

**By Jan Schultz**

***The Imperial Republican***

Imperial Crush took a 16-3 loss on the road to North Platte on Sunday.

Imperial was held to just four hits in the contest, while North Platte racked up 16. The game was called after seven innings on the run rule.

Crush went down in order its first four at-bats. But in the top of the fifth, trailing 5-0, Imperial scored two runs on three hits.

Scott Way opened the fifth with a single, then Alex Strand reached base on an error. Carl Zuege followed with a double, scoring Strand. Dave Parker's two-out single scored Zuege before a ground-out ended the inning for the Crush.

Imperial's only other run in the game came in the seventh, after Way reached base on an error, then scored on a sacrifice fly by Strand.

North Platte scored two in the first, one in the second, two in the third, three in the fifth and eight in the sixth.

Besides Way, Zuege and Parker, also recording a hit Sunday was Jeremy Mathews.

Taking the loss on the mound for Imperial was Alex Sharp, who pitched five innings, striking out six, walking none and giving up eight hits.

Strand pitched one inning of relief, striking out one, walking four and giving up five hits.

The loss dropped Imperial's record to 2-4.

Season winding down

Crush has just four regular season games left on the schedule before hosting the district tournament Aug. 8-9 at Campbell Park.

Here is the rest of the season schedule:

July 25—Sidney (makeup game), here, 3 p.m.

July 26—At Kimball, 3 p.m.

Aug. 1-2—At Scottsbluff, double-header, 7 p.m. on Saturday, 1 p.m. Sunday.

Aug. 8-9—Districts in Imperial.