

Aurora Jays crack Ivy's unbeaten NDBL record

By Jake Courtepatte

A slow start to the North Dufferin Baseball League season has steadily improved for the Aurora Jays, who were able to do on Friday what no team has yet accomplished: defeat the Ivy Leafs.

It was a tough stretch of the schedule for the AA club, who opened the week against the heavy-hitting Bolton Brewers.

Thomas D'Andrade got the start on the mound for the Jays, giving up two runs on a walk and a pair of singles in the first inning before tossing three scoreless frames.

Stephan Valee, Chris Rettie, and Ryan Vanveen all crossed the plate for the Jays before the fifth inning, giving Aurora the lead before one run in the fifth ended D'Andrade's day.

Veteran hurler Andrew Bukavec came on in relief of D'Andrade, struggling in his second appearance on the mound this season, allowing nine runs in the sixth inning to put the game away for good in Bolton's favour.

Rettie and Vanveen both had multi-hit performances in the 16 ? 3 loss.

Reconvening three days later to face the Leafs, winners of their first six games, Aurora rebounded with ace Devon Wu's first win of the season.

Despite a three-run home run from Ivy, as well as a solo shot, Aurora's eight runs topped Ivy's six when the game was called in the sixth inning.

After a lackluster start in May, the Jays have improved to a record of 2-3-2 with just one loss in the last three weeks, good for ninth in the 14-team AA league.

Following a Tuesday night meeting with the Lisle Astros following press time, the Jays meet with the struggling Mansfield Cubs for the first time this season in a road game on Sunday.

Mansfield is one of two clubs yet to find a win this season, along with the Alliston Athletics.

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