

**By Russ Pankonin**

***The Imperial Republican***

Imperial's Junior Legion baseball team posted a pair of wins in the Sidney tournament over the weekend.

In their opener, Imperial defeated Sterling 8-6 but suffered their only loss Saturday, falling to Ogallala's juniors 16-6 on Saturday. They came back on Sunday to defeat Sidney 12-11.

In their win against Sterling, Tyler Oxford went the distance on the mound for the win. No other stats were available for the game.

### **Ogallala**

Against Ogallala, the juniors gave up five runs in the top of the first and went down in order in the bottom half.

Ogallala put up eight more runs in the second but Imperial followed with their own rally.

Jake Lueth opened with a single to start the rally. From there, Imperial picked up six walks against two strikeouts.

Lueth came back around to the plate and added another single as Imperial put up six runs during the inning but still trailed 6-13.

Imperial could only get two runners on base over the next three innings while giving up three more runs for the 16-6 loss.

Lueth started on the mound with Bryson Fisher coming on in relief in the third.

### **Sidney**

On Sunday, Imperial needed just four and half innings to down Sidney, 12-11.

After giving up a run to Sidney in the top of the first, Imperial launched a two-rally good for four runs.

Sam Haarberg started the rally with a single. Two walks later, Fisher added a double and later scored for a 4-1 lead.

Sidney picked up another four runs in the top of the second. All three of their outs came on strikeouts by pitcher Ryan Moline.

Imperial answered with seven runs in the bottom of the second, with 15 batters going to the plate in the inning.

Moline, Curtis Laird and Destyn Miller all picked up singles. Lueth had a pair of singles with Haarberg adding a double to build a 11-5 lead.

Sidney put four runners around the bases in the top of the third to narrow the lead, 11-9.

After retiring Sidney in order in the top of the fourth, Imperial got a base runner when Lueth picked up a out-out single. He would eventually score what proved to be the winning run.

In the top of the fifth, Imperial doused a rally after Sidney pulled with one.

Sidney then loaded the bases but stranded all three runners on a pop-up to give Imperial the 12-11 win.

Moline went the distance for the juniors on the mound, finishing with six strikeouts.

The juniors travel to Gibbon this weekend.