

Cornhuskers optimistic about new season



By Jeff Doner

The Nobleton Cornhuskers senior men's baseball team didn't accomplish what they wanted in their 2013 inaugural season, but with some new additions, a revamped Nobleton Sports Park and some optimism the team is looking forward to getting started.

Although the diamonds are still soggy from a relentless winter, the North Dufferin Baseball League season will commence on May 3 against the Bolton Brewers and player/manager Eric Jones said the team can't wait.

"We're always optimistic, I think we're definitely going to do better than we did last year and I feel like we'll be able to make the playoffs this year," he said. "We've got more pitching this year, so that'll help."

The team is definitely going to look different, with six players from last year gone and a few new faces coming in, knocking the roster down to 14 players.

"We're always trying to improve and hopefully we can just continue to try and make the team better. I think we've done a good job doing that this year," Jones said.

"We needed more bats and we've got a couple more in the lineup, which is good. Our whole lineup all the way through will be good and it looks like we'll always be using the DH."

Troy McLoughlin and Kevin Winters are two of the new faces joining the team and will be expected to step in and help out right away.

"They are two brothers of guys on the team already and they are just coming into the senior age now, so we picked them up," Jones said. "They're good players, will contribute and play hard. It's looking up to be a great year. I'm really excited."

Pitcher Steve Scobie has a stellar year for the Cornhuskers in 2013 and he is also willing to bet the new additions are going to pay off.

"I know a couple of the guys from a few years back and they're good ball players, so we're making strides and we'll be better, I know that," he said. "They'll bring us stability more than anything. These are guys that are going to be there every day and we know they're consistent players."

After finishing last season near the bottom of the standings, Scobie said improvements and a better start to the season are essential for success.

"I think our pitching is fine, but our hitting and defence is going to be vastly improved and that's going to be our difference maker," he said. "Our lineup is going to be a lot more solid one through nine and up the middle, we've got some new infielders, so it's going to be good."

The team is also putting stock into the fact that they finished off last season on a high note, winning a tournament in New Lowell and taking a few games in the final weeks.

For more information on the Cornhuskers or the NDBL, visit www.ndbl.ca.