



By Russ Pankonin
The Imperial Republican

The Chase County Longhorns broke in their new field in style Friday, winning the inaugural game over Holyoke, Colo., 35-22.

The Longhorns built a 21-0 halftime lead and answered Holyoke's scores in the second half to secure the win.

Coach Dan Lenners said he was pleasantly surprised by his team's play in the first game. While they still have lots of room for improvement, Lenners said he saw some good things Friday night.

However, he should be able to expect that with the experience he has back from last year. Ball control proved to be a big factor, especially in the first half, Lenners said.

The Longhorns ran off a total of 45 plays en route to a 21-0 halftime lead. Defensively, they limited Holyoke to just 15 plays and forced them to punt on every possession in the first 24 minutes.

Holyoke got on the board in the second half but the Longhorns answered their first two scores to keep the game well in hand.

Lenners said the backs ran especially well. Steven Fish finished with 165 yards while Paul Gaschler ran for another 132 yards.

As the Longhorns prepare to face Southwest at Bartley Friday, Lenners said they will continue to concentrate on the fundamentals.

He wants to see the backs improve their blocking and execute their fakes better.

On the offensive line, we want to see more sustained blocking. Defensively, the corners and safeties need to overcome some blown assignments that resulted in touchdowns.

They also need to concentrate on execution to eliminate penalties. Several crucial penalties in the first half squelched drives.

Southwest will be coming off a come-from-behind 26-25 win over Loup City in their opener last Friday.

Lenners said they have good size on the line and an experienced backfield.

They use the pistol formation, which is similar to the shotgun except that the quarterback is only two to three steps behind center.

They run effectively and like to pass, Lenners said, adding it's essential for the Longhorns to improve their pass rush this week.

Game time at Bartley is set for 6 p.m. MT Friday night.



Let's see if we can get some more action pictures on page 6 or per go on.