

Bats coming alive in Aurora Jays' winning streak

By Jake Courtepatte

It was a good week to be an Aurora Jay.

A pair of mercy-ruled games continued to showcase the heavy-hitting capabilities of Aurora's AA ball club, who are riding a four-game winning streak in which they have outscored their opponents 44 to 8.

"Our bats are starting to come around after a slow start," said player manager Rob Wilson.

An important matchup in Lisle on Friday against the similarly-streaking Astros saw the Jays fall behind early by a score of 5 to 2, before fourteen straight runs ended in a merciful 16 to 5 game.

Veteran pitcher Devon Wu earned his second win of the year on the mound, with Nathan Robinson coming in to close it out.

Sunday's matchup, an impromptu rescheduled game following a rain-out early this season, saw the struggling Newmarket Cornhuskers take a 1 to 0 lead in the first inning, before Aurora turned on the jets to score eleven straight of their own and earn the mercy win.

Ian Milne is a perfect one for one on the season in his first pitching start, while Brad Crosby came in in relief in his first appearance of the year.

Ian Rettie, a veteran powerhouse hitter with the team, cranked a home run in each game to take the team lead and tie for second in the league totals.

With wins in eight of their last nine games, the 8-2-0 Jays have moved up to second place in the fifteen-team North Dufferin Baseball League, behind only the 8-1-2 Orangeville Giants with a game in hand.

"(Defense) and pitching has been good," said Wilson. "The bats coming alive gets real interesting."

He credits a combination of faces both new and old in the team's early season success.

"Aaron Giroux, new this year, has had his bat come to life and is an on-base machine," said Wilson. "That combined with annual trusty bats (Daniel) Lehmkuhl, (Chris) Fafalios, (Stephan) Vallee, etc."

They will hope to keep the good times rolling on Thursday when they return home to host the Bolton Dodgers (1-5-0) at Lambert Willson Park, with first pitch set for 7.30 p.m.

Sunday will see the Jays head to Creemore to face the 7-2-0 Braves in an afternoon matinee game.

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