

Dodgers on brink of elimination after second-straight loss



Starting pitcher Shawn English threw a complete game for his Dodger mates Monday night.

By Jake Courtepatte

The senior men's Bolton Dodgers baseball team came into the week holding onto their playoff hopes by a very thin thread. The Dodgers entered their home game last Wednesday against the Angus Black Sox in 12th place in the NDBL, four points out of a playoff spot.

Down 5-3 in the bottom of the seventh, Andrew English capped off a three-run inning with a walk-off double to give the Dodgers the win, 6?5.

Damien Allison went four innings on the mound, giving up five hits and four runs. He was relieved by Jon Bloomfield, who would allow just one run in the top of the sixth in a winning effort.

At the plate, Michael Gemmiti continued his dominance as the team's biggest power hitter, going three-for-four while scoring one run.

Riding high after their first walk-off win of the season, the Dodgers looked to match their efforts the next day in Midland facing the Indians. However, their bats were silenced as they were held to only five hits and two runs in a 3?2 losing effort.

After a weekend's rest, the Dodgers traveled to Creemore Monday to face the Indians. The teams came into the game tied in the standings, at 15 points apiece.

Pitcher Shawn English started on the mound, having missed the last three games. The rust showed in the first few innings, as the Dodgers quickly fell behind 4?0.

?The first couple innings were about getting back into the rhythm for me,? said English. ?I had to get my mechanics down again. But after that, I really settled back in.?

English did settle back in, as he pitched shutout baseball for the remainder of the game.

?Overall my velocity wasn't where I wanted it to be,? said English. ?I had to mix up my pitches a bit more. But all in all, it was a decent performance.?

Gemmiti gave the Dodgers a fighting chance in the top of the fifth, when he hit a solo shot that cut the lead to three.

The Dodgers would add one more, but ultimately would leave a runner stranded in scoring position in the seventh to lose the game 4?2.

?We really needed that win to keep the season alive,? said English. ?Now it's looking pretty doubtful for playoffs. We need a miracle in the last two games.?

It is now a must-win situation for the Dodgers, as they need a win in both of their final games this week in order to stand a chance of seeing the postseason. They were to face off against Clearview at home yesterday (Wednesday), and wrap up in Angus on Sunday.

The results of yesterday's match were not known at press time.

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