



**By Russ Pankonin**

### ***The Imperial Republican***

Imperial's Lady Longhorns won their opener in the C2-11 subdistrict Monday, Feb. 15 against Sutherland but couldn't keep the run going the next night, falling to Perkins County.

The loss to Perkins County ended the girls' season with a 7-13 mark.

Coach Marc Mrozcek said his girls played well down the stretch in the Sutherland win but couldn't keep their intensity up in the loss to Perkins County.

The Lady Longhorns' subdistrict win over Sutherland marked the third meeting of the two teams with Imperial winning the last two.



Junior Karlee Palmer got the hot hand against Sutherland in the subdistrict opener, finishing with 16 points.

She knocked down a pair of treys in the first quarter, with the Lady Longhorns taking a 13-12 lead after one period of play.

Palmer added a trey and another deuce in the second quarter, along with baskets by Chantal Heathers, Jilanne German and Lexee Reichert.

That gave the Lady Longhorns a seven-point, 25-18 halftime lead.

Mrozcek said the girls really did a good job of getting the ball to Palmer when she was hot.

In addition, she got scoring help from her teammates to build up the lead.

Mrozcek said his girls struggled inside against a 6-foot freshman they hadn't seen before in their first two match-ups.

"That caught us a little off balance but we adjusted well," he said.

He said the girls executed especially well down the stretch.

Going into the fourth quarter with an eight-point margin, the Lady Longhorns allowed Sutherland to go on a run.

They pulled to within a pair, 37-35, with a little more than three minutes to play. The Lady Longhorns responded, holding Sutherland scoreless the rest of the way.

In addition, Imperial went to the line and knocked down seven of 11 free throws to clinch the win.

Palmer's 16 led all scorers, followed by Reichert and Shannon Liewer each with 7.

Imperial went 6-15 from outside the three-point arc (40%), including 4-7 by Palmer. Inside, they were 9-38 (24%). From the line, Imperial was 8-13 (62%).

German and Liewer led the rebounding with six each with Liewer adding seven assists and five steals.

Imperial 44

2 PT. 3 PT. FT/

	FG	FG	FTA	F	TP	
Morgan Fisher	0	0	0-0	0	0	
Chantal Heathers	1	1	0-1	3	5	
Michaela Ketter	0	0	0-0	0	0	
Kayla Brown	0	0	0-0	0	0	
Bethany Sorensen	1	0	0-0	0	2	
Jilanne German	2	0	0-0	0	4	
Lexee Reichert	2	0	3-4	4	7	
Karlee Palmer	1	4	2-2	1	16	
Alexis Tropf	1	0	1-2	3	3	
Shannon Liewer	1	1	2-4	3	7	
Carolina Ramos	0	0	0-0	0	0	
TOTALS	9	6	8-13	14	44	

Sutherland 35

Hopping 2, Stewart 3, VanSkiver 2, Rongisch 1, Miller 2, Hecht 9, Fleecs 4, Hornyak 4, Kennedy 8.

Sutherland's totals: 2 pt. FG—13; 3 pt. FG—1; FT/FTA—6-13; Fouls—15; TP—35.

Points by quarters:

Imperial 13 □ 12 □ 7 □ 12—44

Sutherland 12 □ 6 □ 6 □ 11—35



### Season ends against Perkins Co.

After defeating Sutherland in the first round of subdistrict, the Lady Longhorns couldn't keep their season alive the following night.

They fell to Perkins County in the subdistrict semifinal, 43-51, marking the fourth time this season the Lady Longhorns lost to Perkins County.

Mrozcek said he knew they needed to shut down Perkins County's Mackenzie Hite and Jessica Day.

As a result, they opened in a triangle-and-two defense, manning up on Hite and Day.

He said that worked well, especially in the first quarter with Perkins County taking a 7-5 lead after the first eight minutes.

The second quarter proved to be the difference maker in the game.

Mrozcek said his girls struggled against Perkins County's press and gave up some easy baskets.

With the defensive focus on Hite and Day, that left some gaps that Perkins County exposed with Jenni Sis knocking down three baskets in the second.

Hite still got 10 in the first half as well as the Lady Longhorns found themselves down 26-18 at half.

Mrozcek said the girls could never find the intensity in the second half to close the margin.

He said they switched to a man-to-man defense but it was not enough to spur a rally.

The Lady Longhorns put up 25 points in the second half to match the Lady Plainsmen.

However, they could never close the eight-point margin from half, falling 43-51.

Despite scoring 43 points, which was seven points above their average, Mrozcek said the girls

## Lady Longhorns finish season at 7-13

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couldn't find the spark to put on a run in the second half.

From the field, the Lady Longhorns were 15-38 inside the arc (39%) and only 2-7 (29%) outside the arc. From the line, they went 7-11.

Reichert led the rebounding with eight while Liewer led the team in assists with five.

Palmer led the scoring with 12, along with three steals.

The Lady Longhorns finished the season with a 7-13 mark.

Imperial 43

	2 PT.	3 PT.	FT/		
FG	FG	FTA	F	TP	
Morgan Fisher	0	0	0-0	0	0
Chantal Heathers	0	0	2-2	4	2
Michaela Ketter	0	0	0-0	0	0
Kayla Brown	0	0	0-0	0	0
Bethany Sorensen	0	0	0-0	0	0
Jilanne German	2	0	1-2	1	5
Lexee Reichert	3	0	3-4	5	9
Karlee Palmer	3	2	0-0	3	12
Alexis Tropf	3	0	0-0	1	6
Shannon Liewer	4	0	1-3	4	9
Carolina Ramos	0	0	0-0	0	0
TOTALS	15	2	7-11	18	43

Perkins County 51

Hite 19, Day 7, Poppe 9, Sis 10, Burge 4, Humphrey 2.

Perkins County's totals: 2 pt. FG—15; 3 pt. FG—3; FT/FTA—12-20; Fouls—13; TP—51.

Points by quarters:

Imperial 5 □ 13 □ 15 □ 10—43

Perkins County 7 □ 19 □ 16 □ 9—51