

## Schedule released for North Dufferin Baseball League



Cornhuskers' pitcher Scott Traverse tosses the ball to first baseman Lance McCormick against the Creemore Barons at Nobleton Sports Park in the 2015 NDBL season.

### By Jake Courtepatte

The boys of summer are back, and Nobleton's senior squad will be hoping for more luck on the diamond this season.

Baseball will be back in full bloom around the York and Dufferin regions on May 7, when the North Dufferin Baseball League kicks off its 2016 season with two games across the league.

The Nobleton Cornhuskers, this year playing most of their home games out of the Newmarket area, will open its fourth season in the NDBL on the road May 12 against the Midland Indians. They will be looking to return to the successful form they last experienced at the start of the 2014 season, before eventually failing to miss the playoffs with a 12th-place finish in the 14-team league.

A constant string of injuries last season often left the Huskers with a short bench and a restructured schedule, proving to be the team's demise as they managed to win less than a handful of games all summer.

The team's core returns for the 2016 season, including Mike LeClef and Steve Scobie, Nobleton's representatives at last year's All-Star Game in Midland. Eric Jones will once again take the helm in a player/coach role.

Home games for the will be split between Whipper Watson Park and Don McKnight Field, both located in Newmarket. For lack of scheduling, a number of 'home' games will be played on opponent's fields.

They open at Whipper Watson on May 28, hosting the Bolton Dodgers.

At a recent league meeting, executive membership approved the 2016 26-game schedule for the 14 senior teams, and an 18-game schedule for the four-team junior division.

The junior division includes almost a complete overhaul from the 2015 season, with only Ivy Rangers remaining. Teams from Mansfield and New Lowell will join the league, while Midland returns from a one-year absence.

The senior division includes the Alliston Athletics, who competed at the junior level for the past three years, as well as the Aurora Jays, Barrie Angels, Bolton Dodgers, Clearview Orioles, Creemore Barons, Creemore Braves, Ivy Leafs, Lisle Astros, Mansfield Cubs, Midland Indians, New Lowell Knights, Nobleton Cornhuskers and Orangeville Giants.

The Angus Black Sox folded this year and are taking a one-year leave of absence.

Other events in the season are the tournament hosted by Lisle on the Victoria Day weekend, and the New Lowell tournament on the Civic Holiday weekend, a tournament the Cornhuskers won in their inaugural season in 2013.

For full schedules, visit [www.ndbl.ca](http://www.ndbl.ca).