

Brewers one game away from title as Aurora keeps series alive



Bolton Brewers pitcher Mark Horan warms up in the bullpen before game three of the Brewers final series with the Aurora Jays. The Bolton squad is leading 3-1 after suffering their first playoff loss Sunday. Photo by Brian Lockhart

By Brian Lockhart

The Bolton Brewers were stopped, at least for the moment, in their quest for a fifth straight North Dufferin Baseball League senior division championship.

The Aurora Jays pulled off a 6-3 win in the fourth game of the final series Sunday.

The Brewers were leading the series 3-0 going into Sunday's contest in Aurora and needed the win to clinch the title.

The Jays managed to keep the series alive with the win and the squads will now go to game five.

The Brewers were undefeated in the playoffs, winning the first round in three games over the Ivy Leafs before entering the second round and leaving with a sweep over the New Lowell Knights to earn the right to go the final against Aurora.

"It's a good start," said Brewers' coach Mike Wallace after the squad won the first two games of the series.

Game one of the series was cancelled last Saturday after heavy rain made conditions unplayable. The teams played the first two games as a double header the following afternoon with Bolton winning 9-8 in the first game then following up with a 9-5 win in game two.

"After game one was cancelled, they let us know right away," Wallace said of the decision to play the double header.

"If anything, we were a little rusty," he said of the start of the series. "We had a bit of a layover ? a good two weeks off," before getting back on the diamond.

Separated by only a single run in game one, Wallace said they were competitive matches.

"Both games were pretty much back and forth," he observed. "It almost seemed like what ever team that was going to get the big hit or make the big defensive play was going to win it. Sure enough, Nate Robinson got the big hit in the first game in the bottom of the 10th. He drove in the winning run."

Game three of the series returned to North Hill Park in Bolton last Thursday (Sept. 12), under cool and windy conditions. But that didn't seem to phase either team.

"It's kind of windy," Wallace said. "It's not ideal weather, but any time you're playing baseball in September, it's great."

The Brewers won that game 5-2 and the squads were back in Aurora for game four.

This time the Jays got the edge and the series will return to Bolton tonight (Thursday) for game five.

The first pitch is slated for 7:30 p.m. on the south diamond at North Hill Park.

If the series continues, game six will get underway in Aurora Saturday, and the date for game seven, if necessary, is the following day at 1 p.m.