

Jones boys do it again

Chipper, Andruw homer together for third time this season

By DAVID O'BRIEN

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Published on: 05/15/05

Los Angeles - When the Braves' Joneses are surging, there aren't pitchers who can keep up with them, according to teammates. The Dodgers wouldn't disagree.

"When Andruw and Chipper are swinging the way they have been lately, there's not a lot of pitchers who can get them out consistently," said Adam LaRoche, whose ninth-inning leadoff homer Sunday extended the lead to 4-2.

Tim Hudson (4-2) labored for six innings but allowed only two runs (one earned), and three relievers held the Dodgers without a hit or walk the rest of the way Sunday.

The bullpen allowed one run and four hits in 9 2/3 innings over two games.

"They've done a great job for us all year," said Hudson, who allowed nine hits and two walks while piling up 119 pitches. "I didn't feel like myself. I wasn't sharp. But I made some big pitches when I had to, and the guys picked me up."

Particularly Jones and Jones, who are carrying loads worthy of their stature.

Chipper hit a tying two-run, two-out homer in the sixth inning for the only scoring against Dodgers starter Scott Erickson. Andruw greeted reliever Wilson Alvarez with a leadoff homer in the seventh to give the Braves a 3-2 lead.

The Braves improved to 37-6 all-time when both Joneses hit homers in the same game, including 3-0 this season and 2-0 in the past two games.

Half of the Braves' six hits Sunday were home runs.

"Long balls accounted for [nearly] everything," said manager Bobby Cox, whose Braves bused to San Diego afterward to begin a three-game series against the Padres tonight. "We tattooed a few balls. Usually when both [Joneses] hit homers, you know you're going to score quite a few runs.

"For us to get on streaks, we've got to have more than one guy hitting."

Andruw Jones also had a double Sunday and is batting .446 with seven homers and 15 RBIs in 15 games, raising his average from .182 to .293 since April 27. He leads the team with nine homers.

"If you're strong mentally, you're not going to get down," he said about his early slump. "This is baseball. It's a long season."

Chipper Jones, who missed seven starts after an April 24 foot injury, has been shaking off rust and still leads the team with a .343 average. He has seven home runs, and his homer Sunday was fourth to come on the first pitch.

Having both Joneses clicking has an effect on the entire team, LaRoche said.

"It takes pressure off the rest of us," said the first baseman, who has three homers on the trip and six this season, and leads the Braves with 27 RBIs. "When they're going good, it's a more relaxed feeling at the plate - not just for me; I think I speak for everybody."