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Majors prepared for run at the Intercounty title

Posted By Sean Meyer

Posted 5 days ago

Regardless of how the regular season finishes out, Roop Chanderdat is confident his London Majors will be ready to make some noise during the first round of the Intercounty Baseball League playoffs.

Roop, the co-owner, general manager and field manager of the Majors, says he believes the team faces an uphill battle as it chases the league championship it fell one game short of last season. And although a playoff schedule is still to be determined, Roop says the team is ready to face some tough competition in the first round.

"It doesn't matter who we would have to play, you have to play the team in front of you," Roop says. "Whether it is Toronto (Maple Leafs) or Guelph (Royals) we will be playing a really good team in the first round. It was different last year; we knew we had room to build momentum. We were facing Hamilton and not to put them down, but we felt confident we could beat them and go to the second round. This time, there is going to be no room for error."

For the Majors, finishing in the middle of the league's regular season standings is a far cry from last season when London captured the pennant on their way to a championship series showdown with the Brantford Red Sox.

This time around, Roop says the team has proven to be a work in progress.

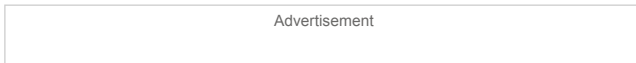
"We're pretty much where I think we need to be as a team. The goal is to be ready for sure. We have to tweak some spots, our starting pitching. But we're ready as a team," Roop says. "I can't say I have liked where we've been over the whole season. I think the first quarter of the season we were still finding our way as a team. But that happens with any new team. We have one of nine starters back from last season, only Kyle Piwowarczyk. But we've come a long way. I like where we are after some bumps in the road."

Over the later part of the season Roop says the team established itself in six of nine positions on the field with players such as Ryan Catrysse and James Lavinskas stepping up. Roop also says the success of the team's pitching staff will go a long way towards establishing how deep London will go into the playoffs.

But perhaps the factor Roop is counting on the most is actually the one he has the least amount of control over. The fans are that next part of the equation and Roop says he is counting on them to help the team on its playoff run.

"Everybody remembers Game 7 of last year's playoffs (against Brantford) with the stands full. That kind of atmosphere makes all the difference. The guys love playing in that kind of atmosphere," Roop says. "London loves winning, whether it is hockey, football, whatever the sport, and especially in playoffs. For us it is important to be playing at home in front of these fans. They get us pumped up and I think if we have success this time around they will play a big role in it."

Want to know more?



To find out more about the London Majors or to find their Intercounty Baseball League playoff schedule, visit www.londonmajors.com.

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