

Aurora Jays remain undefeated in North Dufferin league

By Jake Courtepatte

It may be too early to tell, but this year's incarnation of the senior AA Aurora Jays seem as confident as always.

And why should they not, with most of the lineup remaining from last year's heavy-hitting squad?

The Jays have jumped out to a 3 ? 0 start in the 2016 North Dufferin Baseball League season, holding a perfect record, albeit a number of postponements and playing the least number of games through May.

In their first game in two weeks, Aurora hosted the Lisle Astros last Tuesday at Lambert Willson Park. Despite giving up the first run of the game in the top of the first inning, the Jays' bats warmed up quickly and scored one run in each of the second, third, fourth, and fifth innings, and took a 4 ? 3 lead into the sixth.

The Astros tagged reliever Brad Crosby with the tying run in the top of the sixth, but the tie was short lived. The Jays scored four in their half of the inning, including an Ian Rettie homer, to cruise to an 8 ? 4 victory.

Seven different batters put eight runs on the board for the Jays, including extra bases from Rettie (home run), Ted Beadle (double), and Stephen Vallee (triple) who went two-for-four.

?We've got a lot of guys hitting well so far,? said manager Rob Wilson. ?Most guys have been playing together for years, so we know what everyone is capable of. It's a good start.?

Newcomer Devon Wu pitched a gem for the Jays in a starting role, going four innings while giving up one hit and one run while striking out two. Crosby earned the win with three innings of work, giving up three hits and three runs.

With only three games under their belt, the NDBL standings are yet to be reflective of the Jays' season. While most other teams have played at least six, the league-leading Midland Indians currently hold a 7 ? 1 record.

One thing is clear, however: the Jays remain the top dogs offensively in averaging ten runs per game, far and away the highest run support in the 14-team league.

Three games on the docket this week should help the Jays play catch-up. They hosted the Bolton Dodgers following press-time Tuesday evening at Lambert Willson Park, and are in Orangeville on Friday to face the 2 ? 4 Giants.

They close out the week Sunday when visiting the 6 ? 0 New Lowell Knights.

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