

Season ends with big losses

Written by Deb Egenberger

Thursday, 22 July 2010 20:22 - Last Updated Thursday, 22 July 2010 20:24



Juniors pounded by Broken Bow, Holdrege in Area 6 tournament.

LEXINGTON—Two days, two opponents, two games.

Unfortunately for the Melon Juniors, one outcome.

Gothenburg got hammered by Broken Bow in the opening game of the Nebraska American Legion Area 6 Juniors Tournament on Thursday at Lexington suffering a 26-9 loss.

Friday's first-round loser's bracket game didn't turn out any better for the Melons as they were eliminated with an 11-0 shutout by Holdrege.

The Melons end their season with a 3-17 record.

17 runs in one inning

To score 17 runs in a game is unusual for any team in the Junior level of American Legion

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baseball.

To bring that many runs across the plate in a single inning is unheard of but the Broken Bow Juniors managed to bat around twice in the bottom of the first inning against Gothenburg on Thursday.



A small graphic of a scoreboard for Area 6 Juniors. The title is 'AREA 6 JUNIORS'. The scoreboard lists several games with dates and scores. The final game listed is 'Broken Bow ... Shelton-Gibson' on July 20, with a 'CHAMPIONSHIP' label above it.

| Date | Home Team | Score | Away Team | Score |
|---------|-------------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| July 15 | BBow 25 | 9 | Gothenburg | 9 |
| | Kearney Co. 10 | 7 | Holdrege | 7 |
| | Shelton-Gibson 11 | 6 | McCook | 6 |
| | Cocad 20 | 5 | Lexington | 5 |
| July 16 | Holdrege 11 | 0 | Gothenburg | 0 |
| | McCook 12 | 10 | Lexington | 10 |
| | BBow 8 | 1 | Kearney Co. | 1 |
| | Shelton-Gibson 26 | 34 | Cocad | 34 |
| July 17 | Cocad 15 | 4 | Holdrege | 4 |
| | McCook 4 | 2 | Kearney Co. | 2 |
| | BBow 7 | 5 | Shelton-Gibson | 5 |
| July 18 | McCook 11 | 0 | Cocad | 0 |
| July 19 | Shelton-Gibson 16 | 6 | McCook | 6 |
| July 20 | Broken Bow | ... | Shelton-Gibson | ... |

In fact, Broken Bow sent 12 batters to the plate before Melon right fielder Caleb Geiger finally caught a fly ball for the first out.

Nearly everything that could go wrong defensively for Gothenburg did as Broken Bow scored 17 runs on 12 hits and six errors in the No. 1 seeded team's first time at bat.

At the same time, the Melons got only one batter on base in two innings as Justin Larson took first after being hit by a pitch in the second. He was stranded.

Trailing 17-0, Gothenburg finally got on the board in the top of the third inning.

With one out, left fielder Kolton Barnes hit a long single to right field. Barnes advanced on a two-out base hit by Trent Good and took third on a wild pitch.

Levi Walker loaded the bases when he walked and Chase Ostergard earned a pair of RBIs on a single that scored both Barnes and Good.

With Walker and Ostergard on the corners, Justin Larson was hit by a second pitch to load the

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bases again.

Trey Kolbo singled to center field to bring in Walker and Ostergard and send Larson to third.

Larson scored the last run of the inning on a passed ball but the 17-5 gap was still insurmountable.

Gothenburg brought in three runs in the fourth and got one in the fifth while allowing Broken Bow to score three in the third and six in the fourth.

The Melons had seven hits and eight RBIs. Barnes led the way with two hits including a double in the top of the fourth inning.

Those hitting stats would look better had Gothenburg not given up so much on defense, allowing Broken Bow 20 hits including four doubles.

Kolbo suffered the loss on the mound despite facing only 11 of the 44 total Broken Bow batters.

Larson pitched in relief.

Broken Bow has advanced to the championship game with wins over Kearney County and Shelton-Gibbon in the winner's bracket.

A single single

First baseman Chase Ostergard was the only Melon to put the bat on the ball for a hit during

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Gothenburg's consolation game against Holdrege Friday morning.

It was not a productive hit, though, as Ostergard was thrown out trying to get to second base.

Holdrege limited the Melons to one hit in 19 batters while the First National Bank Juniors managed 10 hits on Gothenburg pitchers Ben Tiedemann and Trent Good.

Only one Melon made it as far as third base.

With one out in the fifth inning, Caleb Geiger walked. His was one of only four walks given up by Holdrege in the game.

Geiger advanced to second and then third using wild pitches but was left standing in the field when two Melon teammates struck out to end the game.

Holdrege advanced to play Cozad in the consolation bracket but was eliminated with a 15-4 loss.