

By EARL WATT • Daily Leader

Aaron Mees hit a solo home run in the eight inning, but it wasn't enough in a 4-3 loss to first-place El Dorado Tuesday.

The loss was the second to the Broncos on a two-game road trip and leaves the Bee Jays in a difficult position in returning to the NBC World Series.

According to NBC President Jerry Taylor, only the Jayhawk League champion will qualify for the tournament.

Currently, the Bee Jays are in fourth place, five full games behind El Dorado with 11 league games remaining. Seven of those are against lower-tier teams Dodge City and Hays. That should mean Liberal has an opportunity to make up some games down the stretch, but it also means they will need help from other teams defeating El Dorado and Derby.

The Bee Jays took an early 2-0 lead over El Dorado while Brett Davis was able to keep the Broncos from scoring.

El Dorado finally got on the board in the sixth with a run and added two more in the seventh after Davis had been relieved.

Mees then tied the game 3-3 with a home run to lead off the eighth, but the Broncos scored the go-ahead run in the bottom of the eighth, and the Bee Jays could not respond in the ninth for the 4-3 loss.

The Bee Jays will get today off and will return to Brent Gould Field Thursday to host the Hutchinson Monarchs.

On the road, again, and not too kind

Liberal will return to the road for a weekend pair against Derby.

So far, the road has not been kind to the Bee Jays. Liberal is 2-7 in road games this season with a single win at Dodge City and another at El Dorado. They have been blanked at Hays and have yet to play at Derby, On the flip side, Brent Gould Field has been very friendly confines for the Bee Jays. Liberal has won the last six games at Brent Gould Field and has a 14-8 record at home this season.

Liberal will need to start stringing together some wins including road victories to have a shot at the league title. Seven of the final

11 league games are on the road.

Head to head in the Jayhawk

Even though the Bee Jays has an uphill battle the rest of the season to qualify for the NBC World Series in Wichita, the schedule is favorable.

The Bee Jays have finished their season series with first-place El Dorado and ended with a 3-5 record against the Broncos. Three of the seven losses the Broncos have in the league came at the hands of the Bee Jays.

Liberal has four games remaining with Derby and has a 2-2 record against the Twins.

Bee Jays lose lead late, fall to Broncos

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The Bee Jays will see Hays two more times and so far the Bee Jays are

2-4 against the Larks.

Liberal still has five games against the Dodge City A's, and so far the Bee Jays are 2-1 against the last-place team in the Jayhawk League.