

Dodgers suffer fourth loss in a row to Orangeville

By Jake Courtepatte

The senior AA Bolton Dodgers have fallen to the number 10 spot in the North Dufferin Baseball League standings with their fourth loss in as many games.

Coming off an 11-6 shellacking at the hands of the Midland Indians last week, the Dodgers took a five-day break after last Wednesday's scheduled home game was postponed due to weather.

Their next match was Friday night at Princess of Wales Park in Orangeville, facing a 6-6-0 Giants team that was headed the other direction, with three-straight wins under their belt.

After a scoreless first inning, the Dodgers earned the first real scoring opportunity with a string of successful at-bats. Andrew English led off the top of the second with a single, followed by Shaun Bijai with a single of his own. Two batters later, a walk loaded the bases with only one out, which led to English scoring the first run of the game on a sacrifice fly.

Unfortunately for the Dodgers, Giants' starter Jesse Edmunds was dealing from there on, save for a solo home run from Colin McKeen, his first of the season. Orangeville followed up with seven runs of their own in a 7-2 victory on home field.

The rollercoaster of a season continues for the streaky Dodgers, who began with three-straight losses, then went on a 4-1-1 tear, and have now sunk four in a row. Their record falls to four games below .500 at 4-8-1, dropping from eighth to 10th in the 14-team NDBL.

This came after a week in which a trio of losses put the Dodgers back in the red after earning back-to-back wins.

The team hosted the Clearview Orioles at North Hill Park, where starting pitcher Damien Allison drew a loss he certainly did not deserve.

Allison and his Clearview counterpart Mike Blackwood were locked in a pitcher's battle all game, each going the distance in a 2-1 final. The Bolton hurler gave up his only two runs of the game early in the first inning, a single knocking in two baserunners, before cruising the final six innings while allowing six hits total.

Blackwood also allowed six hits, while only English crossed the plate for the Dodgers in the third inning, also going three-for-three on the night.

The scene moved to Tiffin Park in Midland to take on the Indians in an afternoon doubleheader, where Midland took all four available points.

Tysen Hansen pitched a gem of his own on the mound for the Dodgers in game one, allowing just three hits and two runs in a full six innings of work. He, too, did not deserve the loss, with Indians' pitcher Nathan Dix shutting out the Bolton squad 2-0.

Shawn Hansen and Michael Gemmiti both contributed multi-hit games.

Game two was an entirely different atmosphere, a slugfest that saw 25 hits combined between the two teams. The Indians converted on 11 of them, the Dodgers six, in which McKeen hit Bolton's first jack of the year.

Ron DiPalma took the loss for the Dodgers.

Through the first month of the AA season, the Dodgers have amassed a 4-7-1 record, good for eighth in the 14-team league. They sit one point up on the Barrie Angels, and two back of the Lisle Astros.

Returning to North Hill Park in Bolton Wednesday after press time for a home game with the Mansfield Cubs (1-11-0), the most crucial test of the week for the Dodgers comes Monday in a road match with the Lisle Astros. The Astros are currently four points up in Bolton in a tight standings race.

The Ivy Leafs lead the league with an 11-2-0 record.

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



A ball gets past Orangeville's Nathan Drury as Bolton's Andrew English pulls into third base at Princess of Wales Park Friday. The Giants won the meeting 7-2. Photo by Jake Courtepatte



Damien Allison went toe-to-toe with Clearview pitcher Mike Blackwood in the Bolton Braves 2-1 loss to the Orioles.