

Brewers off to a good start in AAA league

By Jake Courtepatte

Just one game into their first season in the Greater Toronto Baseball League, the Bolton Brewers are proving that they belong there. A late rally produced a ton of runs in the final few innings, as they took down the Pickering Red Sox 10-8 in their season debut last Tuesday.

Starting pitcher Andrew White allowed one run per inning for the first three, before settling down and pitching three more scoreless in a solid six-inning outing. He allowed only six hits before retiring.

Offensively, Daryl Bond drove in the Brewers' first run of the season in the third, with the rest of the lineup not able to muster up much through six, down 3-1.

But any doubts of the Brewers' competition level were erased in the top of the seventh, as the bats exploded for six hits and six runs. Brandon Hurst came in to replace White in the bottom half, striking out one and allowing zero hits.

The offense continued into the eighth inning, as Bolton added three more runs.

Brett Chater crossed the plate three times for the Brewers over two innings, utilizing a hit, a couple walks, and some good base-running to give Bolton a sizeable 10-3 lead.

A momentary lapse in defense provided a scare for the Brewers, as a series of doubles and errors allowed Pickering to crawl back to 10-8.

Hurst was credited with the save after coming back in for the ninth inning and sitting down all three batters he faced.

Having raised the Strother Cup in the North Dufferin Baseball League five times in the last six years, the Brewers jumped from AA to AAA-baseball this past offseason.

"We have what it takes to make it in this league," said coach Mike Wallace. "We've got some strong hitting, pitching, there's not really a glaring weak spot anywhere."

The Bolton squad will have to hope they can keep up a marathon pace ? not only is the competition at a higher level, but games are nine innings, as opposed to seven in the NDBL.

"We're pretty strong late in the game," Wallace said. "We're not worried."

They opened up their home schedule at North Hill Park yesterday (Wednesday) after press-time, hosting the Leaside Leafs. A doubleheader is scheduled for the weekend against the East York Bulldogs Saturday.

Over in the NDBL, the Bolton Dodgers were perhaps a little stale last Friday in their second game of the season, after a 12-day break.

A tough start on the mound for Tyson Hansen put the Dodgers down early to the Ivy Leafs, as they ran up the score, plating five runs in the first inning. The final score was 8-0 after a strong performance from Leaf ace Brad Grieveson, an important factor in Ivy's championship win last season.

Jon Bloomfield was the only positive stat on the field for the Dodgers, going two-for-three at the plate. The Dodgers bring a 1-1 record to North Hill Park Thursday against the Angus Black Sox.

You can find the GTBL's stats, schedules, and standings at www.gtbl.ca

For the NDBL, visit www.ndbl.ca