

Aurora Jays continue winning streak



By Jeff Doner

The Aurora Jays senior men's baseball team is red hot and looking for more.

The team carries an eight game winning streak into this week, which is highlighted by a one-hitter, complete game shutout performance from pitcher Andrew Bukovec against the Clearview Orioles last Tuesday.

The 1 ? 0 win wasn't the flashiest performance from the Jays this season, but it was one where pitching and defence outweighed a usually potent Jays offence.

?It wasn't pretty, but we'll take it,? Bukovec said modestly after the game. ?I just came in with some confidence today and with the team that we have, the bats can awaken any time and just being up on the mound with that mentality, it helps. It's good for all of our pitchers up there to know that our bats could spark up at any time.?

Bukovec, who rarely starts for the Jays, might start to toe the rubber a little more often, with nine strikeouts through seven innings in the win.

It was a quick game for the Jays, with Chris Bloom scoring the only run of the game.

After an absence from the team for a few years, catcher Fab Dolan is back behind the plate for the Jays and gave his team kudos for grinding out the win.

?It was a fun one,? he said. ?It felt like it was over before anyone really noticed what was going on. Buko was throwing a gem, so it was nice when you can get one of those even when the bats aren't there. To have the defense be what it was and the pitching being there, that's great.?

Jays notch two more wins in Sunday double header with Creemore and Mansfield

To make up some lost games due to weather earlier in the season, the Jays headed north for a double header against the Creemore Braves and Mansfield Cubs on Sunday.

Creemore was up first for the Jays, who had all parts of their roster chugging for the afternoon matchup.

Brad Crosby had a solid outing on the mound for the Jays in the 9 ? 1 win, while Zach Wiseman closed it out in the bottom of the seventh.

Veteran slugger Ryan Lewis went 3 for 4 with four runs scored to pace the offence, while Jake Pinnegar also had a solid game at the plate, going 3 for 4 with a home run.

Game two against the Mansfield Cubs was an absolute slugfest, with the teams trading leads throughout the game.

Pitchers Ian Milne and Ian Rettie pitched the first six innings for the Jays, but it was a clean three-up-three-down seventh inning for Wiseman that sealed a wild 12 ? 11 win.

Driving the offence against Mansfield was Ian Rettie with a home run and outfielder/catcher Chris Fafalios also belted his third home run of the season for the Jays.

They haven't been the prettiest wins, but the Jays haven't had to swallow a loss since the first game of the season.

They currently sit third overall with an 8 ? 1 record, just behind the Ivy Leafs and the first place Bolton Brewers.

Dolan said he likes what he sees from the team so far this season.

?I think we could always have a little bit more energy on the bench, but we like the fact that we have guys that have been around long enough that it's just a matter of time before they jump in and get a hit and things will go well,? he said. ?That's been the biggest thing coming back, just seeing that maturity on the bench.?

The Jays will look to extend their winning streak this week against the Lisle Astros Tuesday night at Lambert Willson Park and then on the road against Angus on Thursday and in Barrie on Sunday.

For schedules, stats and standings, visit www.ndbl.ca.