



OVER \$1,000 IN CASH PRIZES TO BE WON EVERY FRIDAY!

Visit the OLG Slots at Western Fair Raceway every Friday from April 6 - 27, 2007 between 6:00pm and 9:30pm for a chance to WIN BIG CASH! Get spotted in a HOT SEAT and you can enter the CYCLONE of CASH!

Visit the Winner's Circle or call 1-877-912-5466 for more details!
Sun - Wed, 9a.m. to 3a.m. - Thurs. - Sat, 24 Hrs - 900 King St. E., London, ON

Read the Winner's Circle for complete rules and regulations. Draw time: 10:00pm. Must be 19 years of age or older. Void where prohibited. Photo identification required. No purchase necessary. Only one prize per person. All prizes given to winners.

Know your limit, play within it!
1-800-387-3333

The London Free Press

IN TOMORROW'S PAPER

NHL playoff coverage! Find out how your favourite team fared in the pages of our Sports section



Friday, 27 April, 2007

Subscribe

News Research Centre

Place a Classified Ad

Advertise

Cloudy
13°C

FULL CONDITIONS



SPORTS OTHER SPORTS

Majors feel this may be their year

Fri, April 27, 2007

After losing to Brantford in last year's IBL final, London went out and actively recruited.

By STEVE GREEN, FREE PRESS SPORTS REPORTER

E-MAIL TO A FRIEND

PRINT PAGE

WRITE US

lfpress.com



to see our

- Home
- News
- Opinion
- Columnists
- City & Region
- Today
- Sports
 - Sport Index
 - Golf Guide
 - High School Sports
 - Hockey
 - London Knights
 - Motorsports
 - Soccer
 - Western Mustangs
 - Women's Open
 - Other Sports
- Business
- Classifieds
- Photo Galleries
- WEEKLY
 - Wheels Auto Seller
 - Careers
 - Homes
 - Home Seller
- FEATURED
 - Top 5 on Web
 - Podcasts
 - Blogs
 - VIDEO: Earth Day
 - CONTEST: Amazing Race
 - CONTEST: Win tickets to
 - Hairspray
 - FOR SALE: Quads Easter

Every year, the London Majors begin the Intercounty Baseball League season looking to end a title drought that stretches back to 1975.

Having made the final two of the last three seasons -- including last year -- the Majors hope to see a little reign at the end of this one.

A little more than half the team that fell in five games to the Brantford Red Sox in the championship series has returned and Majors manager Roop Chanderdat has added some talented youngsters, including three junior national team players.

He's also changing tack in that he's keeping players who can be here the whole season and not have to return to their U.S. college programs come playoffs. That bit them last year when shortstop Mike Ambrose and centre fielder Brad McElroy -- the league's leading hitter -- headed back to North Carolina-Charlotte and missed the final.

"I went to the B plan," Chanderdat said. "I might lose some positional star players by doing this, but at least I know I'll be able to count on everyone who is here."

Among the key returning position players are last year's IBL rookie of the year, outfielder Rudy Vallejos (.304 average, two homers, 10 RBIs, 19 stolen bases); second baseman and first-team IBL all-star Kyle Piwowarczyk (.354, 12 RBIs, 19 stolen bases), outfielder and second-team all-star Kevin Virtue (.364, 3 HR, 27 RBI) and DH Chuck Roberts (.364, 21 RBIs), another second-team all-star. Third baseman Pete Babcock (.407, 2 HR, 18 RBIs) is a question mark due of work commitments.

Left-hander Tom Van Kasteren (2-2, 5.61 ERA) returns as a key member of the pitching staff and looks forward to a healthier season.

20% off
TRY FOR FREE - pay only when you are ready to file.

learn more

QuickTaxWeb™
Taxes Made Easy. Taxes Done Right.™

canoe.ca

Poster

"I battled a little bit of arm trouble and it never really went away all season," said Van Kasteren, 27, who's in his fourth season with the Majors and very optimistic about this year's prospects.

POWERED BY:

Find A Business
 Name
 City

Find A Person

"How can you not be? With the guys we have coming back, we've got a great core and I'm excited about the young players we have coming in.

"We definitely shouldn't be a surprise because I think we've proved ourselves over the last three seasons. We should have earned a degree of respect in the league."

Van Kasteren saw inconsistency as the team's Achilles heel last season.

SHOPPING SMART

- Announcements & Events
- Audio Video
- Automotive
- Computer & Electronics
- Education
- Fashion
- Financial Services
- Food & Entertainment
- Health & Wellbeing
- Home Furnishings
- Legals and Tenders
- Miscellaneous
- Real Estate
- Retail Shopping
- Retirement
- Service
- Sports & Leisure
- Travel
- By Advertiser

"There'd be games where we'd play really well and lose 3-1, or we'd put nine runs on the board and lose 11-9. We just need to be a little tougher mentally. I know London's primarily a hockey town, but for those people who do follow baseball, it would be nice to reward them and this organization with a championship."

Josh Palmer (5-4, 3.92, three saves) and Mike Mitro (2-2, 9.27, one save) are among the other returning pitchers.

Chris Dennis, a catcher from Windsor, is one of the three national juniors.

"Hopefully I can come in and make an impact right away," said Dennis, 18, who drafted by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in the 38th round last year but elected not to sign and is eligible to be drafted again.

"I'm well aware of what this team has accomplished recently and hopefully I can contribute. This is going to let me know where I really stand in baseball, if I can compete with these guys. I'm definitely going to have an opportunity to play early in the season, but I know I still have to earn a (starting) spot."

Outfielder Matt McCarney of Ottawa (another Devil Rays draft pick) and infielder Mitch Delaney of Windsor are the other junior nats, with shortstop Alex Arango of Toronto and pitcher Max Escrogrin of the Dominican Republic among other newcomers.

ABOUT YOU

Health

SPECIAL SECTIONS

- Energy Guide 2007
- Prestige Vehicle 2007
- Home and Garden
- Golf Guide 2007
- M Magazine
- Christian Life
- Home Magazine
- 2007 Campbook

Sports Headlines

- Turn out the Knights
- Phantom memory still haunts Baillargeon
- Pistons put Magic on brink
- Selanne has eye on big prize
- Flu explains Graham's lack of playoff bounce
- Nabokov blanks Red Wings
- NHL Briefs
- Early barrage powers Senators to opening victory over Devils
- Whitely casting huge shadow on Whalers' D
- Rockets chasing first OHA crown
- Majors feel this may be their year**
- Sportswriter comes out as transsexual
- [London Majors 2007 schedule](#)
- In Yer Face
- CBC jumps feet first into soccer
- Mail Bag
- National league notebook
- Surprise! Bosox, Yanks tonic for what ailed Jays
- Baseball Notebook



OUR SERVICES

- Place an Ad
- Contact Us
- Subscribe
- Become a Carrier
- Newspapers in Education
- Your Newspaper

SPORTS NEWS

- Gisela Dulko beats Savchuk for spot in Budapest
- GP semifinals
- BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) - Sixth-seeded Gisela Dulko of Argentina defeated Olga Savchuk of Ukraine
- Saints sign David, leaving Super Bowl champ Colts with another hole
- Ferrer beats Nalbandian

- [General Comments](#)
- [Terms and Conditions](#)
- [Privacy Statement](#)
- [General Contest Rules](#)

6-3, 6-4 Friday to advance to the semifinals of the Gaz de France Budapest Grand Prix.
[FULL STORY](#) [More at SLAM!](#)


- Denver Nuggets centre Marcus Camby wins Defensive Player award
- Tony Stewart regrets his comments comparing NASCAR to pro wrestling

[ON CANOE.CA](#)

Powered by 

- [Horoscopes](#)
- [Lotteries](#)
- [E-Cards](#)
- [Crosswords](#)
- [TV Listings](#)

As Advertised in the London Free Press



It's Time To Save!
(Automotive: WESTGATE HONDA)

[VIEW AD](#) [DETAILS](#)

[See All Automotive Ads](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Today](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Classifieds](#)

[Place an Ad](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Become a Carrier](#) | [Your Newspaper](#)



Newspapers ▼

[Send a Letter to the Editor](#)

[CANOE home](#) | We welcome your [feedback](#).

Copyright © 2006, [Canoe Inc.](#) All rights reserved.

Proprietor and Publisher - The London Free Press,
P.O. Box 2280, 369 York Street, London Ontario Canada N6A 4G1