

## Salem drops baseball sectional final to Charlestown; loses 7-6 in extra innings

Written by Administrator

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The Salem Lions saw one of their best ever seasons in baseball come to an end Tuesday night (June 2), when they fell 7-6 to the Charlestown Pirates in extra innings.

Salem led 5-3 after a complete inning of play, but the Pirates chipped away slowly and gradually got back in the game.

With two runners on base in the top of the first inning, the Lions' Hayden Burton hit to center, and it barely turned into a home run when it went over the fence.

A single and a pair of walks later, a single by Josiah Farnsley scored the Lions' Logan Walker and Joe Philpott, giving them a 5-0 lead.

In the bottom of the first frame, the Pirates came back, scoring three runs of their own.

Devon Thorstad sent in two runs for the pirates when he hit a single into right field, scoring Cameron Metzger and Matt Hall.

The Pirates took a long step to the win in the bottom of the fifth, when they pushed across two more runs, getting to within 6-5.

Metzger homered, scoring team mate Matthew Wyatt, who had singled.

A solo homer from the Pirates' Chad Brady in the bottom of the sixth tied up the game at 6-6.

That was the only scoring until the bottom of the eighth inning, when Charlestown loaded the bases up. Damon Vest singled, scoring Thorstad.

Salem coach Jamie Wilson said, "I think once our kids got ahead, and Charlestown started chipping away, we got back on our heels."

Wilson said they made a few base running errors, as well. Those mistakes were "things we don't normally do," according to Wilson.

"We just couldn't get things done when we needed them," said Wilson.

The day before (June 1), the Lions defeated North Harrison in five innings by a 14-1 score.

"Our kids were just hitting the ball hard," said Wilson. "They hadn't played in a whole week, and I think they were fired up to play. I think our kids were just throwing well that night."

Looking back on the season, Wilson was happy with the outcome.

"I was pretty pleased with the season," Wilson said. "The kids did well. They worked hard in practice."

Wilson said that he wished they had been able to make up the rain outs that they had, most of which were never rescheduled.

Besides having about five hitters hitting over .300, they had an ace pitcher which helped a lot in the wins, in Alex Potter. Potter was 6-1 on the year, with a 6-0 Mid southern Conference slate. The team won their first ever MSC title in baseball. Join St. Mary of the Knobs to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in style! Their 4th Annual Reverse Raffle is set for Friday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. Only 100 tickets sold in increments of \$100, \$50, and \$25. Total cash prizes of \$5,500 – even losers have a second chance to win!