

## Regular season ends with loss

Written by Deb Egenberger  
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### Melons allow too many opportunities to slip away

With no outs and bases loaded in the bottom of the second inning, the Senior Melons had a golden opportunity to take an early lead over Shelton/Gibbon Monday night.

But a pair of strikeouts and an antsy base runner left Gothenburg with no runs and no momentum as the visitors handed the Melons a 14-5 loss to close out the regular season.

After giving up two runs on two hits in the first inning, Gothenburg held Shelton/Gibbon scoreless in the second.

In the bottom of the frame, Jeff Rodriguez reached first after being hit by a pitch.

Brandon Wlasiuk followed up with a single to right field and Levi Walker loaded the bases after getting hit on the leg.

Two straight strikeouts wouldn't have ended the inning but Rodriguez jumped the gun on the last pitch and was thrown out trying to get back to third.

Shelton/Gibbon came back to score another three runs in the top of the third and one in the fourth to go up 6-0.

The Melons finally got on the board in the bottom of the fourth.

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Rodriguez walked and advanced with a single by Wlasiuk to center field.

Rodriguez took third on a wild pitch and was able to scoot home on another one.



It wasn't until the top of the sixth inning that the game got totally out of reach.

Shelton/Gibbon scored six runs on four hits, including a double by Nathan Byrne to take a 12-1 lead.

Although the Melons managed four runs in the bottom of the sixth, it wasn't near enough to make up the deficit.

Wlasiuk led the way in the batter's box going 3-for-3 with one run. Trent Good was the only other Melon to record a hit.

Four pitchers shared duties on the mound with Justin Larson taking the loss.

The Melons fall to 4-19 to end the regular season. The lopsided record isn't the team's only challenge as they enter the Class B Area 6 tournament this weekend.

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Injuries and absences leave Gothenburg with only nine players for the tournament.