

Jays to open NDBL season Sunday



By Jake Courtepatte

The boys of summer are back, and the Aurora Jays will be looking to make the 2017 season their first championship one yet. The perennially competitive senior level ball club opens their regular season schedule this Sunday, in an opening weekend that sees all 15 North Dufferin Baseball League teams hit the diamond.

Only the Bolton Brewers are newcomers in the League's 85th season, and are only newcomers in a sense: the club left the AA league in 2015 to pursue a path in the AAA Greater Toronto Baseball League, having now rejoined the NDBL where they won five consecutive league championships between 2009 and 2013.

Aurora was sent packing in the second round of the Strother Cup playoffs in 2016 by the New Lowell Knights, after a three-game sweep of the Midland Indians in round one.

They finished sixth in league standings with a record of 14-11-1.

New Lowell has emerged as the league's top team since the departure of the Brewers, winning back-to-back Strother Cups.

With an almost identical roster to the 2016 squad, the Jays will get an early opportunity to exact revenge on the Knights when the two face off Sunday afternoon at New Lowell Recreation Park.

First pitch is set for 1 p.m.

Home games will once again be played almost exclusively on Tuesdays at Lambert Willson Park in Aurora, with the home opener set for next Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. against the Bolton Brewers.

Each team will play fourteen home games and fourteen road games throughout the regular season, culminating at the end of July.

The Lisle Astros will host their annual Victoria Day weekend tournament May 20-22 while the New Lowell Knights have a tournament for the Civic Holiday weekend in August.

The League's All-Star Games are planned for July 8 in Midland with a senior and junior contest on the docket.

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