

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

No school seems immune to the flu bug during the past several weeks and a flu outbreak in Bayard was responsible for the Longhorns' fifth win of the season.

The Longhorns were scheduled to face Bayard here Friday night but the game was cancelled by Bayard due to the flu.

They indicated they could not field a team to face the Longhorns due to a flu epidemic at the school.

As a result, the game goes down on the record as a forfeit and the Longhorns' record went to 5-2.

Crucial Game tonight

The Longhorns will face a 5-2 Perkins County team tonight (Thursday) in Grant with playoff hopes on the line.

Coach Dan Lenners said the Longhorns can control their own playoff fate by winning the game.

A win would assure the Longhorns of a C2 playoff berth. A loss, however, could mean the Longhorns finish the season at 5-3 and miss the playoffs.

At that point, it would depend how other teams ahead of Chase County in the wild-card points do this week in the final regular season game.

The Longhorns stand at 23rd in the C2 wild-card points while Perkins County stands at 28th.

It's pretty much a must-win game for them too, Lenners said. So that factor should make for a good high school football game, not to mention the friendly rivalry between the two teams.

Lenners said he hopes the Friday night layoff doesn't affect his team tonight. Not playing a game gets the team out of their routine a little, he added.

Lenners said depth will be a key Thursday night. He said some of his team has been battling the flu bug as well but he hoping that will be better by tonight's game.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. MT at Haenfler Field in Grant.