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Tuesday, July 26, 2011 - 4:04:17 PM

Chanderdat reflects as Majors enter post-season

By John Matisz

His right fielder just won the batting title, his left fielder had MVP-like numbers at the plate, his ace pitcher led the league in wins and his catcher is arguably the best all-around player in the league. But is London Majors field manager/co-owner Roop Chanderdat about to sit back and let it soak in?

“We’ve got three things to focus on with playing the Ottawa Fat Cats in the first-round,” said Chanderdat Tuesday morning (July 26) while discussing his club’s admirable 22-13 regular season record, and the post-season battles ahead.

“First, Ottawa (16-18) has the advantage in terms of being acclimatized – they are used to long road trips, unlike other teams,” he said.



Photo by Mike Maloney/London Community News

Majors pitcher Adam Paish stretches towards home earlier this season. Him and his 3.77 ERA — which was inflated thanks to a poor last outing — will be counted on versus the Ottawa Fat Cats in the first-round of the 2011 IBL Playoffs.

“Next, their park is spacious so we have to adjust our hitting so we can find gaps. Thirdly is their speed and solid pitching – their team is built around their large park.”

Proud of what’s been accomplished so far this season, Chanderdat knows his team can’t be complacent.

“Last year we didn’t take care of business (in the regular season). We lost to some of the lower teams,” said Chanderdat of their 18-18 record.

“This year against the Hamilton’s and Burlington’s — with no disrespect to those guys — we were 10-0. You’ve got to get those wins when you can.”

Improvements on defence and supplementary pitching depth, Chanderdat said, are what have boosted the Majors (22-13) into the elite class of the Intercounty Baseball League (IBL).

The addition of Tyler Graham behind the plate has been a godsend for the Majors, who lacked a definitive No. 1 catcher last year.

“He gives us stability behind the dish. With any baseball team, you want to be strong up the middle – shortstop, second, catcher, center field,” said Chanderdat.

Right fielder Allan Cattrysse — who played second base and whose batting average was nearly 100 points lower last season — was crowned the IBL’s batting champ Monday.

In 93 at-bats over 26 games, the Chatham, Ont. native registered 39 hits and a league-leading .419 batting average.

“He’s always started off slow then takes off at the midway point. This year, however, he got off to a great start,” said Chanderdat, noting offseason workouts and another year of IBL action really helped prevent another slow start for Cattrysse.

When asked who would start in the first two games against Ottawa, Chanderdat indicated he’s narrowed down his options.

“It’s going to be Jordi Amargos and Ryan Hart, I hope, in the first couple games.”

Opening Round Schedule

G1: Wed., July 27 – Ott @ Lon – 7:05 p.m.

G2: Thurs., July 28 – Ott @ Lon – 7:05 p.m.

G3: Sat., July 30 – Lon @ Ott – 7:05 p.m.

G4: Sun., July 31 – Lon @ Ott – 2:05 p.m.

G5: *Mon., Aug. 1 – Lon @ Ott – 2:05 p.m.

G6: *Wed., Aug. 3 – Ott @ Lon – 7:05 p.m.

G7: *Thurs. Aug. 4 – Ott @ Lon – 7:05 p.m.

*=if necessary

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