



By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Imperial's wood bat baseball team dropped its first game of the 2009 summer season Sunday to Haxtun, Colo.

Errors hampered the Imperial Crush team, as they dropped a 19-2 game in a shortened seven-inning contest.

Imperial started the game off in good shape, loading the bases with two outs, but couldn't get one across the plate.

Haxtun opened their first time at bat with a three-run inning, then scored eight in the second, six in the third and two more in the fifth.

Imperial scored its first run in the third, after Lance Milner reached first on a dropped third strike by the catcher. Milner scored on a fielder's choice.

After two scoreless innings, Crush put their second run across in the seventh after Eric McDaniel singled, and scored on an RBI single from Calvin Weiss.

Also gaining hits for Imperial were Darrin Schultz and Scott Way, each with singles.

Schultz pitched all seven innings for Imperial, collecting five strikeouts and one walk.

Also playing in Sunday's opener for Imperial were Dustin Weiss, Sean Munger, Jeremy Mathews and Carl Zuege.



To Sidney this Sunday

Imperial Crush will be on the road again this Sunday for a game at Sidney. Start time is 3 p.m.

The next two Sundays, June 14 and 21, Crush will be at home for games at Campbell Park.

On June 14, they will host North Platte for a 1 p.m. contest. Kimball will be in town on Sunday, June 21, for a 2 p.m. game.

This is Imperial Crush's second season in the Nebraska Baseball Association League.

Wood baseball bats are used in most games, but in those communities where the outfield fences are further out, aluminum bats are allowed.