

Victory continues to elude Juniors

Written by Deb Egenberger

Wednesday, 23 June 2010 21:17 -



Melons fall to 0-10

Despite continuously rising groundwater levels and bulging river banks, it's been a long dry summer for the Gothenburg Juniors,

Ten games into the season and the Junior Melons are still searching for their first win.

The Melons have a chance to get on the right track this week with three games at home.

Gothenburg will host Cozad Friday and then Ogallala Tuesday with Broken Bow on Wednesday. All three games are set to begin at 5:30 p.m.

One rough inning

The Melons had a 2-1 lead heading into the bottom of the third inning at Cozad on June 15 before they self-destructed.

In the first inning, Ben Tiedemann hit a double and stole third before scoring on a sacrifice fly by Brett Mayher.

Gothenburg got another run in the top of the third. Ian Jefferies hit a single to right field and advanced on a balk.

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Jefferies ran home on a long single by Trent Good, who was later thrown out attempting to steal third.

Then things went bad for the Melons in the field.

Pitcher Trey Kolbo walked three straight batters before an error in the field allowed one run. Cozad got three more on a sacrifice fly, a single and a fielder's choice.

Even after changing pitchers, the Melons struggled to stop the Reds as Cozad racked up seven more runs on two hits and two errors to take a 13-2 lead.

Gothenburg managed to get two runners on base, once each in the fourth and fifth innings, but couldn't find home.

Kolbo took the loss on the mound.

Blanked by Ogallala

In five innings of play, Gothenburg got just one batter on base as the Ogallala Juniors shut out the Melons 9-0 on June 16 behind nearly perfect pitching.

Cody Corfield struck out 11 of 16 Gothenburg batters with only one walk.

Kaine Golter carried a full count with two outs in the top of the fifth inning when Corfield gave up the perfect game walking Golter.

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The right fielder didn't get anywhere, though, as a Gothenburg's final batter struck out looking.

The Melons had seven fielding errors on the road and Brett Mayher suffered the loss on the mound.

Error issues continue

Gothenburg's defense was riddled with errors Saturday in Broken Bow as the Melons lost their ninth straight game by a score of 12-2.

Gothenburg allowed five runs on three hits and six errors in the first inning and Broken Bow scored a couple more in the second on three hits and two errors before the Melons got on the board.

With two outs and no one on in the top of the fourth inning, Brett Mayher hit a single deep into left field.

He stole second and advanced to third on a wild pitch before scoring the first Melon run on a wild pitch.

A walk, a Broken Bow error and another walk got Chase Ostergard, Caleb Geiger and Jeff Rodriguez on base but they had no chance to score as the last out came with a strikeout.

After allowing another four Broken Bow runs in the bottom of the fourth inning, Gothenburg had one more chance to catch up.

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The Melons started with a fly out and a strike out in the top of the fifth before managing three hits in a row.

Trent Good singled to right field and ran all the way around the bags when catcher Levi Walker doubled to right center.

Walker advanced on a single by Mayher but both runners were stranded as the game ended with a strikeout.

Walker and Mayher finished with two hits each.

Justin Larson was the losing pitcher.

Making progress

The Gothenburg Juniors reduced the errors and had the highest number of hits this season on Sunday afternoon but still could not hold off the Holdrege First Nationals.

The Melons' record fell to 0-10 on the year with a 15-7 loss.

Lead-off batter Brett Mayher led the way with four hits and four runs.

Mayher's first hit was a double to right field opening the game.

He advanced on a wild pitch and scooted home when Levi Walker reached on an error. Mayher's was the only run of the inning.

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The center fielder also scored one of two runs in the second inning.

Jeff Rodriguez started the bottom of the second with a walk. He moved to second when Mayher singled and advanced to third on a fielder's choice play by Ben Tiedemann.

Trent Good was thrown out by the Holdrege second baseman on a short infield blooper but the play allowed Rodriguez to score and moved Mayher to third.

Mayher then ran home on a center field single from Levi Walker.

Tiedemann and Walker were stranded when Holdrege made an acrobatic dive to catch a fly ball by Trey Kolbo in center field for the third out.

After giving up eight runs to Holdrege in the top of the fourth, the Melons got three more hits to scored twice in the inning.

Mayher led off again with a single to right field. He stole second and advanced to third on a single by Tiedemann.

Mayher scored on a balk that moved Tiedemann to second. Tiedemann then ran to third on a grounder by Good and was homebound on a wild pitch.

After four innings, Holdrege led 15-5 and the First Nationals didn't score again.

Gothernburg put a pair of runs on the board in the bottom of the fifth.

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Ian Jefferies singled to right field and then stole second, putting him in scoring position when Mayher hit his second double of the game.

Mayher scored as well when Tiedemann reached on an error and Mayher's risky decision to run on home worked out.

Kolbo took the loss on the mound allowing nine hits and six walks while striking out seven in the complete game.

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