

Jays drop opener to Creemore Braves



By Jake Courtepatte

A pair of multi-run long balls were the kickers in the Aurora Jays' road loss to the Creemore Braves on Sunday, dropping the North Dufferin Baseball League contest by a score of 11 ? 5.

Veteran pitcher Devon Wu started for the AA club and was tagged with the loss, giving up a two-run homerun to Creemore's Bryan Post before another two-run shot from Bryce Watson put the game away for good.

Brad Crosby came in in relief of Wu midway through the fifth frame, after a ten-run pair of innings. Crosby allowed a pair of runs on 1.1 innings.

The score failed to tell the whole story for the perennial offensive powerhouse Jays, who had all but one of the entire order register a hit. Aaron Giroux, Rob Spencer, Paul Bukovec, Zach Wiseman, and Wu each cashed in a single run.

Despite retaining some of their best arms on the mound in that of Wu, Daniel Lehmkuhl, Andrew Bukovec, and Crosby among others, coach Chris Rettie said the team did lose some veteran starters over the offseason.

?We picked up a couple of guys to make up for some losses,? said Rettie.

Hoping to build off a 2017 season that saw the Jays finish third in the regular season standings with an impressive record of 21-6-1, Rettie said some new and old faces alike will have to step to the plate to keep them at the top.

?We're looking for a couple players to step up this year, to make up for the veteran players that we lost last year,? said Rettie. ?We're confident with the guys we have that we can still make the playoffs and make a run for the championship.?

The Jays returned to the mound on Tuesday following press time to host the newly-named Midland Mariners, and go into a week's break before hosting the Bolton Dodgers at Lambert Willson Park next Tuesday.

First pitch is set for 7:30 p.m.

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