



On July 3, the Imperial Pee Wee team defeated Ogallala Black 4---1 to end their regular season with an 8-2 record.

The game, held in Ogallala, was close throughout. Imperial put up a single run in the top of the first when a Will Kuenne single scored Caleb Weiss from second.

Ogallala answered in the second with a run of their own, tying the game.

The score stayed 1-1 until the fourth, when Jorge Cervantes got on then stole around on some bad throws by Ogallala.

Playing shortstop, Cervantes made a leaping catch and tagged a base runner for a double play to end the fourth. Then he lined an in-the-park home run against the left field fence that scored Weiss, providing a small buffer at 4-1.

Ogallala brought the top of their batting order to the plate in the bottom of the sixth and three consecutive batters hit to the outfield, but each fly was caught, one by Will Kuenne and two by Landis Beverly to end the game.

Cody Hamilton pitched all six innings for Imperial, allowing one hit and three walks while getting five strikeouts.

Coach Larry Peterson praised his work and that of the defense that caught or threw out numerous balls put into play. He'd like to see the batting more aggressive and fewer base-running errors as they go into the league tournament.

Imperial enters the league tournament seeded third, and will play Wallace at 5:30 p.m. MT in the first round tonight (Thursday) in Paxton. If they win, they'll play on Friday evening, then in either the championship or a consolation game on Saturday.

"We'll most likely get to face Grant and Paxton 1, the two teams who beat us during the season," Peterson said. "And I look forward to it. We've got a great defense, and we'll be working this week on hitting and getting pitchers throwing strikes. We've got a good chance of winning it," he said.