

## Jays knocked out in first round of NDBL playoffs



**By Jake Courtepatte**

It was a disappointing end to a short post-season for the 2015 Aurora Jays, one in which they showed a lot of promise.

The team bowed out of the first round of the North Dufferin Baseball League playoffs on Sunday, stunned by the seventh-place Orangeville Giants in just four games.

Orangeville, whose offensive production began to hit a good pace near the end of the season, put the bats to the Jays' pitchers throughout the series, despite Aurora sending their best arms to the mound.

The series kicked off last Tuesday in Aurora, with Orangeville earning the win to take an early lead in the series. A two-run home run from Chris Fafalios wasn't enough for the Jays, who fell 5 ? 3 in one of their lowest scoring games of the season. The loss went to Rob Spencer, arguably the Jays top pitcher of the year.

The teams returned to Aurora on Friday, with Orangeville lighting up Aurora's Brad Crosby in a ten-run output. Aurora countered with four of their own, taking the loss and turning the best-of-five series into a 'do-or-die' format.

The first game in Orangeville went on Sunday, with Aurora finally seeing the output they had come to expect all season, taking Game 3 in a high-scoring 10 ? 9 affair. Unfortunately, they lost their momentum later that afternoon, allowing Orangeville to take the series at home.

Ian Rettie, the league's top hitter in a number of categories this season, took to the mound for Game 4. He was handed the 8 ? 4 loss.

'We just didn't have it all series,' said Aurora bench boss Rob Wilson. 'We weren't connecting like we're used to. It's disappointing.'

Despite the Jays being one of the top contenders in the NDBL for the last handful of seasons, the club is still in search of its first win of the Strother Cup. They were runners-up to the Ivy Leafs last season, who took the championship series at home in four games.

Orangeville now moves on to the second round and awaits the final series of the first round to be decided between Bolton and Clearview this week. The other two series were also decided on Sunday with first-place New Lowell finishing a sweep of the Mansfield Cubs and Ivy completing their win over Barrie.

Wilson said his team has to take the loss in stride.

?The team just has to come back out next year, and hopefully we'll be contenders. We've got what it takes to be a championship team, the key components are there. We just have to put them to use in the post-season.?

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