



# DANVILLE BRAVES PRESS RELEASE

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*For Immediate Release / Kendrick Fruits*

*Monday, June 26, 2017*

## **Braves hook Rays with big fourth inning**

**DANVILLE, Va.-** In what was arguably their most complete victory of the young 2017 season, the Danville Braves used a five run 4th inning to build a 6-1 lead, and then held on to defeat the Princeton Rays by a 6-3 final score. Connor Johnstone pitched brilliantly in his first professional appearance, picking up the win.

Danville (3-2) continued their first inning scoring streak when Nick Shumpert singled, allowing Sanders Commings to score from third. Commings, a former defensive back for the Kansas City Chiefs, went 2-4 with a double, an RBI and he showed speed while he patrolled centerfield. The Braves have now scored in the first inning in all five games this season.

Princeton (0-5) immediately responded when Mac Siebert singled, stole second, and came around to score on a Joey Roach double which tied the game at 1. The Rays wouldn't threaten again against Johnstone. Johnstone, a 2017 draftee from Wake Forest University, scattered three hits across five frames, surrendering just the one run in the second inning. He also showed very good command, walking none while striking out six, using a fastball in the upper 80s and a sharp array of offspeed pitches.

The Braves broke the tie in the 4th inning when, with the bases loaded and two runs already across, Nick Shumpert drove a ball into the rightfield corner. By the time Shumpert was dusting himself off at third base, three runs had scored and the Braves had a 6-1 lead.

After Landon Hughes, also making his professional debut, recorded a 1-2-3 sixth inning in relief of Johnstone, Gilbert Suarez entered the game and found himself in a jam in the seventh. With one out, Roach hit a potential double play ball to Braves' second baseman Jeremy Fernandez. Fernandez misplayed the ball, allowing one run to score, and another would score later in the inning on a sacrifice fly. The Rays would get no closer, as Jesus Heredia would come in to pitch a scoreless 9th inning.

### **WHAT'S NEXT:**

The Braves go for the series sweep tomorrow night at Legion Field at 7pm. Lefty Dilmer Mejia will make his second start of the season. The Braves then travel to Burlington for a three game series before returning home this weekend. Tomorrow night is \$2 Tuesday presented by Terry Blakely State Farm. There will also be a fidget spinner giveaway, courtesy of Geoff Johnson, DDS. For tickets call 434-797-3792 or order online at dbraves.com.

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**About the D-Braves**

The Danville Braves are the Rookie (Advance) affiliate of the Atlanta Braves. The D-Braves play in the Appalachian League, which consists of 10 teams across North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. The D-Braves began play in 1993 and call American Legion Post 325 Field at Dan Daniel Memorial Park home. For more information about the Danville Braves, please visit [www.dbraves.com](http://www.dbraves.com) or call 434.797.3792. You can follow the D-Braves on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat.