



By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

Longhorn boys' coach, Carl Zuege, knew his team would have to play perfect to upend the third best team in Class B last year.

While they played their best game of the year thus far Friday night at Sidney, Zuege said, it proved not to be quite enough.

The Longhorns battled back from a 9-0 deficit to open the game and trailed by just two midway in the third quarter.

However, they couldn't contain the Red Raiders' big man and Sidney pulled away, handing the Longhorns a 48-65 loss.

On Saturday, the Longhorns fell to Class B Ogallala 51-63.

For as good as the Longhorns played Friday, they fell far from that pace Saturday, Zuege said. "That was a win that got away," he said. "We should have got them."

Zuege said Ogallala's scrappy man-to-man defense caused problems for the Longhorns. "They eventually broke us down."

Trailing by only two at half, Zuege said he made some adjustments at halftime "but we just didn't execute them."

"By the time we woke up, it was too late," he added.

Zuege wanted one of last weekend's game to help insure the Longhorns could go 3-3 by the Christmas break.

Now, that depends on a pair of wins this week against Yuma today (Thursday) and Garden County Friday.

Yuma will be very athletic, Zuege said. They were fifth in the state tournament last year and won the state football title last month.

Plus, they return four from their top rotation last year. "They will be very good," he said.

Zuege feels the Longhorns can get the other win at Garden County Friday. They come into the game at 2-1.

Sidney

After spotting Sidney nine unanswered points to open the game, the Longhorns shifted into gear, both offensively and defensively, to narrow the gap to just one at the quarter break, 11-12.

The Longhorns stayed within striking distance, trailing just seven at half, 27-34.

To open the third, the Longhorns rallied and pulled within a pair, 34-32. That's when Sidney's 6-6 big man, Matt Rosenbaum, went to work.

With Tanner Stromberger and Alex Strand on the bench, each with three fouls, Rosenbaum took over inside.

He scored 13 of Sidney's 15 points to give them a 14-point cushion going into the fourth.

The Longhorns got it back to 10 in the fourth but that was the closest they could stay, falling 48-65.

Longhorn varsity boys fall to a pair of Class B teams

Stromberger led the team offensively with 15 points with 11 points from Jeff Banks, including three treys. Regier added 9.

Imperial 48

	2 PT.	3 PT.	FT/			
FG	FG	FTA	F	TP		
Kyle Bottom	0	1	2-2	5	5	
Jakob Burke	0	0	0-0	1	0	
Shane German	0	0	0-0	0	0	
Alex Strand	0	0	0-0	3	0	
Steven Fish	0	0	0-0	0	0	
Adam Moline	0	0	0-0	1	0	
Alec Spady	1	0	0-0	2	2	
Jeff Banks	1	3	0-0	2	11	
Charlie Haarberg	1	0	0-1	2	2	
Daniel Regier	4	0	1-2	3	9	
Adam Dickey	1	0	0-2	0	2	
Grant Lenner	1	0	0-0	0	2	
Tanner Stromberger	6	0	3-4	3	15	
TOTALS	15	4	6-11	22	48	

Sidney 65

Frerichs 6, Bayne 6, Tucker 7, Harvey 13, Rosenbaum 26, Castner 2, Christian 5.

Sidney's totals: 2 pt. FG—17; 3 pt. FG—4; FT/FTA—19-24; Fouls—17, TP—65.

Points by quarters:

Imperial 11-16-8-13—48

Sidney 12-22-15-16—65

Ogallala

The visiting Indians' pressure defense gave the Longhorns problems throughout Saturday night's game.

The Longhorns tied the game late in the first, 10-10, on a Kyle Bottom trey but Ogallala answered to hold a 13-10 at the first break.

With three minutes left in the half, Strand gave Imperial their first lead, 22-21 on a free throw.

Ogallala got their own free throw and Alec Spady hit a bucket for the Longhorns' last lead of the half, 24-22.

To open the third, Strand dropped a 3-pointer to give the Longhorns their last lead of the game, 29-28.

After that, the Longhorns' Jeff Banks added the only other points with a trio of buckets.

Ogallala's defense forced numerous turnovers that they took advantage of.

By the quarter's end, the Indians held a 45-35 lead over the Longhorns.

"The third quarter was just horrible," Zuege said.

They had Ogallala in foul trouble with four players having already gotten their third foul by half, Zuege said.

Instead of going out and attacking, the Longhorns "sat back on their heels" and let Ogallala take control of the game, Zuege said.

After falling behind by 14, the Longhorns got it back to 10 with three minutes left but couldn't sustain the run, falling 51-63.

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Stromberger finished as the only player in double figures with 14.

Imperial 51

	2 PT.	3 PT.	FT/	F	TP
FG	FG	FTA	F	TP	
Kyle Bottom	1	2	0-2	4	8
Jakob Burke	0	0	0-2	0	0
Shane German	0	0	0-0	1	0
Alex Strand	1	0	1-3	4	3
Steven Fish	0	0	0-0	0	0
Adam Moline	0	0	2-2	0	2
Alec Spady	1	1	0-0	1	5
Jeff Banks	4	0	0-0	4	8
Charlie Haarberg	1	0	2-2	5	4
Daniel Regier	2	0	3-4	0	7
Adam Dickey	0	0	0-0	0	0
Grant Lenner	0	0	0-0	0	0
Tanner Stromberger	5	0	4-6	3	14
TOTALS	15	3	12-21	22	51

Ogallala 63

J. Victory 20, G. Moul 7, Trevor Neill 15, Trent Neill 9, Kohl 2, Blessing 4, Faesser 6.

Ogallala's totals: 2 pt. FG—21; 3 pt. FG—3; FT/FTA—12-20; Fouls—22, TP—63.

Points by quarters:

Imperial 10 □ 16 □ 9 □ 16—51

Ogallala 13 □ 15 □ 17 □ 18—63

Game times

The Longhorns play host to the Yuma Indians here tonight in boys' action only.

The C team game kicks off action at 4:30 p.m. followed by the jayvee and varsity games.

Friday, the boys and girls both travel to Oshkosh to face Garden County. Jayvee action begins at 4:30 p.m. followed by the girls' and boys' varsity games.

