

Strand throws no-hitter in season finale against Grant

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

Imperial's 16-and-under team finished their season Saturday with 15 wins against only three losses.

Their final win of the season came on a no-hitter thrown by Alex Strand against Grant. He was just one walk away in the fifth inning from throwing a perfect game.

Coach Brad Moline said Strand had it all going in the season finale, noting it was fun to watch, as well.

Strand struck out six and his teammates stood behind him for the other 12 outs in the six-inning 8-0 win.

Imperial scored two in the first, one in the second, two in the fourth and three in the sixth for their eight runs.

In addition to his no-hitter, Strand went 2-4 at the plate, with Jeff Banks adding a 2-3 effort.

The win against Grant came in a triangular played at Ogallala. It was in the opener that Imperial suffered only its third loss of the season.

After giving up three runs to Ogallala in the first, Imperial built an 8-3 lead.

However, Imperial gave up 10 runs in the fourth and four more in the fifth against just one run of their own to fall 17-9.

Shane German led Imperial at the plate, going 3-3. Banks was 2-2 and Cody Cravey, Alec Spady, Daniel Regier and Charlie Haarberg were all 2-3.

Imperial splits with McCook

In a doubleheader with McCook Wednesday, July 8, Imperial split, losing the first game but coming back to claim the split.

In the opener, Imperial collected five hits to bring home four runners for a 4-1 lead after two innings.

McCook put up two in the fourth while Imperial went down in order.

In the top of the fifth, McCook turned a double play to squash an Imperial rally,

Then, in the bottom of the fifth, they knocked in two runs to hand Imperial their second loss of the year. Two of Imperial's three losses came at the hands of McCook.

In the nightcap, Imperial won a run fest, 15-12.

On Wednesday, July 1, Imperial picked up their 13th win of the season with a 15-5 five-inning win over Grant.

Adam Moline went 2-3 and German and Grant Lenner went 2-4.

Season stats for the team will appear next week.