

Gemmiti earns some hardware for the senior Dodgers

By Jake Courtepatte

Despite a swift exit from the 2015 senior baseball playoffs, members of the Bolton Dodgers earned some honours for their commitment over the weekend.

The individual awards for the 2015 North Dufferin Baseball League season were handed out at Sunday's annual general meeting, held at the Lisle Royal Canadian Legion.

Among the honourees was the Dodgers' Michael Gemmiti, chosen as one of two recipients of the league's Most Sportsmanlike Player. A leader both on and off the field for the Dodgers, Gemmiti took part in all 26 games throughout the season, batting an impressive .379 while doling out a team-leading 36 hits.

Gemmiti, along with co-coaches Andrew English and Mark Kellett, were also among the nominees for Coach of the Year, though the honour was bestowed upon the New Lowell Knights' Peter Kinghan.

Ian Rettie of the Aurora Jays was the big winner as the recipient of five offensive awards, four of which he earned automatically through an impressive stat line and one of which was voted on by his peers.

A breakout year for Rettie saw him lead the 14-team league in each offensive category. His ability to reach base was highlighted by an incredible .603 hitting percentage, and reached base almost seven of every 10 at-bats.

Rettie's eight home runs through 20 games just edged out Jeff Shilling of the Midland Indians and Stephen Warden of the Clearview Orioles, scoring a total of 33 runs over the season, a lead he shared with his teammate Chris Fafalios.

His top honour of the evening was certainly being named the league's Most Valuable Player, chosen over nominees Todd Gowan of the Knights and Brad Grieveson of the Ivy Leafs, staples on the mound for their respective squads.

The North Dufferin league offers a junior and senior division with teams from Dufferin and Simcoe Counties, as well as York and Peel Regions.

Though they were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs by the Clearview Orioles, the 2015 season was the most successful yet for the Bolton Dodgers. The fifth-place squad reached the postseason for the first time, thanks in large part to the work on the mound from veterans Shawn English and Tysen Hansen, as well as the heavy hitting of Gemmiti and newcomer Colin McKeen.

The Knights defeated the Leafs in six games to win the Strother Cup in late September.

The 2016 season will get under way in early May. For more information, visit www.ndbl.ca