

Aurora Jays keep their eyes on the prize, continuing winning streak



By Jeff Doner

The Aurora Jays senior men's baseball team is on a tear in the North Dufferin Baseball League and don't plan on letting up.

Currently sitting third in the standings (with games in hand), the Jays have a sparkling 13 ? 1 ? 1 record, sit third overall in runs scored (113) and have the second fewest runs against (53).

Last week they added to their impressive season with wins over the Bolton Dodgers and the New Lowell Knights, who happen to be chasing them in the standings.

?Absolutely we're keeping an eye on the standings,? said manager Rob Wilson. ?For us, it would be great to finish in first place, but really our main focus is for us to be top four and make sure we get home advantage in the playoffs. However, we try to take it one game at a time and not look too far ahead.?

On Wednesday night, the Jays traveled to Bolton for a game against the struggling Dodgers.

Veteran hurler Ian Mile started the game off strong and didn't waver, offering few chances for the Dodgers offence to make an impact on the game.

Milne pitched a complete game shutout with five strikeouts.

?It's not too often I freeze a batter looking and four of those strikeouts they were looking, so that feels pretty good,? he said. ?My last two starts have been pretty decent, locating the pitches a lot better than I was early on and it's good for the confidence and I think that's a big part of it for me.?

The Jays got going relatively early in this game, scoring three runs on the top of the third to take the lead. Chris Bloom led things off by getting on base and was eventually brought home on a hit by Ted Beadle. Ryan Lewis then collected two RBIs, bringing in Chris Rettie and Beadle.

Things stayed relatively close with the Jays' defence pitching in some big plays to keep the Dodgers at bay.

The Jays added another run in the fifth inning to make it a 4 ? 0 victory.

?The defence was great tonight,? Milne said. ?Normally we've got a pretty good defence anyway, but tonight especially there were some great plays in the infield by Crosby, Bloom, everybody was looking good out there.?

The next night the Jays were right back in action with a road game against the New Lowell Knights.

With Brad Crosby as the starting pitcher, the Jays scored what would end up as the winning run right away in the top of the first. They added five more runs in the top of the seventh to make it a 6 ? 0 win.

Crosby stayed solid throughout, pitching seven shutout innings, allowing only four hits and striking out four.

?They hadn't seen him before, so we thought we would spring something new on them and it certainly paid off as he only gave up four hits in the game and they're a pretty good hitting team,? Wilson said. ?It's another instance where some sound pitching and sound defence kept us in a game that was pretty well 1 ? 0 throughout.?

Wilson added that he is encouraged about his team's ability to play in close games and deliver the win.

The Jays scored their six runs on five hits, paced by Bloom who scored two runs and Beadle who went three for four with a double. For schedules, stats and standings, visit www.ndbl.ca