

Costly loss for the senior Jays against Barrie



By Jake Courtepatte

The Aurora Jays have lost three of their last five games towards the end of the season, following a loss on the road and a win at home last week.

With an empty weekday schedule, Brad Crosby, Stephan Vallee, and Daniel Lehmkuhl kept warm Saturday by taking part in the league's annual All-Star game, taking place at Ross Houston Park in Lisle.

Nine innings weren't enough for the Jays' East division to cash a run, with the West taking the contest with a 6 ? 0 score. Vallee was the only Jay to earn a hit in the game.

Following the All-Star break, the Jays returned to action Sunday in a matchup with the lower-ranked Barrie Angels. For the first time in franchise history, the Angels came out on top.

Aurora starting pitcher Andrew Bukovec was taken for a ride in the second and third innings, giving up seven runs over a span where his offence failed to cash a run. Ian Rettie crossed the plate for the Jays in the fifth inning, but too little too late, as the Angels won big, 9 ? 1.

Bukovec picked up his second loss of the season, giving the Angels eight runs over six hits in his four innings of work. Chris Rettie came in in relief in the final two frames, allowing the final run over two hits.

As is often the case with this year's Jays squad, the loss was not indicative of the offensive output. The Jays actually outhit the Angels 10 ? 8, with multi-hit games from Ian Rettie, Crosby, and Chris Fafalios.

The 12-8-0 Jays have sixteen more runs than the second-highest scoring team in the North Dufferin Baseball League, the 16-3-2 Ivy Leafs. Their 119 runs against, however, is fourth worst in the league.

The team regrouped to pick up a much-needed win over the lowly Mansfield Cubs on Monday.

Sunday's loss may be a costly one for the Jays, who remain in a tough battle for a top seeded position for the postseason with just over one week left on the schedule. Although just three points out of third, the fifth-place Jays are also only five points out of tenth.

The Jays visit the eighth-place Dodgers on Wednesday following press time, and are on the road all weekend facing the last-place

Nobleton Cornhuskers on Saturday and the seventh-place Lisle Astros on Sunday.

The season concludes for the Jays next Thursday.

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