

## Melons rally comes up short in Area 6

Written by Austin Benson  
Thursday, 25 July 2013 13:14 -

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The Senior Melons won two games in the Area 6 baseball tournament, but eventually lost to Holdrege ended their season.

Gothenburg started off the tournament by beating Broken Bow, a team they split with in the regular season. The Melons lost to McCook Saturday but bounced back to take down the #3 seed Minden.

Holdrege knocked off the Melons in a loser out contest Monday night.

Gothenburg used quality pitching and timely hitting in their two victories over the weekend.

Melons win in first round

Gothenburg hitters showed patience at the plate last Friday earning 12 walks in their 12-5 victory over Broken Bow in the first round of the American Legion Area 6 Tournament.

Two runners reached scoring position in the first inning but only one Melon scored. Chase Ostergard hit a ball to center field advancing Ross Ostendorf, who had walked, to third base. A passed ball to the next batter allowed Ostendorf to scamper home and put the Melons on the board.

A lead off single was all Broken Bow managed in the bottom of the inning and the Melons were up to bat leading 1-0.

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Patrick Messersmith reached base on a fielder's choice in the second inning. With one out, Ostendorf hit a double down the right field line, advancing Messersmith to third on the hit and he ran across home plate on a passed ball third strike.

Ostergard hit a ball between third and shortstop to score Ostendorf from third base.

Bow bounced back with two runs of its own. Back-to-back walks and a single down the third base line scored a runner from second.

A ball back to the pitcher pushed another Bow runner home and the score was 3-2.

In the top of the fourth, Justin Larson reached base on a walk, and Ostergard forced an error to reach base. Levi Walker hit an RBI single to right field scoring Larson from second base. Trey Kolbo singled to center field sending Ostergard home after he had advanced to third.

A wild pitch scored Walker and Kolbo advanced to third after stealing second. He then ran home beating the pitcher covering, scoring the fourth run of the inning.

That would be all the runs needed to beat Broken Bow.



Leading 7-2, the Melons kept Bow from scoring until the bottom of the seventh. Meanwhile they remained patient and scored in each of the last three innings.

In the sixth, walks loaded the bases. Kolbo and Ben Tiedemann scored on another walk and a Bow error.

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Drawing two more walks in the top of the seventh, runners scored on two Bow errors and an RBI single by Jeff Rodriguez giving the Melons a 12-2 lead.

Broken Bow used two hits to score three runs in the bottom of the seventh before a grounder to Jeff Rodriguez ended the game.

Justin Larson threw a complete game striking out seven batters.

McCook no hits Melons

Gothenburg struggled against top seed McCook Saturday en route to a 15-0 loss in the second round of the Area 6 Baseball Tournament.

The game was close for three innings. Even through the struggles at the plate, the Melons trailed by only one run.

However over the next two innings, McCook connected for 10 hits to score 14 runs.

The Melons couldn't get any momentum throughout the fourth or fifth innings as they were retired in order to end the game.

Melons edge out Minden

Gothenburg fell behind in the early innings but came back in the third and fourth to beat Minden 5-4 Sunday.

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Two singles and a pair of errors allowed Minden to jump ahead 3-0 in the second inning

The Melons responded scoring two runs in the top of the third inning.

A pair of walks and an infield hit loaded the bases for Jeff Rodriguez. He singled to right field bringing home Ostendorf and Larson.

Gothenburg's defense stopped a Minden threat in the third when a ball back to the pitcher caught the runner trying to score from third.

The bases were loaded for the Melons in the fourth inning when Larson delivered a single to right driving in Rodriguez. A sacrifice fly by Ostergard brought Matthies in from third base and Gothenburg went ahead 4-3.

Minden and Gothenburg were both held scoreless until the sixth inning when Patrick Messersmith led off with a single. He advanced to second on a walk, moved to third on a fielder's choice and scored on Levi Walker's single.

Minden only scored one more run in the bottom of the sixth to pull within one run. They threatened in the bottom of the seventh with a runner reaching third base, but a strikeout ended the game.

Gothenburg advanced to play on Monday.

Late inning struggles

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Quality pitching had propelled the Melons through the first three games of the Area 6 tournament.

Tired arms and an eight-run first inning by Holdrege closed out the season for Gothenburg on Monday night as the Melons lost 16-8.

Back-to-back doubles from Ostergard and Walker put the Melons on the scoreboard. A single from Kolbo drove in Walker from second base for the second run of the inning.

Holdrege tried putting the game away in the bottom of the first exploding for eight runs with the help of six walks and just two hits.

Gothenburg bounced back and scored five runs of its own in the top half of the second.

The first three batters walked loading the bases before an Ostendorf single scored Rodriguez from third base. Larson walked advancing Jake Matthies home, before Ostergard singled to left scoring Messersmith.

The bases remained loaded when Walker got a free pass to first scoring Ostendorf from third. Kolbo singled to left field sending Larson home before the scoring came to an end.

Gothenburg retired the Holdrege lineup in order before knotching another run in the third to tie the score at 8-8.

Ostendorf singled past the third baseman and stole second base before advancing to third on a passed ball. Larson singled to left driving in Ostendorf and tying the game.

Both teams put zeroes on the scoreboard in the fourth, but Holdrege came to life in the fifth.

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Two singles and two walks contributed to three runs and Holdrege regained the lead, 11-8.

Larson hit a double to lead off the sixth inning for the Melons, but was thrown out at third eliminating the only chance to score in the last two innings.

Leading 11-8, in the bottom of the sixth Holdrege put the game away scoring five runs.

Five players had two hits apiece led by Larson, Ostergard and Walker, each with a double and a single.

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