

Senior Bolton Brewers bitten by East York Bulldogs

By Jake Courtepatte

It has been an ongoing, one-sided battle this Greater Toronto Baseball League season between the Bolton Brewers and East York Bulldogs.

For the fourth time in five games, the teams met again Saturday at the neutral Bishop's Cross Park in Markham, and the Bulldogs had been the victors in each of the previous matches.

This one would be no different, as the Bulldogs spread 13 hits and 14 runs across nine innings in a 14-3 win.

Trent Barwick lasted three and a third innings on the mound for the Brewers in the starting role, before a five-run inning knocked him out of the game. Nick Pettinaro, Justin DiTaranto and Carlos Perez split the remainder of the work, including a four-run final inning.

The Brewers' offense was there on a sunny Saturday afternoon, but men left on base and troubles crossing the plate dwindled the effects of their 10-hit game. Brett Chater went two-for-four with a run, Mike Wallace went three-for-three with a run, and Eric Cirone had a two-hit night.

Also scoring a run was newcomer Darius Barlas, who sits just one hit back of the league leader so far this season with 11 hits.

The previous week saw the Brewers fall flat in two lopsided losses last week to remain winless in the 2016 Greater Toronto Baseball League season.

Hosting the Leaside Leafs in Bolton, it was the Brewers who took an early lead with a three-run first inning, with Chater, Wallace and John Hutchinson crossing the plate. Both sides thumped hit after hit into the seventh inning, when the Leafs held a slim 7-6 lead. Leaside then spent the final two innings plating seven more runs, for a final score of 14-6 after working through five different Bolton pitchers. DiTaranto was tagged with the loss, tossing 2.2 innings and giving up two earned runs over four hits.

On a positive note, Bolton's heavy hitters had a strong outing. Chater was Bolton's most effective batter, going three-for-six cashing in three runs and adding an RBI.

Barlas, who plays American college ball, batted three-for-five. Both Chater and Barlas are in the top-10 in batting average for the league this season.

They were quieted, however, in East York to take on the Bulldogs. In their third meeting of the season, the Bulldogs overpowered the Brewers 12-1 in only five innings, featuring two home runs from Robin Fox-Pappas including a walk-off grand slam.

Fox-Pappas had belted another home run earlier in the game, as had Jake Gallo. Barlas was tagged with the loss for Bolton. The latest loss brings the Brewers' record to 0-8 on the season, although half have come at the hands of a single team. The Thornhill Reds lead the seven-team league with a record of 7-2.

Following a slow start to the 2015 season in their first full season in the AAA league, the Brewers felt a resurgence in mid-June and played .500 ball the rest of the way.

They will be looking for a similar effect in their next home game after a lengthy break, set for June 25 when they host the Newmarket Hawks (4-4-0) in a doubleheader.

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



Nick Pettinaro got the start on the mound for the Bolton Brewers June 2 at North Hill Park, a 14-6 loss to the Leaside Leafs. Photo by Jake Courtepatte