

Dodgers rally comes up just short against Creemore

By Jake Courtepatte

Following a pair of shutout victories at the end of last month, June hasn't been too good to the Bolton Dodgers AA squad. The pitching staff met the North Dufferin Baseball League's hottest offence last Tuesday in the Aurora Jays, who so far are averaging run production almost in double figures per game.

It was a night to forget in a mercy-ruled 18-4 loss.

Tysen Hansen was charged with the loss, after giving up nine runs over two innings in his third start of the year. Andrew English and Colin McKeen were the lone Dodgers players able to salvage a hit in the game, each driving a double and eventually scoring. McKeen has been an offensive powerhouse for the Dodgers so far this season, hitting .478 while putting up Bolton's only home run on the year.

Looking to put back-to-back losses behind them, the team played host to the Creemore Barons last Wednesday, a newcomer team that has quickly climbed into a contender position with their 8-2 record.

With Ron DiPalma on the mound, the first inning remained scoreless and showed signs of a pitcher's duel to come.

However, in the top of the third while up 1-0, the Barons seemed to solve DiPalma. They exploded for five runs through a series of singles and walks, chasing the Dodgers' pitcher from the mound after the inning. Luke Ratcliffe and English both scored in the bottom half, tightening the deficit to 6-2.

Shawn English came into the game in relief, settling in for a solid four innings of shutout baseball. He allowed only three hits, while striking out seven ? a season-high for the ace pitcher.

His contributions continued at the plate, as he went two-for-three in what was proving to be a mountable comeback for the Dodgers. After McKeen scored in the bottom of the fifth, Shawn English and Hansen also crossed the plate in the sixth, making for a one-run game and a nail-biting ending.

Unfortunately for the Dodgers, it was not meant to be, losing by a tough score of 6-5.

Three straight losses have set the Dodgers back to ninth place in NDBL standings with a 3-4 record. They will be looking to return to the .500 mark in a doubleheader Saturday as they visit the Midland Indians' Tiffin Park.

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