



By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Chase County Girls' Coach Marc Mroczek liked what he saw opening weekend for his girls' varsity basketball team.

The Lady Longhorns went 1-1 in back-to-back contests last Thursday and Friday against two quality schools, McCook and Goodland, Kan.

It was the effort, competitiveness, confidence and good shooting marks that impressed Mroczek, now in his sixth year as girls' head coach.

Both nights, Chase County shot better than 30%, a good showing for a team's first two games of the season.

In the Lady Longhorns' win over McCook last Thursday, the team shot 31% from the field, and improved to 36% the next night in their loss at Goodland.

Mroczek attributed that to the team's work on form, shot selection and getting shots in the paint.

"Our shot selection was a real factor, too, in our percentages," he said.

"I was very happy with the results. Our effort was very good. They have determination, they want to win and I enjoy that," Mroczek said.

Mroczek said he was a little concerned going into the weekend that they might not have "legs" on Friday after a game the night before, but his team's condition looked good. They'll be tested this weekend, though, as both opponents will likely press more.

He said the team's confidence and determination will also continue to be important this weekend, when they have two more back-to-back games against tough teams.

On Friday, they travel to Sidney to meet up with a 2-1 varsity squad. Sidney will have a lot of height inside, has a good guard and will be quick.

"They'll be salty. I'll expect a full court press from them," Mroczek said.

Then on Saturday, the Lady Longhorns are back home where they will host Ogallala, who is also 1-1 after their opening weekend. The Lady Indians beat Minden by one, and lost by four to Lexington.

Mroczek said Ogallala returns all of their starters from last season, and will also put a tall team on the floor.

Both nights start with JV girls' and boys' games in separate gyms. In Sidney Friday, action starts at 4 p.m. and gets underway at 4:30 p.m. in Imperial Saturday.

The girls' varsity and boys' varsity contests will follow the JV girls' games both nights.

McCook game

The 40-25 win over McCook last Thursday was never in doubt, as the Lady Longhorns jumped ahead early with a 7-0 lead.

The closest McCook would come was three points late in the first half when they rattled off three straight baskets, then trailing only 24-21 with under a minute left.

Chase County's Lexee Reichert then hit a bucket with 35 seconds left, and the Lady Longhorns were up 26-21 at halftime.

McCook had a tough time on offense the second half, scoring just four points total, all in the fourth quarter. Meanwhile, Chase County put up 14 in the final two quarters.

Coach Mroczek said his team's 1-2-2 zone defense caused McCook problems, not allowing them many good looks at the basket.

Even with McCook's advantage on height, Chase County outrebounded their opponents 32-25.

Chase County's Reichert dominated the offense with 24 points against the Lady Bison, including a 10 of 12 mark from the free throw line. Karlee Palmer and Chantal Heathers each added five.

From the field, Chase County shot 13 of 42 for 31%. McCook hit 11 of 37 for 20%.

Overall at the free throw line, Chase County was at 50%, hitting 11 of 22. McCook missed all eight of their free throw attempts.

Each team had one trey. Chase County's was put in by Palmer.

Shannon Liewer led the rebounding for Chase County with 10. Palmer and Reichert each had four steals, and Jilanne German collected four assists.

Imperial 40

	2 PT.	3 PT.	FT/		
	FG	FG	FTA	F	TP
Morgan Fisher	0	0	0-0	0	0
Chantal Heathers	2	0	1-2	4	5
Michaela Ketter	0	0	0-0	0	0
Bethany Sorensen	0	0	0-0	0	0
Jilanne German	0	0	0-0	1	0
Lexee Reichert	7	0	10-12	3	24
Karlee Palmer	1	1	0-0	0	5
Alexis Tropf	1	0	0-0	4	2
Shannon Liewer	2	0	0-8	0	4
Carolina Ramos	0	0	0-0	0	0
Dinelly Benitez	0	0	0-0	0	0
Catarina Ramos	0	0	0-0	0	0
TOTALS	13	1	11-22	12	40

McCook 25

G. Sehnert 4, A. Lambing 2, B. Goodenberger 5, L. Brooks 2, M. Schaeffer 2, K. Pohl 4, E. Nichols 4.

McCook's totals: 2 pt. FG—11; 3 pt. FG—1; FT/FTA—0-8; Fouls—19; TP—25.

Points by quarters:

Imperial 13 □ 13 □ 4 □ 10—40

McCook 7 □ 14 □ 0 □ 4—25

Goodland game

The same two hot shooters for Goodland had the same roles for the Cowgirls this year—score most of the points.

This year, Goodland's Jade Herl and Ashley Archer, both juniors, combined for 47 of the team's 61 points, or 77%, in Goodland's 61-53 win over Chase County Friday.

Last year, Herl and Archer did the same thing, making 49 of their 57 points.

However, Chase County stayed right with Goodland for most of the game and were within four points with four minutes left.

But two of Chase County starters, German and Liewer, fouled out with more than five minutes left. That forced a couple of younger players into the game for Chase County.

In the end, it was the two dominant Goodland players that were major factors in the game.

Mroczek said his team played better Friday night compared to the night before, even with the loss. They cut down their turnovers Friday (from 25 to 15) and had a better shooting mark from the field at 36% (18 of 50). Goodland was 14 of 34 for 41%.

Reichert again led the scoring for Chase County with 14 points. Palmer had 11 after hitting three treys and another bucket.

Alexis Tropf, Chase County's first sub off the bench, added nine, while German put up eight against the Cowgirls.

The Lady Longhorns had another good night on the boards, out rebounding Goodland 34 to 23. Reichert led the team with 12.

At the free throw line, Chase County hit eight of 15 for 53%, but Goodland hit 18 of 26 for 69%.

In other stats, Heathers was credited with three steals and seven assists.

Imperial 53

	2 PT.	3 PT.	FT/		
	FG	FG	FTA	F	TP
Morgan Fisher	0	0	0-0	0	0
Chantal Heathers	1	0	1-4	2	3
Michaela Ketter	0	0	0-0	0	0
Bethany Sorensen	2	0	0-0	2	4
Jilanne German	3	0	2-3	5	8
Lexee Reichert	5	0	4-4	4	14
Karlee Palmer	1	3	0-1	2	11
Alexis Tropf	4	0	1-2	4	9
Shannon Liewer	2	0	0-1	5	4
Carolina Ramos	0	0	0-0	0	0
Dinelly Benitez	0	0	0-0	0	0
Catarina Ramos	0	0	0-0	0	0
TOTALS	18	3	8-15	24	53

Goodland, Kan. 61

C. Studer 1, A. Archer 20, M. Henger 4, J. Rome 5, J. Herl 27, A. Bateman 4.

Goodland's totals: 2 pt. FG—14; 3 pt. FG—5; FT/FTA—18-26; Fouls—16; TP—61.

Points by quarters:

Imperial 13 □ 10 □ 14 □ 16—53

Goodland 17 □ 11 □ 13 □ 20—61