

NDBL season not far off ? Boys of summer will return in May

By Brian Lockhart

It may not look like it, but the start of the North Dufferin Baseball League (NDBL) season is just a little more than a month away. With this late-lasting winter, the ground crews might have to shovel snow on the baselines but bets are that spring will finally take hold and dry up the diamonds for opening day.

There are 15 teams in the senior division of NDBL this year including local entries the Bolton Brewers and the Bolton Dodgers. The Brewers are the returning champions after winning the title last season and becoming the only team in NDBL history to win the championship for five consecutive years.

They won the title in 2013 after a win over the Aurora Jays in game five of the final series. That win capped a stellar campaign that saw the Brewers finish the regular season with a 23-3 record and 46 points; five points ahead of the second place Orillia Majors.

The Dodgers completed the season with a respectable ninth place finish in the 14 team League and a 11-15 record.

They may have been on the negative side, but the Dodgers played a pretty solid season without going on any major streak either for or against.

NDBL met for its annual general meeting and awards night March 9 in Lisle.

The Dodgers' Michael Gemmiti won the best batter and best on base percentage awards.

Adam Wallace, from the Brewers, shared the best catcher award with Mansfield's Rob Kinsley.

The senior division of NDBL will play a 28-game schedule this year. All teams from last season will be returning, with the addition of Orangeville, who sat out last season after having difficulty filling the roster.

In the junior division, the line-up will expand with the addition of Aurora, Collingwood, Ivy and Midland. Returning teams are Alliston, Barrie, Creemore, and Orillia.

Two squad from last season, Stayner and Innisfil, won't be fielding teams for 2014.

The Juniors will have a 21 game schedule.

The NDBL season is slated to get underway May 3.

The schedule for both divisions will be on the League's website at www.NDBL.ca as soon as it is finalized.