

Seniors struggle to find first victory

Written by Greg Viergutz

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Late opponent runs in both games dealt the Gothenburg Seniors a pair of losses to open the American Legion baseball season.

The Melons battled both Holdrege and Cozad until the late innings, but fell as a result of those late-inning rallies.

Gothenburg hopes to get back on track this week with a busy schedule. The Melons played Ogallala Tuesday and will host Broken Bow on Wednesday (tonight), Holdrege on Saturday and Overton on Wednesday, June 5.

Gothenburg travels to Cambridge on Sunday.

7-run 7th squashes Melons

Cozad exploded for seven runs on six hits in the seventh inning to turn the tables on Gothenburg 8-3 on Friday.

The Melons had nursed a 2-1 lead for three innings but couldn't hold it. Gothenburg's Ben Tiedemann went the distance on the mound and held Cozad to just two hits until tiring in the final frame.

Levi Walker's aggressive play gave the Melons a one-run lead after two. He walked and stole second before stealing third and racing home on a catcher's errant throw.

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Dillon Budd doubled to start a two-out rally for Cozad in the third. The next batter singled to drive him home.

In the bottom of the third, a bunt single by Justin Larson—sandwiched between two walks—loaded the bases. Walker singled to drive in a pair and the Melons led 2-1.

That's where the score stood for three scoreless innings.

Things quickly changed in the top of the seventh. Cozad's offense came alive with seven runs—three after two outs.

Gothenburg managed only one baserunner in the bottom of the inning.

Larson had a pair of hits for the Melons.

Tiedemann fanned nine batters while walking five and giving up 10 hits.

Melon rally falls short



The tying run was stranded on second base as Gothenburg fell to Holdrege 4-3 Thursday.

A walk and a stolen base let a single get an RBI for Holdrege in the second inning.

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Gothenburg answered three innings later when Jett Seimer walked and eventually scored on a passed ball.

First National broke the 1-1 tie in the bottom of the fifth pushing two runs across thanks to two walks and an error.

The margin grew to 4-1 when Holdrege benefited from a bases-loaded walk.

Levi Walker cut the scoring gap to just one run with a two-out single with bases filled on the seventh. A ground out ended the rally and the game.

Walker had the lone hit in the game for Gothenburg. Nine walks gave the Melons some scoring chances in the game.

Justin Larson and Ross Ostendorf combined to hold Holdrege to four hits.