

Brewers clinch opening-day double header

By Brian Lockhart

The Bolton Brewers opened the 2014 season with back-to-back wins over the Nobleton Cornhuskers Saturday.

The doubleheader was supposed to be played in Nobleton but was changed to the Bolton diamond at North Hill Park when the Township of King withdrew all park permits due to wet conditions on the field.

"It was a slow start," said Brewers' coach Mike Wallace. "Between both teams through the first two innings, there was 12 strike-outs. In the fourth we got two runs. Greg Keenan got an RBI ground-out, then Brett Bond got an RBI ground-out and we scored two. In the fifth, Brett Bond hit a two-run home run. Greg Keenan had a two-run double."

The game got underway under cloudy skies and started to get some rain after a couple of innings, but Wallace said the playing conditions were good despite being slightly wet.

"It's actually pretty good," he said. "It wasn't too bad. The way this infield is set up, it's the best time of year for this type of infield. It's soft. When you get into June and July, it dries out and it becomes like concrete. Today the ball stays down in the infield."

In the end, the Brewers left the diamond with a 9-0 win to start the season.

None of the teams got much outdoor practice this year because inclement weather has made it pretty difficult.

"Practice has been limited because of the weather, so we're kind of thrown right into the fire of things," Wallace observed. "We had a couple of ugly swings early on, but hopefully we've got them out of the way. For us, it's just trying to get up to speed as fast as we can."

After taking a break, the squads returned for the second game of the afternoon with a 3:30 p.m. start.

Again the Brewers showed their hitting prowess and loaded the bases in both the first and second innings, although they couldn't finish it off to score.

They picked it up in the later innings and finished the game with seven runs while keeping Nobleton down to a single for the game.

The Brewers were supposed to play Creemore Sunday, but that game was postponed due to bad conditions as well.

It was a problem that went around the League with the Ivy Leafs and Lisle Astros game scheduled for Saturday also being canceled as the Lisle field had open water in the outfield.

Hopefully, there will be a few sunny days to dry out the local diamonds and get back on a regular schedule.

The Brewers are scheduled to host the Orangeville Giants this Saturday (May 10) at North Hill Park.

Game time is 4 p.m.