

Melons will field only Senior team

Written by Deb Egenberger
Friday, 18 May 2012 14:13 -

| 2012 SENIOR SCHEDULE | |
|---|---|
| May 22—at Kearney, 7 p.m. | June 29—at Ogallala, 7 p.m. CT |
| May 25—Cosed, 7 p.m. | July 1—at Aurora, 1 p.m.* |
| May 26—Broken Bow, 1 p.m.* | July 2—Cambridge, 7 p.m. |
| May 29—Ogallala, 7 p.m. | July 5—Senior All-Star Game at Kearney, 7 p.m. |
| May 30—at Holdrege, 7 p.m.* | July 6—Oveston, 7 p.m. |
| June 2—at Shelton-Gibson, 1 p.m.* | July 7—Lexington Juniors, 7 p.m. |
| June 5—at Oveston, 7 p.m. | July 8—Shelton-Gibson, 1 p.m.* |
| June 6—at Lexington vs. Juniors, 7 p.m. | July 12—Senior League championship, TBA |
| June 12—at Cosed, 7 p.m. | July 20-24—Senior B & G Area Tournament at Minden |
| June 15—McCook, 7 p.m. | July 26-Aug. 1—Senior Class B state tournament at Wahoo |
| June 16—at Broken Bow, 1 p.m.* | *Double header will be arranged if possible. |
| June 19—Holdrege, 7 p.m. | |
| June 20—at McCook, 7 p.m. | |
| June 23—Hershey, 1 p.m. | |
| June 24—at Cambridge, 1 p.m. | |

Jobs and other activities are pulling a few too many high school boys off the diamond in Gothenburg this summer.

Because of other commitments, there aren't enough players for both Junior and Senior American Legion baseball teams this year, according to coach Brian Bullock.

"We have four starters from last year's Juniors team who aren't coming back because of jobs or they are busy with other things," Bullock said.

It's the first time he can remember not having a Junior Melon team.

Three years ago there was no Senior level team for similar reasons and Lexington is facing the same situation, fielding only a Junior team this season.

"I'm feeling kind of lost without the Juniors," Bullock said. "It's unfortunate but that's just the way things are now days."

Bullock will help coach the Seniors, along with manager Mark Bartels and coach Matt Ostergard. Former Senior pitcher and third baseman Tré Ostergard has offered to help as well.

The Senior Melons remain in the Mid-Nebraska Baseball League and will play mostly familiar opponents.

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“We’re going to try and play as many games as possible,” Bullock said, noting that a few games currently scheduled as single outings may end up double-headers.

Cambridge and Shelton-Gibbon haven’t been on the Melon schedule consistently in the past but return for the 2012 season.

Gothenburg opens the summer on the road at Kearney on Tuesday before hosting three straight. The schedule includes a league all-star game in Kearney on July 5, the league championship on July 12 and the Senior Area 6 tournament at Minden beginning July 24.

Wahoo hosts the Senior state tournament July 28-Aug. 1.

Bullock said there will also be a Killer Bees team coached by Mike Messersmith and Jim Long, bringing younger players into the Melon system.