

May, 2006

## Clarkson Scarlett's Midget Season Update

July 22-30

The NSA Nationals were held in Columbus Ohio with 98 teams at the 16 and under category represented. There were 4 Canadian teams including Oakville, Chingacousy, Mississauga North and Clarkson in this category.

The round robin started off well with wins over Indiana Vipers and the Pennsylvania Delco Rage. We earned a first round bye for our efforts.

In the Elimination Bracket we had a first round bye and faced the winner of a game between two lower seeded teams from other pools that had to play for the right to meet us. We met the Delaware Destroyers who we quickly dispatched 7-0 with a strong pitching performance by Kayla.

Thursday we started out next round game but it was interrupted by lightning and eventually all Thursday games were postponed to Friday. On Friday we picked up our game in progress against the Alabama Pride team on a field that was wet, muddy and difficult to play on. We eventually lost 4-0 in a shortened game as all Friday games were reduced by 15 minutes to catch up the lost day.

This loss put us in the loser's bracket where we faced the Illinois Sundogs later that same day. We lost that game in slugfest with the final score 7-5. The team returned to the hotel disappointed but mindful of the memories they would have of their week in Columbus, Ohio. Clarkson was the last Canadian 16U team remaining before being eliminated.

The 2006 Clarkson Scarlett midget team was a joy from beginning to end and no collection of girls could come together more seamlessly than this bunch. We had some successes and hopefully the future will hold many more.

Coach Norm

July 13-16

The Grands were upon us and we placed tied for 7<sup>th</sup> with Port Perry out of 22 teams.

The team didn't play their best on the weekend being eliminated by Waterloo 3-0 Saturday afternoon in a game we were capable of winning. Prior to that, we beat Mississauga North (A) and Kingston and lost to Pickering and Guelph in the Round Robin to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in our pool. This allowed us to play Waterloo who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in their pool behind the Markham Jags.

Congratulations to Ching (M), the eventual champions who beat Guelph in the final. Brampton was third and Markham Jags were 4<sup>th</sup>. Waterloo and Markham Tigers ended up tied for 5<sup>th</sup>.

A top 8 finish at the provincials was a lofty goal at the beginning of the year but afterwards it appeared we belonged in the top 8 and being an all first year team playing against college girls on other teams, the accomplishment should be considered significant. Hats off girls, to an overall successful midget season. Now its off to the NSA Worlds in Columbus, a tournament we are considering our Nationals. Good luck to the Ontario teams in the Canadian Nationals in Guelph in August.

July 7-9

The Scarlett's were crowned tournament champions Sunday evening after a long day of ball going undefeated for the tournament. The Scarlett's, playing some of their best ball this year, handled several tough teams including the WNY Sting Blue who pushed us into a 10 inning game in the semi final where we came out with a 3-2 win after Andrea crossed the plate for the go ahead run in the bottom of the tenth. The final saw us play the home town Hamburg Breakers where across the board hitting by the Scarlett's allowed us to run up a 3-0 lead after one and we never looked back. As tournament champions, we once again qualify for the NSA World Series next year.

The weekend started off with 3 shut out round robin games that resulted in a first place seeding before going into the elimination rounds on Sunday. Our pitching and defence is our strength and this tournament was a great tune up for the Ontario Provincial Championships coming up next. Congratulations girls to a hard fought gold medal performance; it was well earned and very enjoyable to watch.

June 29 - July 2

The Kitchener tournament was another good tournament for the Scarlett's as went 4 and 2 with our only two losses against well established top ranked teams. Clarkson defeated Pickering, Quebec, Byron and Waterloo in round robin play to gain second place in our pool. Our only loss was a 5-2 loss to the Markham Jaguars. In the Quebec game, we were behind 2-0 and rallied for a 6-3 win behind some stellar pitching by Kayla. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in our pool qualified us for the elimination round starting Sunday morning where we drew Brampton I.

The Brampton game was quite a battle with the final score 1-0 in their favour. The Scarlett's showed some great defence in the loss and now looks forward to taking what we learned this weekend to Hamburg next weekend for the NSA qualifying tournament.

June 23-25

The weekend in Aunt Rosie's was a mixed weekend for the Scarlett's as we won our pool but were dismissed in the first playoff game 1-0 by the Amherst Lightning Blue team. The tournament saw a lot of good defence by the Scarlett's as we held our opposition to just 3 runs in 5 games however upon second glance there were many little things we could have done better as players and coaches. To win the low scoring 1-0 games we need to play better as

a team. Hopefully, a concerted effort in practice to work on the little thing will help eliminate these mistakes as we look forward to Kitchener.

June 2-4

The Mississauga Partners tournament was a rain interrupted affair with many of the games that were set for Saturday afternoon and evening being moved to Sunday. Our Saturday midday game against Ching (M) was interrupted by rain and called in the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup> with the score 5-3 against and with Clarkson having runners at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> with 1 out.

Clarkson handled Whitby 1-0, Kitchener 9-0 and in the elimination games Mississauga North (S) 1-0 before falling to the Markham Jaguars Sunday afternoon 8-1. The team was short a few girls this weekend and had to improvise with some of the girls playing out of position. Hopefully, injuries will heal over the next 2 weeks off before Clarkson makes their July run through to the World Series in Columbus Ohio.

May 26-28

Clarkson travelled to Markham for the biggest test of the year to this point being placed in a pool with 3 of the top teams in the province. The weekend started off on a down note with a loss to Guelph but the Scarlett's came back strong on Saturday with 2 wins and an extra inning loss. The win was a 3-2 decision over the National Champion Markham Jaguars and the extra Inning loss came to the eventual tournament champions Chingcousy. In both these games our pitching and defence played as well as they ever played and the team received a lot of compliments and encouragement from the many spectators watching our games.

Clarkson finished the round robin in 4<sup>th</sup> with a record of 2 and 2 but if we had won the extra inning game, we would have been 1<sup>st</sup> showing how tight the pool really was.

On Sunday, we won our first elimination game against London putting us into the final 4 which ensured two more games against the top teams when the games really mattered. The girls played hard and ended up losing the next two games for a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish but gained a lot of experience in the process. The upcoming Mississauga tournament sees us facing the Chingcousy team once again and a possible return match with Jaguars.

Great job girls, you did us proud.

May 12-14

The team was in Brampton for one of the most difficult tournament draws to date with games against several top teams. Although our record wasn't impressive (2W and 4L), we did hold our opponents to just 7 runs over 6 games. No one scored more than 2 runs against us in any of our games and we didn't lose by more than 1 run in each of our 4 losses including games against Brampton 1, Ching (A), and the Markham Tigers. Our pitching is strong and our defence is improving every outing.

Our bats are starting to show signs of coming alive and we are constantly making contact. Our batters are recording fewer strikeouts than our opponents in every game. It usually takes teams several weeks for the bats to start catching up to the pitching in any season and its true here as we adjust to a variety of live pitchers.

May 5-7

Clarkson travelled to Whitby for the Whitby Spring Fling and kicked off the tournament schedule with a silver medal. After defeating Pickering and tying the Markham Tigers (last week's Pickering tournament gold medalists), Clarkson finished first in their pool. In the cross over games a 1-0 loss to the Whitby (S) squad was followed by a win over the Newmarket team in the late game.

Finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> of 9 teams after the round robin, Clarkson earned a match with the Kars team (Ottawa area) Sunday morning. Clarkson defeated Kars in the early game which set up a rematch with Whitby (S) where Clarkson's Meghan Hewins hit 2 triples and a long double to drive in 3 runs in a 4-2 win. This set up a return match in the gold medal game with the Markham Tigers.

In the gold medal game, a pitchers duel ensued with the teams ending up in a 1-1 tie after regulation. Clarkson tied the game up in the top of the 7<sup>th</sup> to force extra innings. In the 8<sup>th</sup>, Clarkson couldn't push their runner in from second while Markham could and the game ended with a 2-1 extra inning loss thus giving Clarkson its first medal of the year - a silver. The team showed the fans that they will be very competitive this coming season.

April 28-30

Clarkson hosted the annual Friendly for the 89 squad and a great weekend it was. The weather was sunny with a bit of wind but all the teams that were there were able to get 4 good games in to tune up for the season. The Clarkson team did well with 3 wins and a tie. They defeated Mississauga North (A), Kitchener and Ching (A) as well as tying Ching (M) in the hardest fought game of the weekend. The season looks bright for the squad with pitching, batting and defence all showing signs of being ready. Thanks to all the teams that attended (not yet mentioned were Whitby (D) and Jordan) and hope to see you all on the diamond again this season.