



By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

Imperial's Longhorns boys find themselves still looking for a win on the basketball court after falling to two more Class B opponents last week.

The Longhorns suffered a 29-66 pounding by the Sidney Red Raiders here on Friday.

On Saturday, the Longhorns contended with Ogallala for a half before foul trouble took its toll in a 37-64 loss.

Going into the season, Coach Carl Zuege knew they were going to face some good teams early on.

Ironically, the Longhorns find themselves at the same point they were at this time last year—0-4.

They look to rebound this week when they travel to Yuma, Colo., today (Thursday) and play host to Garden County Friday.

Zuege believes the goose egg will come off the record this week.

This weekend's games will be the last before the Christmas break.

The Longhorns resume action after Christmas at the Alliance holiday tournament Monday, Dec. 29 and Tuesday, Dec. 30.

Turnovers have proved to be a nightmare for Zuege and his team.

Sidney's pressure Friday and Ogallala's full-court man Saturday resulted in a total of 37 and 24 turnovers respectively.

This is where Zuege said the team really misses senior Schyler Heathers, who's out for the season with a torn ACL.

Regardless, Zuege said the rest of his players have to step up and take on the challenge.

Scoring drought against Sidney

The Longhorns' inability to get the ball past half court against Sidney became painfully obvious Friday.

Sidney put 22 unanswered points on the board in the first quarter. And when the Longhorns did manage to get the ball into the front court, they couldn't set up an offense.

The Longhorns didn't get on the board until halfway through the second quarter when Alex Sharp hit the first of two free throws after a Sidney player technical.

To make the sting hurt just a little bit more, Sidney drained a trey just before the halftime buzzer to take a 34-9 advantage over the Longhorns.

Things didn't improve a lot more in the second half with Sidney putting another 32 points on the board while holding Imperial to 20, making the final score 29-66.

Imperial's leading scorer was Colin Larson with eight.

Josh Schuman controlled the boards, pulling down 11 rebounds during the game. □

The Longhorns shot well from two-point range, going 55 percent. However they only managed to get off 20 shots inside the arc. From outside the arc, they were 1-10.

Imperial 29

	2 PT.	3 PT.	FT/	F	TP
	FG	FG	FTA	F	TP
Josh Schuman	3	0	0-0	2	6
Kyle Bottom	1	0	0-0	2	2
Matt Hayes	0	0	0-0	1	0
Alex Strand	2	0	0-0	3	4
Jakob Burke	0	0	0-0	0	0
Alec Spady	0	0	0-0	0	0
Jeff Banks	0	1	0-0	0	3
Casey Francis	0	0	0-0	0	0
Charlie Haarberg	0	0	0-0	0	0
Daniel Regier	0	0	2-2	1	2
Colin Larson	4	0	0-0	4	8
Daniel Morales	1	0	1-2	3	3
Alex Sharp	0	0	1-2	0	1
Tanner Stromberger	0	0	0-0	1	0
TOTALS	11	1	4-6	17	29

Sidney 66

M. Hartzler 5, E. Einspahr 2, T. Arellano 18, T. Schussler 3, R. Estrada 15, T. Beyer 2, M. Rosenbaum 6, L. Castner 6, B. Schoening 9.

Sidney's totals: 2 pt. FG—22; 3 pt. FG—5; FT/FTA—7-23; Fouls—12; TP—66.

Points by quarters:

Imperial 0 □ 9 □ 11 □ 9—29

Sidney 22 □ 12 □ 17 □ 15—66

Good first half at Ogallala

Coach Zuege saw some new spark in his players Saturday at Ogallala.

The Longhorns stayed right with the Indians in the first half, 24-29. But it was foul trouble on Larson and Schuman that would take a toll.

Both picked up their third in the first half and both went to the bench early in the third with their fourth.

Zuege said both helped with the press break and after they left the floor, it disrupted the offensive attack.

In the second half, the Longhorns scored just 9 in the third and 4 in the fourth compared respectively to Ogallala's 20 and 15 points.

Zuege said one bright spot in the Ogallala loss proved to be the emergence of senior Daniel Morales.

He came off the bench to score 13 points and pulled down six rebounds to lead the Longhorns in both areas.

Imperial 37

	2 PT.	3 PT.	FT/		
	FG	FG	FTA	F	TP
Josh Schuman	0	0	0-0	5	0
Kyle Bottom	0	0	1-2	0	1
Matt Hayes	0	0	0-0	1	0
Alex Strand	1	1	1-2	3	6
Jakob Burke	0	0	0-0	1	0
Alec Spady	0	0	0-0	1	0
Jeff Banks	0	0	0-0	2	0
Casey Francis	0	0	0-0	0	0
Charlie Haarberg	0	0	0-0	0	0
Daniel Regier	0	0	4-6	2	4
Colin Larson	2	0	1-4	4	5
Daniel Morales	6	0	1-2	3	13
Alex Sharp	1	1	1-1	0	6
Tanner Stromberger	1	0	0-0	2	2
TOTALS	11	2	9-17	24	37

Ogallala 64

J. Victory 2, G. Schlichtemier 15, L. Schmidt 16, Trent Neill 2, Trevor Neill 12, M. Leininger 4, D. Blessing 2, J. Hudson 6, M. Norman 2, A. Faesser 2, T. Leininger 1.

Ogallala's totals: 2 pt. FG—14; 3 pt. FG—7; FT/FTA—15-26; Fouls—20 TP—64.

Points by quarters:

Imperial 11 13 9 4—37

Ogallala 13 16 20 15—64

Game times

This week's game at Yuma begins at 4 p.m. MT with a C team game, followed by the jayvee game and then the varsity game.

Friday's game with Garden County will be a girls/boys date, with jayvee games beginning at 4:30 p.m. MT followed by the girls varsity and boys varsity.