

Juniors' offense explodes in 17-10 win

Written by Vinny Benedetto
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The Gothenburg Juniors opened the week with an impressive offensive outing, however, a double-digit loss followed the next day.

The Melons earned their second win of the summer with a 17-10 victory over visiting Overton on Wednesday before McCook left town with a 14-2 win on Thursday.

The upcoming week looks to be a busy one for the Melons. Home games are scheduled for Wednesday (tonight) vs. Holdredge and Friday against Ogallala before heading to Overton for a Tuesday contest.

14-run fourth lifts Melons

Gothenburg entered the bottom of the fourth trailing Overton by seven runs, but the Juniors responded in a big way in the bottom half.

Tyler Tiede scored the Melons' first run after reaching on an error. Later in the inning, starting pitcher Riley Ostendorf helped his cause, plating two runs with a single. In his second at-bat of the inning, Tiede drove in a run with a bases-loaded walk.

A series of errors by the Overton defense allowed the Melons to pad the lead.

The game-changing frame ended when Dominic Long was tagged out on a fielder's choice off Ostendorf's bat.

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Tiede and Jordan Wenger scored three runs apiece for the Melons, while Ostendorf led the team with two RBI in the game.

Ostendorf's plate appearances went smoothly, but his time on the rubber was a bit rockier. Overton raced out of the gates, scoring two runs in the first. Dawson Trahpe and Blake Crites each walked and stole bases before scoring on a Jacob Martinson single. Aggressive baserunning led to another run for the Eagles in the second.

The pitcher got out of the third inning without allowing a run.

Overton scored at least once in every other inning.

The Eagles did more damage by stringing together singles in the fourth before the Melons provided the pitcher with some run support.

Taking a seven-run lead into the fifth, Overton threatened again. Martinson reached via error to open the inning and advanced on a steal and balk. Consecutive singles from Trace Baasch and D.J. Anderson put the Eagles in striking distance, but Ostendorf retired the final three Overton batters in order.

Ostendorf has been the pitcher of record in both of the Melons' wins this summer.

McCook returns the favor

A day after the Melons rode a big inning to victory, the visiting First Central Bank squad used a seven-run second to put Gothenburg away early.

Starting pitcher Brant May was chased from the game after recording the first eight outs and

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allowing 10 runs, although just two were earned.

Walks and errors plagued the Melons. May and reliever Radley Shaw combined to walk eight batters, and the Gothenburg defense recorded nine miscues in the field.

By time the Melons got on the board, they trailed by 10 runs. Tiede scored the Melons' first run in the fourth inning after legging out an infield single and advancing via steal and wild pitch.

The Melons added a second run in the fifth when Wenger singled, scoring Kowalewski.

Ostendorf was the lone Melon to record multiple hits in the loss.