

Senior Brewers holding on against Reds in GTBL playoffs

By Jake Courtepatte

The Bolton Brewers are looking to book a spot in the Greater Toronto Baseball League final weekend after tying the Thornhill Reds in their best-of-three series Sunday.

Bolton avenged a heartbreaking loss in the first game, where they saw a two-run lead fade away in the ninth inning at Thornhill's Bishop's Cross Park Saturday.

Taking an early 3-0 lead, Bolton starting pitcher Trent Barwick was able to take a one-run game right into the final frame.

Mitch Sadofsky tied the game with just one swing, sending a two-run shot over the wall. Barwick perhaps showed some fatigue when three batters later Thornhill's Argenis Paz put the Reds on top for good with a two-run home run of his own.

Sunday saw the action head to Bolton's North Hill Park for the second game of the series, a do-or-die scenario for the Brewers.

Powering to an early 6-0 lead, opening with a four-run first inning, the Brewers rode a shutout into the fifth.

There the Reds put up a four-run inning of their own, tying the game in the top of the sixth.

Thornhill almost completed a tremendous comeback, but Bolton would not make the same mistake twice, scoring in each consecutive inning.

Alex Lojko earned the decision in a 9-7 win, while Nick Boyd earned the save.

The game was the first Bolton victory over Thornhill all season.

The third game was scheduled for last Wednesday evening (following press-time) on Thornhill's diamond. The winner will earn a place in the final-four weekend tournament, set for this weekend in Pickering.

The Leaside Leafs are already in, having clinched first place in the regular season standings and earning a bye. The East York Bulldogs are also through, sweeping the last place Martingrove Sox in two games, 5-3 and 9-0.

Pickering and Newmarket are still battling it out, with Pickering leading the series 1-0.

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



Trent Barwick throws out a pitch in the Bolton Brewers' playoff opener against the Thornhill Reds Saturday. The two teams are tied 1-1 in a best-of-three series. Photo by Jake Courtepatte