one out off closer Julio Castro, who would get his first win of the season.

After allowing a four-run Bronco rally in the ninth, Eric Gonzalez's RBI double and Jason Arrowood's two-run homer in the 10th regained the lead for Edinburg as it never looked back.

The series will conclude with today's 7:30 p.m. rubber game at Veterans Field.

BRONCO BITS: The Broncos released pitcher Matt Bauman (0-0, 9.75 ERA, 12 innings pitched) on Saturday to make room for right-hander John Smith. Smith played with the Broncos last season before being traded in the deal that brought Santiago Guerrero to Laredo. In 2007 as a Bronco, Smith went 2-3 with a 5.57 ERA in 23 games. He struck out 34 and walked 14 in 21 innings pitched. He made an appearance on Saturday, pitching a 1-2-3 ninth inning and tallying three strikeouts...Fans got an early look at newcomer Sean Donlin, who is expected to be the No. 4 starter in the rotation. Donlin pitched one inning, allowing no hits and striking out two in the third inning.

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