

Jays eliminated from North Dufferin playoffs



By Jake Courtepatte

A stellar season has come up short for the Aurora Jays against an experienced North Dufferin Baseball League champion. After sweeping the Ivy Leafs in the opening round of the NDBL playoffs, the Jays were eliminated in four games Saturday against the five-time champion Bolton Brewers.

‘There is a reason why Bolton won so many championships,’ said manager Rob Wilson. ‘Unfortunately, we became another chapter in their impressive story.’

‘While I feel like we didn’t play our best baseball, that’s no slight to their team and my hat’s off to them.’

After Bolton took Game One by a score of 7 ? 4 in the best-of-five series, Aurora tied it up with a 5 ? 4 win in Game Two, before the Brewers took Game Three on Thursday and Game Four on Saturday to close out the series.

The Jays finished the regular season with a record of 21-6-1, good for third place in the fifteen-team league.

Wilson said he believes this year’s squad was ‘one of the best teams we’ve ever fielded.’

‘It’s tough to not get to play for the Strother Cup, but a 21-6-1 regular season is something to take pride in,’ said Wilson. ‘We will take the week off to rest some aches and head to the senior AA provincials well rested and hungry for a championship.’

Always a threat offensively year after year, the Jays had a number of breakout stars defensively this season as well, something Wilson hopes will only improve with experience.

‘Thinking back over the year, what stands out for me is the impressive skill our younger guys are bringing to the club,’ said Wilson.

‘Aaron Giroux at third, had an All-Star year.’

‘Our pitching staff is so bright, it hurts to look at between Thomas D’Andrade, Devon Wu, and Rob Spencer.’

In a season full of highlights, what stood out the most?

‘Nate Robinson throwing a no-hitter, followed by a homer in his first at-bat of the next game (same day),’ said Wilson. ‘It doesn’t get much better than that!’

In the other semifinal series, the reigning champion New Lowell Knights took five games to eliminate the Clearview Orioles and move on to the championship round.

The finals, set to begin next Saturday, will be a best-of-seven round and only played on weekends.

For stats, schedules, and more information, visit www.ndbl.ca.