



**By Jan Schultz**

***The Imperial Republican***

Coach Marc Mroczek said his girls' team played well the first quarter in Monday's holiday tournament opener, but then struggled with Perkins County's defensive pressure.

Chase County had an early lead in the game, but the Lady Longhorns ended up dropping a 55-31 contest in Grant, site for a new holiday tourney this year.

Monday's loss dropped the Lady Longhorns' record to 3-4. But, a win Tuesday against Maxwell in the tourney's second day of action would bring the record back up to the .500 mark.

Chase County had a 9-7 lead four minutes into the game, but Perkins County scored six unanswered points, going up 15-9 early in the second quarter.

Karlee Palmer then sparked the Lady Longhorn offense with her second trey of the game, pulling the team within three, 12-15.

But, that's when things stalled. Chase County scored just two more points that quarter, trailing 23-14 at the half.

Though his team did well against the Perkins County defense first quarter, Mroczek said the team then seemed to struggle after that, turning over the ball too much.

"They got timid, then made bad passes," Mroczek said.

A considerably taller Perkins County team also stifled the Chase County shooting after the first eight minutes.

"We just weren't able to get a lot of good shots off," he said.

The Lady Longhorns struggled on the boards, too, as Perkins County outrebounded them 35 to 23. Thirteen of Perkins County's were offensive rebounds.

"That's too many for second and third chance points," he said.

Chase County was unable to close in on the score the rest of the game, and was held to single digit quarter scoring again the second half.

Leading the Chase County scoring Monday was Palmer with eight. Lexee Reichert and Shannon Liewer had six apiece.

In other individual stats, Alexis Tropf led in rebounds with eight, Chantal Heathers had three steals, while Liewer contributed three assists.

