

Jays win again off heavy bat from Rettie

By Jake Courtepatte

The offence continues to lead the way in Aurora.

It was another double-digit win for the senior Aurora Jays last Tuesday, taking down the Lisle Astros 16 ? 6 in their only game of the week.

The twelve hit performance, scored by a bevy of what was mostly singles and doubles, once again proved the power of the Jays' hitting, of which player coach Michael Keon calls their "best ever."

"It's certainly an area where we've had no issues," said Keon. "We've always been a big hitting team, and it's gotten us into the playoffs."

Ian Rettie has been a large part of that success, going 4/4 in Tuesday's game while cashing in four runs. He's now hitting an astonishing .634 on the season, while also leading the North Dufferin Baseball League in runs and hits.

"His numbers are just unheard of. We've never had one player so dominant out there at the plate?it's amazing."

Eleven games into the season, the Jays are averaging double-digit production per game with 115 runs in total ? a league high. While there is competition offensively from the first-place New Lowell Knights, Keon credits the departure of the now AAA Bolton Brewers as a factor in their offensive dominance.

"Bolton was always kind of our big competitor for output," said Keon. "We're always up there in runs?but with them gone, it makes our total look even bigger."

The numbers should come as no surprise, considering the team is largely made up of the same squad that took the Jays to the NDBL finals last year. Only two players graduated from the junior team, a team that won their own championship in 2014.

Third baseman Phil Hache was one of those two, and has quickly made a name for himself within the senior division. He sits at a .448 average, with the second-most multi-base hits on the team.

"He's been great for us," said Keon. "Especially since third base was a position we needed to fill this season?he's really an overall player."

Defensively, the Jays have benefited from the arm of Rob Spencer. The ex-Junior Jay has put in eleven innings of work for the Jays this season, giving up only six hits over the span.

Keon says he has a good feeling about Spencer as a solid pitcher for years to come.

"We've been really impressed with his visibility. Right now it's just a matter of maturing as a pitcher, and learning how to fight through things, which comes with time. But he's very promising, and we're excited to see what he can do."

Mostly pitching in relief, Spencer was set to have his first start on the mound last Friday against the Orangeville Giants before rain put a damper on his parade.

With Friday's game in Orangeville rained out, the Jays schedule is a busy one this week. They go after press time on Tuesday and Wednesday at home against Nobleton and Orangeville, respectively, before hitting the road on Thursday to face the Midland Indians, which should prove their biggest challenge of the week.

?It's always difficult to get guys out for games so far away,? said Keon. ?But we'll do our best with what we've got and keep doing what we're doing.?

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