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JC Baseball: OC falls to Grayson College

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[BY BEN MAKI](#)

The Odessa College baseball team made several errors and still had multiple chances to take the lead, but Grayson County College held off the Wranglers, winning 6-3 Sunday at American Legion Field.

OC starting pitcher Jerome Leija threw four innings and walked three, struck out six and gave up one hit. He gave up two runs, just one earned, despite witnessing three of the team's errors while on the mound.

Odessa College (2-1) used six other pitchers in the game.

"I thought Jerome Leija, my Permian kid, was awesome," Odessa College head coach Brian Blessie said. "That kid came out and set a great tone for the day, pitched his tail off. (He) was on a pitch count, just like all of our kids. That's why we went through so many arms. (We're) just kind of trying to break them in a little bit.

OC finished with six errors on the day.

"When you don't play defense, you're going to put your back against the wall all the time," Blessie said. "But the one thing I'll give our kids credit for is they battled back, even in that last inning."

Through eight innings, Odessa College made five errors, but allowed just three runs (one earned) in part because Leija, Mason Munguia and Matt Wolfe earned a strikeout to end a threat by Grayson County (3-0) in the fourth, fifth and eighth innings, respectively.

"We made pitches, and ultimately, we made the play when we had to," Blessie said. "Usually, when you have errors and walks in an inning you're going to give up big innings. The key thing for us was we executed when we had to."

In the ninth inning, however, Grayson left fielder Shane Ammon reached on a fielding error by first baseman Viosergy Rosa and Robert Perrin followed that with an RBI-triple over the head of center fielder

Chris Winder. Grayson starting pitcher/designated hitter hit a two-run home run to nearly the same spot over the left field fence as his first one, which led off the fourth inning with.

“I think, mentally (we) took a pitch off,” Winder said. “We have to learn from that and stay hooked up on every pitch, every out of every inning. It hurts, but we shouldn’t have been in that situation if we had all done our job in execution, myself included, it’s not just the ninth inning.

In the bottom of the ninth, with two outs, Winder lined a double to right-center that was just out of the reach of a diving Perrin to cut the lead to 6-3 and bring the tying run up to the plate. Raymond Frias flew out to right-center to end the game.

Blessie said his team is lucky to have had that chance to tie the game.

“(We were) very fortunate,” he said. “When you make six errors and only give up six runs, but they had the two big blows that their starting pitcher hit. Other than that, I thought we did a really good job of sustaining their offense.

“We’re right there with them. We’ve got to do some things to get better. We had a chance to win the ball game and we very well could have.”

Beau Poston, who finished the day 2-for-4 with two RBIs and a double, said the Wranglers just missed their opportunities.

“We just couldn’t get nothing going,” Poston said. “We had chance (and) just didn’t come through today and they did.”

The Wranglers get back into action at 1 p.m. Saturday at American Legion Field against Barton Community College in a doubleheader.

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