



Imperial invitational set for this Saturday

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

Open weight classes hurt the Longhorns' team scoring efforts at the Ogallala duals Saturday but four of the team's wrestlers came away with four wins.

Coach Matt Vlasin said his kids made their best showing of the year. "The kids wrestled great," he said.

In addition, he said the Longhorns won some key matches against district opponents.

That factor should be a real plus in the district tournament seedings. The district meet is only a month away.

Vlasin said the Ogallala meet followed a dual format, with five different teams in each of two pools.

The Longhorns faced Mitchell, Gordon-Rushville, North Platte High, and a team comprised of all jayvee wrestlers at the meet.

Due to the open weights, the Longhorns gave up 24 points before each dual even started. It's tough to make that much up, Vlasin said.

The Longhorns dropped all four duals in pool matches but came back to defeat Hershey in the final face-off dual of the day. However, Vlasin said only three weight classes wrestled in the Hershey dual.

Vlasin said his wrestlers got to see district opponents Gordon-Rushville and Mitchell in their pool. However, they didn't see any Kimball wrestlers who competed in the other pool.

The highlight of the day came with four wrestlers going 4-1 for the day.

Justin Lueth—125, Jeremiah Lueth—145, Jeremy Mathews—171; and Nathan Hinojosa—285 all won four matches against just one loss.

Vlasin said Justin Leuth put together one of his best meets of the season, earning three pins along the way before falling 8-11 in his final match.

Jeremiah Lueth pinned his opponent in the four matches he won.

Mathews lost his first match but came back strong with two pins and a decision, as well as a forfeit.

Vlasin said Saturday was a break-out meet for Hinojosa. He said he wrestled really well.

He recorded three pins and a forfeit while giving up just one pin.

Vlasin said his whole team wrestled with lots of intensity. "The kids fed off each other," he added, something they haven't done so far.

Vlasin said they lost Jared Knobbe at 140 for the remainder of the season. Knobbe broke his wrist in the first match and had surgery on it Monday.

Vlasin's other 140 man, Jesse Ferebee, is recovering from a car accident.

One wrestler failed to make weight and another was gone, shrinking the team's scoring

ability.



- 135 Justin Lueth (4 wins, 1 loss)—pinned Andy Conselo (Mit) 1:29; pinned Alex Rawlings (Kim) 1:22; decisioned Shannon Richardson (GR) 11-4; pinned Robbie Kosmacek (NPH) 1:31; lost decision to Tyler Fredrick (Her) 8-11.
- 140 Jared Knobbe (1 loss)—forfeit (injury).
- 145 Jeremiah Lueth (4 wins, 1 loss)—pinned Phillip Houer (Mit) :46; pinned by M. Driml (Kear) 1:47; pinned Jesse Richardson (GR) 1:13; pinned Austin Pico (NPH) :55; pinned Josh Terry (Her) 1:59.
- 160 Sean Langin (2 wins, 1 loss)—pinned by Ray Garza (Mit) 1:44; pinned Dick Burbach (GR) 3:23; won by forfeit to Hershey.
- 160 Trevor Fuehrer (1 win, 1 loss)—won by forfeit to JV team; pinned by Garrett Holscher (NPH) 3:07.
- 171 Jeremy Mathews (4 wins, 1 loss)—lost decision Jordon Debus (Mit) 5-9; pinned Zach Zoellner (Oga) :56; pinned Andy Loy (GR) 5:24; pinned Steve Keck (NPH) 2:54; won by forfeit to Hershey.
- 215 Tyler Roenfeldt (2 wins, 3 losses)—pinned Caleb Pederson (Mit) 1:26; won by forfeit to JV team; pinned by Matt Pribil (GR) 3:56; pinned by Andrew Eshleman (NPH) 1:07; pinned by J.D. Troyer (Her) 1:31.
- 285 Nathan Hinojosa (4 wins, 1 loss)—pinned Gus Luad (Mit) :59; pinned Dan Bauer (Oga) :40; pinned by Kirk Fochtman (GR) 2:47; pinned Alex Hansen (NPH) 4:45; won by forfeit to Hershey.

Dual scores:

Mitchell 57-Chase Co. 24

JV Team 42-Chase Co. 36

Gordon Rushville 36-Chase Co. 27

North Platte High 60-Chase Co. 24

Chase County 36-Hershey 21

Placings—1st Mitchell, 2nd Kearney, 3rd North Platte High, 4th Wray, 5th Gordon-Rushville, 6th Ogallala, 7th Kimball, 8th JV Team, 9th Chase County, 10th Hershey.

Longhorns meet here Saturday

Vlasin and his wrestlers get to compete on their home mats Saturday with their invitational here.

The jayvee wrestling will begin at 8:30 a.m. with varsity action to follow after the seeding meeting at about 9 a.m.

The Longhorns are the defending champions. Vlasin said he'll be filling the weights with some of the younger kids in an effort to repeat.