

Kinsmen Bantams win Kincardine tournament

The Kinsmen Bantam Yellow Jackets won their second tournament of the season in Kincardine on the July 7th weekend. These youngsters once again proved that the pressure-packed tournament atmosphere brings out their A-game.

A long drive to the park on Friday night may have contributed to a slow start that eventually cost them the opening game against Beamsville. Sluggish bats and inconsistent pitching resulted in a 7-3 setback. With the winner of the three pools advancing to playoffs along with one wildcard, the loss put us behind the eight ball right from the get-go.

Saturday morning's game would draw us against Centre Wellington and the players left little doubt as to their intentions as they buzzed out to put up 14 runs in the 1st inning alone before cruising to a 17-6 final. Michael Roelens and Brooks Myer were the pitchers in this lopsided win. Brent Loeffen and Jesse Breault each had a good performance at the plate contributing hits and scoring runs.

After some number

crunching it was apparent that our only chance to make it to Sunday play was to come up with a flawless game in our final pool match against Owen Sound. The coaches challenged the boys to shut down the opponents and they responded with the best defensive effort of the season when it was needed most. Adam Dunmore fanned 9 batters in 4 innings while centre fielder Zach DiLoreto speared a fly ball and threw a rope to first base to complete an amazing double play, stifling a would-be rally. But the play of the match was a diving catch in left field by Robert Murray that brought the bench to their feet in the final inning helping preserve a shut out. The score of 11-0 was indeed good enough to assure us of a date in the semi final on Sunday morning.

Listowel was to be the next victim of the black and yellow juggernaut as they were defeated soundly by a 13-7 count. Adam, Jordan Vernuccio, and Brooks provided the pitching but the real story of the game was the sudden power surge from the Essex squad. Long home runs by Matt Pepin,



The Kinsmen Bantam Yellow Jackets celebrate their tournament win in Kincardine last weekend. Back Row (l to r): Coach Dave Kigar, Coach Dale Myer, Brooks Myer, Brent Loeffen, Jesse Breault, Jordan Vernuccio, Jacob Côté, Michael Roelens, Taylor Wigle, Coach Paul Dunmore. Front Row: Nick Kigar, Andrew Klinard, Matt Pepin, Adam Dunmore, Zach DiLoreto, Robert Murray. Abent: Derrick Rogers.

Nick Kigar, and Andrew Klinard shocked the crowd and propelled us to the victory.

We got our wish and received a chance for revenge against Beamsville in the title game, and the boys jumped out to an early

lead. Our foes did not, however, fold under the pressure and matched us run for run for the rest of the game. The hot bat of Andrew was the difference maker here as he drove in 4 big runs with a

triple and a double. Jacob Côté and Taylor Wigle scored huge runs for us late in the contest to help preserve the victory. Michael closed out the win with a gutsy pitching performance

and the title was ours. We thank our sponsor, the Essex Kinsmen, for their unwavering support, and give a shout out to Derrick Rogers who was not able to join us for this trip.

Essex Mosquito 'B' Baseball

It was a busy and exciting Canada Day long weekend for the Essex Mosquito team. On Sunday, the team traveled to Windsor to play the Riverside Minor team. The weather was overcast and rainy, but that didn't dampen the spirits of the boys. The infielders did an excellent job with many defensive plays to keep the score close. The outfielders did lots of running and made many great catches. Kyle Hill made a great slide into

home plate but injured his knee, which caused him to miss the last inning of the game. In the end, the boys were not able to hold off the Riverside team this time.

On Monday, Riverside Minor traveled to Essex for what became the most exciting game of the season so far. It started off with a few great plays in the field by Vince Taylor, Alex Dunmore, Brad Moroun and Brody Masse. Brandon Flood, Jonah Hurst and Kyle

Hill all did a great job at pitching throughout the game. The score throughout the game was extremely close.

Midway through the game Joshua Grondin was up to bat and took a baseball in the face. He did not return for the remainder of the game, but the important thing is he was okay.

We were down a few runs, when Brandon Flood got up to bat.

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