

## BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS SPOTLIGHT: Aurora King Mosquito Rep Baseball



The 2016 Aurora King Jays Mosquito Rep Baseball team had an incredible season!

The team consists of 12 boys born in 2005 who began training indoors in February. The team had a busy season planned, playing in the York Simcoe (YSBA)/Toronto (TBA) interlock AA league along with five tournaments and league playoffs.

The team began the season by winning our home Aurora tournament in early June. We followed that up by winning the Newmarket Silver Bat tournament in July, becoming the first ever Aurora team to win Newmarket's Mosquito tournament.

To challenge our boys heading into playoffs, we entered a tough AAA tournament where most of the top teams in the province were playing. The team was up to the challenge, making it all the way to the championship game before finishing runners-up.

This was the perfect tune up for the team to finish the regular season in first place for the YSBA with a 19-3 record, followed by a successful weekend to win the YSBA AA playoffs with a 3-0 record to clinch a spot in the Labour Day weekend OBA AA provincial finals.

The OBA provincial finals bring together the top 12 teams from across Baseball Ontario at each level to compete in a three-day, double knock out tournament to decide the provincial champion.

In our first game, we were matched up with a strong Niagara Falls Falcons team and we were defeated 7-4. This left the boys on their last life: one more loss, and we were going home.

Saturday morning brought another tough match against a strong North Toronto Athletics team from our league who had handed us two of our three regular season losses, but we won a nerve racking 4-1 game.

Next up was Halton Hills Eagles, who we had won and lost against earlier in the season, and we had a strong game to win 9-6. This setup our third game of the day against the Guelph Royals, who we had never played. We had our best game yet to win 15-4 and advance to the final 4 teams on Sunday: Aurora King, Barrie, Niagara Falls and London West.

Our Sunday morning match up was London West, another team we had won and lost against this year. We played yet another great game to win 14-1. In the other game, Barrie defeated Niagara Falls, which left Barrie as the undefeated team and Aurora with one loss.

This meant to win the title, Aurora would need to beat Barrie in two consecutive games.

Barrie were the defending OBA provincial champions, and our fierce rivals from the YSBA league. The first game started with Barrie scoring in the top of the 1st, but then Aurora's bats stayed hot and they cruised to a 13-3 win, setting up a winner-take-all final game!

The final game didn't disappoint, and was the closest, most exciting game of the weekend. It was a pitcher's duel with fantastic defense, and the game was tied 0-0 going into the seventh and final inning. Following a Barrie pitching change, Aurora's bats woke up and some great hits and a few breaks lead to scoring five runs. However, Barrie wouldn't go down without a fight. In the bottom seventh, their top of the order strung together a few hits and they got a few breaks of their own. This setup a situation with four runs

in, two outs and the tying runner on third base and the winning runner on second base. Aurora was able to get the swinging strike out to clinch a very stressful 5-4 win and the provincial championship!

What a season for Finn, Blake, Gabe, Brennen, Tyler, Fionn, Nate, Darcy, Luke, Nicho, Will and Nathan, along with coaches Jordan, Greg, Dave and Ryan!!