



By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Despite giving up six runs in the first two innings, Imperial Crush stayed right with Haxtun, Colo., in an afternoon baseball game at Campbell Park Sunday.

Although Imperial lost the game, 7-12, the home town team did much better at the plate and defensively against undefeated Haxtun, compared to the teams' first meeting in May.

Haxtun struck first in the top of the first, when Zach Krueger homered after Haxtun's first two batters walked. After another walk, Imperial shut the next three batters down with two pop-ups and a ground-out.

Trailing 0-3, Imperial's Lance Milner walked, then scored Imperial's first run later on a throwing error.

Haxtun connected with another three-run homer in the second inning by M. Lampman to go up 6-1.

But Crush retaliated with three runs of its own in the second. Carl Zuege singled to open the inning, Sean Munger walked, then a single from Jerel Fortkamp scored Zuege.

A fielder's choice scored Munger, then Milner doubled to score Fortkamp as Imperial pulled within two, 4-6.

After holding Haxtun scoreless in the third, Imperial's Scott Way blasted a one-run homer over the left field fence in the bottom of the inning, as Imperial pulled within one, 5-6.

Another Haxtun homer in the fourth from L. Woltemath put them up by two again, 5-7, but Imperial matched it with an RBI single from Derek Russell in Imperial's fourth.



Both teams were scoreless in the fifth and sixth innings, but Haxtun's Krueger homered again in the seventh, giving Haxtun a 6-8 lead.

Imperial put one on the board in their half of the seventh after Milner singled. He moved around the bases, stealing second, third and home, pulling Imperial within one again, 7-8.

