

Melons drop four straight

Written by Deb Egenberger
Thursday, 21 June 2012 13:28 -



Seniors fall to 2-11 on the year

Injuries and absences have forced several lineup changes for the Gothenburg Melons over the past week.

That inconsistency has added to the Seniors' struggles as they lost four straight games to Kearney, Cozad, McCook and Broken Bow.

With a 2-11 record, the Melons still have plenty of season left to turn things around.

Gothenburg will travel to McCook on Wednesday (today) before hosting Hershland, a Hershey and Sutherland combination, on Saturday.

The Melons turn around and travel to Cambridge Sunday before getting a four-day break.

Saturday's home game is set to begin at 1 p.m.

Bats alive at Kearney

The Melons produced 10 hits against Kearney on June 11 but only managed to turn them into three runs as Gothenburg was defeated on the road 7-3.

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The Melons took a 2-1 lead in the top of the second inning on four hits.



Levi Walker singled past third base, followed by a Zach Wolf base hit.

A sacrifice bunt by Brandon Wlasiuk moved Walker to third and a grounder by Justin Larson pushed him home.

Wolf scored on the next crack of the bat when Ben Tiedemann singled to center field.

Larson and Tiedemann were stranded and Gothenburg didn't threaten to score again until the top of the sixth inning.

After allowing a Kearney run in the bottom of the third, the Melons trailed 3-2.

Walker reached on a single but was thrown out on a fielder's choice by Wolf, the next batter.

Wolf stole second and advanced to third on an over-throw, scoring the tying run when Bryce Eggleston singled.

Gothenburg didn't get home again and gave up four Kearney runs in the bottom of the sixth for the loss.

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Trey Kolbo allowed eight hits in six innings for the loss.

Both Walker and Larson recorded two hits each.

Defense falters at Cozad

Cozad had no trouble putting away the Melons early in a game rescheduled from Tuesday to Wednesday last week due to much-needed rain.

The Reds scored six runs in the bottom of the second, nine in the third and nine in the fourth to end the game with a 24-4 victory with the mercy rule.

Gothenburg opened the game with a pair of runs in the top of the first.

With two outs, Chase Ostergard reached on an error that allowed him to take second.

He advanced on a passed ball and scored when Levi Walker hit a double to right field.

Walker took third on a wild pitch to Zach Wolf, who reached on an error at third.



Wolf stole second and moved to third on an overthrow from the catcher but was left standing

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when Brandon Wlasiuk struck out.

The Melons scored a pair of runs again in the top of the third inning on a pair of singles and a bunt but they just couldn't hold back the Reds, who had 24 runs on nine hits, 17 walks and a host of Melon throwing errors.

Ben Tiedemann took the loss on the mound with Wlasiuk, Ostergard and Justin Larson in relief.

Walker had two of the team's six hits, including a first-inning double.

Melons struggle at plate

McCook pitcher Clint Beguin didn't offer the Melons too many opportunities at the plate Friday night and when he did, his defense backed him up as the McCook National Bank Seniors downed Gothenburg 15-2.

The Melons were scoreless through the first three innings, trailing 12-0 when they got up to bat in the bottom of the fourth.

Gothenburg finally got on the board with a pair of runs.

With one out, Brandon Wlasiuk singled to left field, Bryce Eggleston walked and Jake Matthies got a base hit to load the bases for Justin Larson.

Larson reached on a fielder's choice that took Matthies out at second but scored Wlasiuk.

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Eggleston made it home when Trent Good reached on an error at third base.

Good was stranded after a grounder to second by Trey Kolbo ended the inning.

McCook scored three more runs in the top of the fifth to put the game completely out of reach.

Larson suffered the loss on the mound giving up seven unearned runs with 13 hits.

Wlasiuk led the way at the plate for Gothenburg with two of the Melons' four hits.

Kolbo suffers injury

Gothenburg only had nine names on its roster when the Melons traveled to Broken Bow on Saturday, with prior commitments leaving the Seniors short-handed.

The absences may not have been detrimental until pitcher Trey Kolbo suffered an arm injury toward the end of the second inning.

Melon manager Brian Bullock said Gothenburg wanted to take Kolbo out of the game and finish with only eight players but the umpires wouldn't allow it.

Instead, they were forced to move Kolbo to first base.

"We told him not to throw anything," Bullock said.

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Brandon Wlasiuk took over the mound and closed out the inning as the Melons trailed 7-1.

Gothenburg went down 13-1 heading into the top of the fourth inning when Gothenburg scored three runs on no hits.

Levi Walker walked and both Zach Wolf and Wlasiuk were hit by pitches to load the bags.

All three base runners advanced and all three scored on a series of wild pitches but it wasn't enough to close the gap.

Broken Bow scored again in the bottom of the fourth for the 14-4 victory.

Injury and all, Kolbo took the loss.

Chase Ostergard and Justin Larson recorded the team's two hits.