ticket from the Toronto round of the Classic

at Rogers Centre

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Pitchers of Record

Win: LaTroy Hawkins (1-0) Loss: Mike Johnson (0-1) Save: J.J. Putz (1)

Home Runs

Canada: Joey Votto in 3rd inning, 1 RBI; Russell Martin in 7th inning, 1 RBI
USA: Kevin Youkilis in 4th inning, 1 RBI; Brian McCann in 4th inning, 2 RBI; Adam Dunn in 6th inning, 2 RBI

Umpires
The homers came fast and furious, as five players went deep for a combined 7 RBI in a 6-5 duel between two North American entries.

Team Canada, playing host, sent seven batters to the plate in the first inning against Jake Peavy but only scored one time. C Russell Martin drew a one-out walk and DH Joey Votto singled him to third. 1B Justin Morneau grounded to first, scoring Martin. CF Jason Bay walked and DH Matt Stairs was hit by a pitch to load the bases for 3B Mark Teahen. Peavy threw 3 fastballs in a row past Teahen to escape the jam.

In the bottom of the second, Team Canada veteran Mike Johnson walked 1B Kevin Youkilis and RF Adam Dunn to start the inning. LF Ryan Braun hit into a force at second to put men on the corners, then C Brian McCann tied the contest with a sacrifice fly. CF Shane Victorino hit a hard grounder to first and Morneau deflected the ball into right field. Braun moved to third on the play but 2B Dustin Pedroia grounded out to end that threat.

Votto homered with one out in the third to give the home team a 2-1 advantage but Youkilis countered with a solo shot of his own in the bottom of the 4th to tie it. Johnson walked Dunn but struck out Braun. McCann then homered to right field for a 4-2 lead for the USA.

In the sixth, Canada rallied against Joel Hanrahan. Bay drew a walk then Stairs lined out. Teahen doubled to right to put two men in scoring position. LF Nick Weglarz grounded out to Hanrahan. Hanrahan then threw a wild pitch, scoring Bay and making it a one-run game again.

In the bottom of the sixth, Youkilis drew a walk from Chris Begg and Dunn followed with the game's 4th home run to make it 6-3 US; Youkilis scored his 3rd run of the game on the play. Canada staged a rally against Scot Shields in the 7th. Martin homered with one out to close the gap to 6-4. Votto singled. Shields recovered to fan Morneau, but Bay walked to put the tying run aboard. RF Matt Stairs, who had first played for Team Canada 22 years earlier, struck out on a 2-2 count to blow that bid.
Team Canada plays Team USA on March 7, 2009.

In the bottom of the 7th, the US tried to add insurance. Pedroia doubled and SS Jimmy Rollins hit an infield single. Phillipe Aumont threw a wild pitch to put both runners in scoring position with none out. DH Chipper Jones walked to load the bases. Aumont recovered to get 3B David Wright on a liner and fan both Youkalis and backup CF Curtis Granderson.

The US again staged a rally in the bottom of the 8th. McCann drew a one-out walk from Dave Davidson and Victorino singled. After a fly out by Pedroia, Rollins reached on an error by Canada SS Chris Barnwell. With the bases loaded, Davidson got Chipper Jones swinging on a 2-2 offering.

In the top of the 9th, manager Davey Johnson summoned J.J. Putz to close the game. With one out, Martin doubled. Votto doubled to right to make it 6-5 as Martin scored. Morneau grounded out. Brett Lawrie pinch-ran for Votto. Putz got ahead of Bay 0-2, but then threw 3 balls in a row. Bay fouled off two straight 95-mph fastballs, then flew out to Victorino in right.

Martin scored 3 runs for Canada and Youkilis did the same for the US. Votto went 4 for 5 with a double, homer, run and 2 RBI, looking as sharp as he had for Canada in the 2005 Baseball World Cup, when he made the All-Tournament team.