

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

Imperial's Junior Legion baseball team dropped a double header to Sidney there Sunday afternoon.

The lost the opener 1-11 followed by a 13-5 loss in the finale.

In the opener, Imperial went down in order to open the game and gave up a pair of runs in the bottom of the first.

In the second, the juniors stranded Jake Lueth and Destyn Milner after each picked up singles. Sidney added two more runs in the bottom half of the inning.

After a scoreless third, Imperial got a lead-off run from Lueth, who got on base via a walk and advanced off a single by Curtis Laird.

Sidney added two more runs in the fourth to lead 6-1.

The juniors got a pair of two-out singles from Bryson Fisher and Lueth but the rally ended after the team's seventh strike out.

Sidney sent five more runners around the bases to end the game in the bottom of the fifth on the 10-run rule.

Moline collected five strike outs in the shortened game.

Second of doubleheader

In the finale, Moline led off with a single, stole his way to second and later scored on a passed ball to draw first blood.

The juniors followed that up by retiring Sidney in order, including a pair of strike outs by pitcher Tyler Oxford.

In the top of the second, Imperial stranded a runner and then gave up seven runs in the bottom half of the inning.

Carlos Enriquez got a single to open the third and scored Imperial's second run of the game.

From there, the game was scoreless until the bottom of the fifth when Sidney added three more to make the score 10-2.

In the top of the sixth, the juniors started a two-out rally on a single by Darin Knobbe. Sidney proceeded to walk four Imperial batters, bringing two runs in, making the score 10-4.

Sidney expanded their lead in the bottom of the sixth, scoring three more runs.

Imperial collected a final run in the top of the seventh after Lueth walked and made his way around the base path.

Oxford went the distance, striking out eight.