

<



## Longhorns' district title hopes fade in 56-23 loss

**By Russ Pankonin**

***The Imperial Republican***

Speed kills—on the streets and on the football field.

And it was speed that carried the Sutherland Sailors to a 56-23 win over the Chase County Longhorns there Friday night.

With three starters gone due to injury, sickness and eligibility issues, the Longhorns found themselves a step behind the Sailors most of the night.

The Longhorns knew they had to stop a two-pronged offensive attack that features quickness and speed in the backfield along with speed and accuracy in the aerial game.

When the Longhorns' Michael May intercepted a Sutherland pass deep in the secondary on their first drive, it looked like the Longhorns had it figured out.

The Longhorns took the ball 60 yards down the field, getting three to five yards a run. They stuffed it across the goal line on a four-yard run by Paul Gaschler for an early 7-0 lead.

Even when the Longhorns fell behind 20-7 midway in the second quarter, they answered with a 68-yard, 11-play drive.

The Longhorns maintained their composure, converting two fourth downs on the drive, including a fourth-down touchdown pass from Alex Strand to Daniel Regier.

Trailing just five, 20-15, with just 58 seconds left in the half, the momentum belonged to the Longhorns.

But the triumph proved to be short-lived. Sutherland snatched the mojo right back, returning the ensuing kickoff 68 yards for a touchdown.

That could have well been the turning point in the game.

The Longhorns got the second half kickoff but went three-and-out. From there, the flood gates opened.

Sutherland scored on four of the next five possessions to build a 56-15 lead over the Longhorns with about five minutes left in the game.

The Longhorns got one more score with the jayvees when Kale Gockley hit Adam Moline for a seven-yard score in the closing minutes.

