

Baseball action still full-bore at half-way mark of summer

By **Simon Lloyd**

Summer has reached its half-way point but the action remains intense throughout the KTBA. Some teams have suffered from summer vacation attrition - a common ailment through July and August - but players have really stepped up their game to compensate for missing teammates. Here are some highlights from the past week throughout the league.

Senior Rookie

In their game on Wednesday, July 9, the Cobras Prism Painting Senior Rookies took the lead early and the bats were hitting strong throughout the first inning. Then the Aurora squad came back and took the lead by 3 runs. Cobras had last bat and down by 3 runs. They scored 4 runs to win the game in the bottom of the final inning, winning by a score of 9-8. The Prism Painting team's winning streak now stands at 4 wins in a row.

Jackson Templeman #32 is in his first year of baseball ever but is learning the game fast. He got 2 hits and 1 RBI in this game and made some great plays from outfield to get the runner out at second base and helped the Cobras to victory against the Aurora squad. Jackson is our player of the game!

Mosquito

The RCC Waterproofing Cobras played their first Saturday mid-day game and came up big, with a 9 - 5 victory. It was a hot day and the bats were hot as well, with cobras hitting every ball that came near the box. Great pitching once again from Lorenzo Rossi, Jonathan DiGiorgio and David Pagliaroli. Zachary Perruzza, Luke Pella, Jacob Diamond and Jake Falbo managed to create great offence and cash-in runs. Joshua Muller makes his return from holidays and keeps his bench in check. Luke Parolin, Kieran Purves show there stuff in the defence and manage to keep the game tight. It was the first back- to-back wins this year and the team looks forward many more.

The Cobras took the field again Tuesday in Aurora and unfortunately came up short. The boys came out strong in the first inning cashing in 5 runs and Holding Aurora to 0. The pitching was again stellar with Lorenzo Rossi leading the way, followed by Jonathan DiGiorgio, Luke Pella and David Pagliaroli. Gregory Aloia, Jacob Diamond, Zachary Perruzza fought hard for every pitch and managed to keep the counts full. The outfielders Luke Pella, Luke Parolin, Kieran Purves and Joshua Muller were kept busy in the outfield running down long hit balls. Great base running from Daniel Marini and Ryan Hull.

The highlight of the night came in the 4th inning. One out, ball hit to the pitcher (David Pagliaroli) who threw out the runner to first baseman (Lorenzo Rossi) then turned and threw to the back catcher (Jonathan DiGiorgio) who tagged out the runner from 3rd trying to advance to home plate.

The coaching staff couldn't be happier to see the boys making great plays like this and really understanding the fundamentals of the game.

Two days later, the team finally met up with their home-town rivals the Cobras sponsored by Bolton Dental Care, the game being played on each teams' home soil. RCC starts off strong with cashing in 4 runs in the first inning. Bolton Cobras came back with 3 of their own before Jake Falbo closed the door to end the inning.

The RCC Cobras were on their game that night with Luke Parolin, Luke Pella, Ryan Hull, Kieran Purves, Daniel Marini and Jacob Diamond all advancing bases and cashing in runs. Gregory Aloia created great offence with a single which he turned into a triple. Zachary Perruzza was very impressive that night as he challenged every pitcher and was swinging at every pitch in his wheelhouse. The night's pitching was once again very impressive with Jonathan DiGiorgio and David Pagliaroli taking the mound and pitching solid. In the bottom of the 4th inning coach Anthony made a pitching change and brought in Lorenzo Rossi to close out the inning and bring home the victory. The boys took the win 8-5.

Player of the game goes to Luke Parolin who was steady at the plate and only swinging at balls in his house. Congrats to Luke and all his teammates for a hard-fought game.

Peewee

With the list of holiday absences at its peak, the Wyndsong peewee Cobras found themselves with just enough players to field a team on July 14. The Aurora opponent, Breton White Oak, was determined to give the undefeated Cobras a challenge.

Katie Ritter's fly ball catch to grab the first out of the game highlighted the first few innings as the Aurora team showed patience at the plate, cashing in 10 runs. Matthew Testani's 2-out single in the bottom of the second kept the Wyndsong peewees alive offensively, eventually reaching home. With the Aurora team up 15-12 at the end of three, Marshall Moore took to the mound for the open 4th inning striking out 2 batters, and holding the opposition scoreless in the 4th. Daniel Martins lead off walk gave the Wyndsong peewees something to work with in the home side of the inning. With Moore's double and RBI singles by Logan Hall and Greg Long, the Cobras tied the game with a final score of 15-15.

Player of the game nod goes to Matthew Testani for his pitching debut and for going 3 for 3 at the plate.

The July 16 game saw the Wyndsong team meet their home-town rivals the Sports International Cobras in King City. Once again, the Wyndsong team worked hard to battle through a shortage of pitchers and a battery of injuries.

Max Orlandi led off the top with smart base running, followed by RBI singles from Brendan Ralph and Marshall Moore. 2nd baseman Daniel Martins opened the defensive side with a perfect toss to Greg Long at 1st, but the opponent took their time at the plate and cashed in 5 runs. The Wyndsong Cobras found themselves in a 10-3 hole going into the 3rd. Jesse Becker reached first on a walk after being struck twice at the plate in the first 2 innings.

Ralph took second base as a pinch runner for Erin Becker after she injured her leg stealing second. Aggressive base running also contributed to the list of injured players as Ralph and the catcher collided at home.

Despite the injuries, Wyndsong didn't give up and cashed in 5 runs in the third with singles by Katie Ritter and Greg Long, and walks by Max Orlandi, Jonah Orlandi and Daniel Martins. With some defensive help by Max Orlandi at 3rd, pitcher Testani held the opposition to 3 runs and a 5 run lead. The Wyndsong team cashed in another 3 runs on a single by Moore and double by Testani, but came up short against their rivals who took the game 19-11.

Player of the game goes to Max Orlandi for his all-a round contributions to the team effort including pitching, going 3 for 3 at the plate and his quick outs at third.