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will play with the Majors and with the St. Thomas juniors; corner infielder and outfielder Phil Delisle from Quebec; hard-throwing Mike Delong; shortstop Jordan Drieling.

Drieling is coming in from the University of Kansas where he was a red-shirted player this year. He is on a full scholarship but didn't play because the shortstop is former Majors' David Narodowski.

"I haven't seen him but he comes highly-recommended by his coach," Chanderdat said. "He hasn't played much but he's on a full scholarship so he knows how to play. I'm going to work him out and he'll play this weekend."

Pitching depth was a major factor last year in getting the team so close to a championship.

The pitching picked up where it left off with a strong performance in the opener.

Mike Mitro pitched five strong innings for the win, allowing two earned runs on three hits with six strikeouts. Craig Bate finished up with four shutout innings, allowing just one hit with eight strikeouts and one walk.

Jess Bechard, Chris Chambers and Masa Inoue all had two hits for the Majors.

"This weekend will be a good test for us," Chanderdat said. "Even though it's early, the Royals are one of the best teams in the league.."

As for the home opener, the last time the Majors played at Labatt Park there were more than 4,000 in the stands watching them lose Game 7 to the Brantford Red Sox.

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