



AAA Mosquito Team – 2009 Provincial Champions



There were 12 AAA teams (kids born in 98) from across Ontario in the final 3-day OBA tournament in Vaughan. The format was double knockout with 7 inning games. The Etobicoke Rangers won all 6 games they played, beating Guelph (Fri 7PM), Whitby (Sat 11AM), last year's champion Mississauga Majors (Sat 5PM), Vaughan (Sat 8PM), Mississauga Tigers (Sun 9AM), Vaughan (Sun 12PM).

The road to the championship was filled with adversity. Firstly, the Rangers had an early exit from the Toronto City finals when they lost two straight games to teams that they handily beat in the regular season. Simply put, the team played poorly and took East York and North York for granted. Luckily for them, it was pre-established by the OBA that all 4 teams would advance to the Provincials. Faced with frustration and disappointment, the Rangers' team could have given up but they put the losses behind them and focused on the Provincial tournament.

Secondly, the team's best pitcher was declared ineligible to pitch on the final day of the tournament. Apparently, there was an error in the nitch count tabulation which could not be corrected

Thirdly, the kids showed resiliency / character in the semi-final game against Mississauga Tigers when they didn't give up after surrendering a 5-0 lead. Mississauga Tigers scored 7 runs in the 5th inning to shock the Ranger kids, coaches and parents. The team could have folded but they instead responded with 6 runs during their next at bat. They won the game 11-7 to advance to the final.

Facing Vaughan in the finals, the game was very tight (3-3) thru five innings. Good pitching and defence dominated the championship game as the score would indicate. The 6th inning was 3 up & 3 down for Vaughan and the Rangers didn't score in the bottom of the 6th either. With 1 out, a Vaughn player was hit at the plate and then went to second on a steal. The next batter drilled a single to centre field and our outfielder came up throwing a strike to home plate and our catcher made a tremendous tag on the Vaughan player sliding home, for a thrilling 2nd out. Next batter was a ground out for the third out. It was now our chance to win in the last inning. We scored the winning run with the bases loaded and 1 out when a bloop single fell in centre field. The kids and parents went wild with the walk off 4-3 victory! The hard work and dedication of the Rangers' coaches and kids produced a championship. All kids contributed in different ways (big hits, catches, throws, pitching and solid defence) throughout the tournament and it was truly a "team victory". Champions overcome adversity

Rangers Program is operated in partnership with



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