



By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Imperial Pee Wee #2 took runner-up honors in the Tri-County Youth League's end-of-season baseball tourney, losing by a run Monday night to top-seeded Paxton, 13-12.

The championship game in Hershey was delayed about 45 minutes due to lightning, and didn't conclude until after 11 p.m. MT

Paxton took an early 4-0 lead in the first and held onto it through the second, as Imperial failed to score in its first two at-bats.

But, Imperial had a big third inning, scoring five runs on five hits, taking a 5-4 lead.

Paxton responded with seven runs in their half of the third, taking a 11-5 advantage.

After a scoreless Imperial fourth, Paxton added another two, stretching their lead to 13-5.

In their fifth inning, Imperial scored another five, pulling within three, 10-13, and then held Paxton scoreless in the bottom of the fifth with three straight outs.

Left with just the top of the sixth to score three to tie the game, Imperial came up a run short, as Paxton held onto the 13-12 win.

In their first game of the tournament Saturday, Imperial #2 beat Wallace 15-6, then advanced to the finals after a 14-12 win over Sutherland.

Imperial #2 finished the season with a 9-3 record. The team will hold onto the runner-up traveling trophy during the coming year.

Imperial Pee Wee #1, who was the No. 3 seed in the tournament, was upset in its first round game Saturday, 10-6, by Sutherland. They finished the season at 6-4-1.