

Brewers earn back-to-back victories in GTBL

By Jake Courtepatte

The Bolton Brewers can finally breathe a sigh of relief.

They have won their first two games of the Greater Toronto Baseball League season.

After playing to an 0-13 record through the first two months of the AAA season, the Brewers met the Martingrove Sox for the first time in a road doubleheader last Thursday.

Game one of the series became closer than needed for the Brewers, who took a 7-2 lead into the bottom half of the final inning. The Sox rallied to take advantage of the exhausted arm of Andrew White, who was making a bid for a complete game for the Brewers, scoring four runs off White through two outs.

Trent Barwick came to clean up in relief, sitting down the final Martingrove batter to secure the save and Bolton's first win.

Both Brett Chater and John Hutchinson plated two runs for the Brewers in the contest.

Game two of the series played out quite similarly, with the Sox rallying to within one run of a comeback.

Chater, Mike Wallace, Eric Cirone, Francesco Amantea, and Cole Quinlan all scored in the bottom of the first inning, with Barwick returning to the mound still fresh after just 0.1 innings worked in game one.

Taking a 6-0 lead in the second off another run from Chater, Martingrove scored two in the third inning and four in the fourth to tie the ball game.

Martingrove took a 7-6 lead in the top of the sixth, before Bolton knocked in two runs in their half for an 8-7 win.

Barwick earned the solo win in going the distance, striking out three batters while giving up five runs over eight hits in a complete game.

The victories are especially significant to both sides, as the Brewers and Sox have been locked in a battle all season to stay out of the league's basement.

Bolton has now leapfrogged Martingrove into the sixth-place spot in GTBL standings, their 2-13 record outweighing Martingrove's 2-15.

The wins were a long time coming.

Previously, the second meeting between the Brewers and the Pickering Red Sox was a one-sided affair after the second inning.

Bolton held a 6-3 lead following a five-run top of the second, before Pickering had a five-run half inning of their own and broke the floodgates open.

The game was called on the mercy rule in the seventh inning with the score 17-7.

Andrew White earned the loss on the mound for the Brewers, giving up 18 hits and 15 runs through five innings of work. The outing was a blip in the veteran's season pitching stats, having thrown three stellar games earlier in the year.

Nick Boyd gave up two walks in the sixth, but pitched a shutout inning, while Nick Pettinaro worked the first out of the seventh before two runs had the game called.

Scoring for the Brewers was Chater with two runs, and Cirone, Mike Wallace, Adam Wallace, Boyd and Pettinaro each with singles.

Pickering pulled to an even record of 7-7 on the season with the win.

They will be looking to keep this new streak going on the road tonight (Thursday) in Leaside as they face the 11-6 Leafs.

The next home game is scheduled next Thursday against the Thornhill Reds at North Hill Park.

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



Bolton's John Hutchinson connects on a pitch against the Pickering Red Sox. The Brewers lost to the Sox 17-7.



Brett Chater of the Bolton Brewers slides safely into third against the Martingrove White Sox. Photo by Jake Courtepatte