

Brewers look for a three-peat in new look NDBL

By Jon Yanoff
Sports Reporter

After two consecutive North Dufferin Baseball League championship titles, the Bolton Brewers will face new challenges in the new-look NDBL.

There was a lot made of the Brewers meeting the Aurora Blue Jays in the NDBL Final because they were teams from the East Division for the first time in the league's existence. There will now only be one senior division with the senior teams only playing themselves, instead of also the junior teams.

There are now 14 teams in the league, with the additions of the Orangeville Bengals and Washago Rama Rays, and each team will play a home-and-home series, totaling a 26-game season, which changes from a 22-game season from a year ago. Eight teams make the playoffs and the teams are re-seeded after every round. The junior division plays a 20-game schedule apiece.

"I'm definitely for the changes," said Brewers coach/player and new NDBL vice-president Mike Wallace. "I think it's going to be a more competitive league this year. You'll see more of a playoff race. I think with a lot of teams competing for the six, seven, eight playoff spots, it should be interesting."

The Brewers, coming off an 18-3 regular season, are continuing to look like a tough playoff contender, with a tremendous pitching staff consisting of starting pitchers Mike Blackwood, Paul Cardarelli, Dave Cornelius and Nate Robinson, and Greg Keenan, Brett Chater and Nigel Cutler coming out of the bullpen.

"We have a great pitching staff, so I'm trying to come back in and fit in wherever the team sees fit at this point and

get back to 2009 when I was a pretty competitive pitcher," said Cardarelli, who returns to the lineup after missing half the season with injury.

"We have the luxury of rolling them out every game and whenever they're on the mound we have a great shot to win," said Wallace. "We were 18-3 last year and large part of it was good quality pitching. Hopefully it can repeat itself."

The team's offence is pretty solid with Chater at the top of the lineup, providing the speed and with John Hutchinson, Steve Warden, Shawn Chalmers, Matt Blacklaws and Adam Wallace all capable of hitting the ball out of the park. The Brewers also added Steve's brother Pat Warden, who will fit in mid-season after surgery on his pitching arm in the off-season. Owen Somerville, Nigel Cutler and Ryan Smith will also bring versatility within the lineup.

Defensively, the Brewers are set in the outfield as long as Brett Bond is patrolling centre field.

"I'm sure the pitchers are grateful to see fly balls at his area because they know it's going to be coming down in his glove," said Wallace.

There is also Adam Wallace and Steve Warden behind the plate, both tremendous catchers, Chalmers at third is a great infielder and shortstop Chater with great hands up the middle.

With pitching, offence and defence, coach Wallace is confident his team will be competitive again this season.

"I'd definitely say we'll be one of the top three teams," said Wallace. "Anytime you say you're going to win it, in a competitive league like this, it might be tough, but I think our expectations are that we should compete for the third year in a

row and hopefully win it again.

"I'm sure the other teams will be pulling hard to knock us off, so we'll see how we respond, but I wouldn't sell ourselves short and say that we should be there when it comes down to it."

The Brewers begin the 26-game schedule against the Orangeville Bengals in Orangeville at Princess of Wales Park May 9 at 7:30 p.m. Bolton also play at the Mansfield Cubs May 11 at 6:30 p.m. The Brewers begin the home schedule May 12 against the Clearview Orioles at 8:30 p.m. **NDBL News:** The Barrie Red Sox folded and no longer have any senior teams in the NDBL, but they will have a junior team with five total junior teams this season, which includes Barrie, Midland Twins, Bolton Braves, New Lowell Knights and Richmond Hill Phoenix.

NDBL season set to start this week

The stage is set for another exciting season of baseball in the North Dufferin Baseball League with opening games May 6.

The 82-year-old league boasts five junior and 14 senior teams this year playing in separate divisions.

Opening night, two games will be played, with Clearview Orioles at Lisle Astros in the senior division and Barrie Red Sox at New Lowell Knights in the junior division. Games continue over the weekend with five senior and three junior games.

The regular season runs from May until the end of July with post-season play in August followed by the senior championship in September. July 10, Lisle will host the league's two all-star games, one for each of the senior and junior divisions.

Three tournaments are also scheduled, starting with Lisle's Annual Victoria Day Weekend tournament May 21, 22 and 23, in Midland June 18 and 19, and New Lowell's Annual Civic Holiday Weekend affair July 30, 31 and Aug. 1.

The full 232-game schedule is on-line at www.ndbl.ca, which is updated with scores on a daily basis.

Other key dates for Bolton teams include the Bolton Braves senior team starting their season at Gowan Memorial Park against the Creemore Braves Saturday (May 7) at 2 p.m. The Braves start their home schedule at North Hill Park Wednesday (May 11) against the Aurora Jays at 8:30 p.m.

The Braves junior team starts their season at home to the New Lowell Knights juniors Sunday (May 8) at 4 p.m. at North Hill Park. Bolton's road schedule begins at Richmond Green Sports Complex against the Richmond Hill Phoenix Monday (May 9) at 7:30 p.m.



Mike Blackwood and the Bolton Brewers are set to begin the 2011 NDBL season looking for a third championship in a row, but it won't be easy with a bigger schedule and one division instead of two. The Brewers start their home schedule May 12 against the Clearview Orioles at 8:30 p.m. For more information visit www.ndbl.ca.

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"The Betty Whites in my Life" By Caroline Petrie



In my more than 30 years of working in the health sector, I have spent the last 13 in Caledon Community Services' Supportive Housing Program, assisting seniors to live as independently as possible.

It has been my goal to improve their lives. CCS prides itself on helping people help themselves through innovative service delivery and in that regard, we've taken big strides forward in developing a basket of services that is pretty impressive. While I admit that I often feel stretched to the limit, I'm proud of my organization. We are constantly re-inventing ourselves to meet the needs of each one of our individual clients. I know that I can't fix everything, but I also know that I can enrich my clients' lives by giving them the strength, hope and encouragement to live as independently as possible.

I had a discussion recently with one of my clients about people's attitudes toward their lives. I noted that, "we can deal with the glass half empty or half full." She replied, "Honey all I want is a glass with wine in it!" Her humour is a great tool. This incredible senior came to live in CCS' Supportive Housing program after having a bad fall and a long recovery. She comes to the lounge every evening to play cards, Thursdays she spends with our Seniors Helping Seniors 'Knotty Knitters' and she goes to the Caledon Seniors Centre. This month she turns 90. She keeps on reaching out to life and living it to its fullest.

More recently another of my clients approached me upset. Her daughter had told her she was nuts! I suggested that she let her daughter know that nuts grow on trees, trees are part of nature, nature is beautiful and thanks for the lovely compliment! The expression on her face – priceless!

In our Supportive Housing program, "support" is the staple food on our menu and words of understanding with a dash of humour are often the side dishes. People want to be acknowledged and validated in their life; after all, when you reach your 60s and 70s and beyond, you've accumulated a wealth of knowledge, wisdom and experience. Providing opportunities to share with the younger set and provide leadership on large and small initiatives is what we're good at within CCS.

This past week a senior celebrated her birthday. She expressed disappointment that she didn't make a cake herself. I reminded her that she had made it to the store and then made it home again. Sounds home-made to me. We both had a laugh. This particular senior had to give up her car two years ago and felt she had lost her independence. So she bought a scooter. Now she goes out on her own for lunch dates. You'll see her speeding through Bolton on her red scooter; I suggest you step aside!

Working in Supportive Housing has enriched my life. I also like to believe that it has made the lives of others more abundant and added joy to their days. All it takes is a little creativity, a dose of humor and commitment. We have all of these in large measure here in CCS' Supportive Housing program for seniors.

How Do You See It?

Tell us how you see it.
You can reach Caroline Petrie, Supportive Housing Team Leader
at cpetrie@ccs4u.org

This column is provided free of charge by the Caledon Citizen.

Bolton Brewers Schedule

May

Monday, May 9 at Orangeville Bengals, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 11 at Mansfield Cubs, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 12 vs. Clearview Orioles, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 14 vs. Midland Indians, 1 p.m.
Thursday, May 19 vs. Aurora Blue Jays, 8:30 p.m.
May 21-23 – Lisle tournament
Thursday, May 26 vs. Bolton Braves, 8:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 29 at Angus Black Sox, 4 p.m.

June

Thursday, June 2 vs. New Lowell Knights, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, June 4 at Midland Indians, 1 p.m.
Sunday, June 5 at Ivy Leafs, 2 p.m.
Tuesday, June 7 at Creemore Braves, 6 p.m.
Thursday, June 9 vs. Washago Rama Rays, 8:30 p.m.
Sunday, June 12 at Orillia Majors, 2 p.m.
Thursday, June 16 at Orangeville Bengals, 8:30 p.m.
June 17-19 – Midland tournament
Thursday, June 23 vs. Mansfield Cubs, 8:30 p.m.
Monday, June 27 at Lisle Astros, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, June 29 at Clearview Orioles, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 30 vs. Ivy Leafs, 1 p.m.

July/August

Friday, July 1 at New Lowell Knights, 1 p.m.
Thursday, July 7 vs. Angus Black Sox, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 9 at Washago Rama Rays, 1 p.m.
Monday, July 11 at Aurora Blue Jays, 8:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 14 vs. Lisle Astros, 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday, July 20 at Bolton Braves, 8:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 21 vs. Creemore Braves, 8:30 p.m.
July 22-26 – makeup games
July 30 to Aug. 1 – New Lowell tournament

Playoffs begin Aug. 2