

Four Aurora Jays nominated for North Dufferin All-Star game



By Jake Courtepatte

A league-high four players and one manager from the Aurora Jays AA baseball team have been voted into the North Dufferin Baseball League All-Star game, which will take place this Saturday in Midland.

Brad Crosby, Chris Fafalios, Phil Hache, and Ian Rettie are in the lineup to represent the East Division All-Stars, managed by their team manager, Michael Keon.

Crosby has had a solid season both on the mound and at the plate for the Jays, giving up eleven runs through 13.2 innings of work this season. Offensively, he sits third on the team with a .435 batting average, one of two Jays to have twenty hits so far this season.

Fafalios has seen similar numbers in his thirteen games this season, cranking three home runs over that period.

While his power at the plate isn't as obvious as some of his teammates, Hache has been able to find his way on base and across home plate this season through strong base-running and a keen eye for the ball, boasting a .574 on-base-percentage heading into the All-Star break.

The most obvious choice as an All-Star is certainly Ian Rettie, who has dominated all aspects of this hitting game across the league all season. Described by coach Rob Wilson as "a monster?", Rettie's .646 batting average is no product of a low number of at-bats. In fact, he has the second most AB's in the Jays lineup, registering a run on almost half of them.

He leads the league in almost every statistical category - batting average, runs, hits, doubles, triples, home runs, and on-base percentage.

"He makes it look so easy," said Wilson earlier this season.

In regular season action, the Jays offensive prowess continues to bring them success week after week. Their only matchup last week was against the Barrie Angels, a 13-hit, 9 - 5 win highlighted by a monster three-run blast to dead centre by Fafalios. Rettie also went two-for-three in the contest, adding two doubles to his impressive season stat line.

The Jays, winners of five in a row, have climbed back into a position they are comfortable in at the top of the NDBL standings. They currently sit on a 12-3-0 record, good for second place behind the surging New Lowell Knights. Their 149 runs on the season greatly eclipses any of the competition.

They pick up again this week in Lisle on Friday, facing an Astros team that has won just one game all season. It's then a rematch with the Angels on Sunday, also on the road.

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