

Melons still not over the hump

Written by Deb Egenberger
Friday, 29 June 2012 14:30 -



Three losses drop Seniors to 2-14

The Gothenburg Senior Melons found a little more offense in two of three games last week but it wasn't quite enough to earn them any victories.

The Melons dropped three straight games to Holdrege, McCook and Cambridge.

A matchup with Hershland, a Hershey-Sutherland combination, was canceled on Saturday.

Gothenburg has six regular-season games left on the schedule before the Mid-Nebraska League championship on July 12 and the Area 6 Senior Tournament at Minden on July 24.

This week takes the Melons to Ogallala on Friday and Aurora on Sunday before the Seniors host Cambridge at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

They will close out the regular season the following week with three home games.

Six costly errors

No error is a good error but some can be a little more costly than others as the Melons found out in a 7-1 loss to Holdrege on June 19.

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Gothenburg allowed four Holdrege batters on base with fielding errors and gave two more extra bags with throwing mistakes.

At the same time, the Melons were only able to get one base runner home, scoring their lone run in the bottom of the third inning.



Pitcher Justin Larson opened the third inning with a single past the First Nationals' shortstop. He stole second and, after a strikeout by Jeff Rodriguez, advanced to third on a bunt by Trent Good.

A base hit by Zach Wolf drove Larson home and bases were loaded after Chase Ostergard walked but all three runners were left standing in the field on a strikeout by Levi Walker and a ground ball to second by Bryce Eggleston.

The Melons didn't score again after knotting the tally 1-1 at the end of the third inning.

Larson took the loss on the mound, allowing three unearned runs while throwing seven strikeouts.

Gothenburg's three hits came from Good, Wolf and Larson.

Melons give up six in sixth

Gothenburg got off to a solid start against McCook on June 20, taking a quick 3-0 lead in the first inning and carrying a 5-2 advantage into the sixth.

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Lead-off batter Trent Good popped a base hit to center field to get things rolling. He stole second and advanced to third on a passed ball.

Justin Larson walked and stole second. After two outs, both Good and Larson scored on a two-RBI single by Levi Walker.

Walker, the catcher, stole second and took third on a McCook overthrow, eventually scoring on a base hit to center field by Brandon Wlasiuk, who was stranded.

The Melons capitalized again in the second inning as Ben Tiedemann reached on a single and took an extra base on an overthrow from right field.

Tiedemann slid into third on a wild pitch and zipped home on a ground out by Justin Larson.

A pair of strikeouts ended the top of the inning with Gothenburg leading 4-0.

McCook managed a run in each of the second and third innings to close the gap to 4-2 to start the fourth.

Bryce Eggleston reached on an error at third and advanced on a fly out by Jeff Rodriguez.

With two outs, Eggleston scored when Good took first on another McCook error at third base to put the Melons up 5-2.

The score stood until the bottom of the sixth inning when the error bug bit and the Melons gave up six runs on four hits and four errors to fall behind 8-5.

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With one more chance to regain the lead, Gothenburg started off right in the top of the seventh.

Larson was hit by a pitch to open the inning and he advanced on a single to left field by Chase Ostergard.

A McCook bobble at third base allowed both Larson and Ostergard to score as Zach Wolf took first but a double play took both Wolf and Walker off the bags.

A fly out by Wlasiuk ended the game with the Melons suffering a disappointing 8-7 loss.

Tiedemann recorded the loss on the mound with Wlasiuk in relief.

Late run not enough

The Melons scored four runs in the top of the seventh inning in a late rally against Cambridge on Sunday afternoon.

That's the most runs the Seniors have scored in one inning all season.

Unfortunately for Gothenburg, though, it wasn't quite enough to entirely erase Cambridge's 8-1 lead gained with a six-run third inning on five hits and three errors.

Cambridge escaped with an 8-5 victory.

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Brandon Wlasiuk started the late run with a base hit. He stole second and took third on a passed ball.

Jeff Rodriguez followed with a walk, stealing second as well.

Wlasiuk was quick enough to tag and score on a fly ball by Jake Matthies that sent Rodriguez to third.

Then two Melons walked, loading the bases. With Rodriguez on third, Trent Good on second and Justin Larson on first, Chase Ostergard got out on a grounder to third but the play pushed Rodriguez home.

Zach Wolf smacked a single over third base to drive in Good and Larson scored on a fielder's choice to Levi Walker.

The inning and the game ended when Wolf was thrown out trying to take third.

Larson again suffered the loss after a complete game on the mound.

Wolf led Melon hitters with a pair of singles while Ostergard recorded two RBIs.