



Two of the three losses to Perkins County

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

The Imperial Longhorns fell in the first round of the SPVA tournament Monday night, marking their third straight loss in five days.

Two of the losses came at the hands of the Perkins County Plainsmen. In regular season action last Thursday, Jan. 15, the Longhorns couldn't hold on to a late lead, falling 34-36.

Then, in the first round of the SPVA Monday, the Longhorns couldn't avenge last week's loss to Perkins County, falling a second time to the Plainsmen, 39-48.

Sandwiched in between, the Longhorns couldn't finish off another opponent, falling to the Gothenburg Swedes there Friday night 45-54.

Three games that got away

Coach Carl Zuege said the Longhorns let the three games get away. What bothered him most was that the Longhorns continue to make the same mistakes over and over.

Foul trouble has been a big issue. The Longhorns are sending their opponents to the line far more than they are getting there themselves.

Going back to the Wray and Perkins County games, the Longhorns' opponents shot 49 more free throws than they did—in just two games.

Turnovers continue to plague the Longhorns as well, Zuege said.

He said those turnovers result in too many empty trips down the floor while the other team capitalizes.

Late lead fades

Against Perkins County last week, the Longhorns led at half but fell behind by the end of the third. They clawed their way back into the game in the final minutes but couldn't close the deal.

Foul troubles haunted the Longhorns again. They committed 21 fouls and sent Perkins County to the line 26 times, making 10. Conversely, the Longhorns went to the foul line just once in the game, that coming in the fourth quarter.

Josh Schuman was the only player to finish in double figures in the game.

Then, on Friday, the Longhorns suffered a similar fate against Gothenburg. They led after the first quarter, 12-9, but fell behind by two at half, 16-18.

They matched the Swedes in the third with 14 points. But then Gothenburg got the hot hand and went on a 22-point run in the fourth.

The Longhorns did scratch their way back from 12 points to narrow the margin to four before the Swedes got hot from the field.

It proved more than the Longhorns could overcome, suffering their second loss in two days.

Longhorn boys on three-game skid

Colin Larson led the way with 16, followed by Schuman with 12.

Imperial 36

| | 2 PT. | 3 PT. | FT/ | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-----|----|----|
| | FG | FG | FTA | F | TP |
| Josh Schuman | 8 | 0 | 0-0 | 5 | 16 |
| Kyle Bottom | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 1 | 0 |
| Matt Hayes | 1 | 0 | 0-0 | 2 | 2 |
| Alex Strand | 0 | 2 | 0-1 | 3 | 6 |
| Jakob Burke | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Alec Spady | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jeff Banks | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Casey Francis | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 3 | 0 |
| Charlie Haarberg | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Daniel Regier | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Colin Larson | 3 | 0 | 0-0 | 3 | 6 |
| Daniel Morales | 2 | 0 | 0-0 | 1 | 4 |
| Alex Sharp | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 2 | 0 |
| Tanner Stromberger | 1 | 0 | 0-0 | 1 | 2 |
| TOTALS | 15 | 2 | 0-1 | 21 | 36 |

Perkins County 41

B. Mayer 11, A. Pelster 5, M. Jones 1, M. York 16, K. Kurkowski 7.

Perkins County's totals: 2 pt. FG—12; 3 pt. FG—3; FT/FTA—10-26; Fouls—11; TP—41.

Points by quarters:

Imperial (3-7) 9 10 7 5—36

Perkins County (5-5) 6 10 15 10—41

Imperial 36

| | 2 PT. | 3 PT. | FT/ | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-----|----|----|
| | FG | FG | FTA | F | TP |
| Josh Schuman | 6 | 0 | 0-1 | 4 | 12 |
| Kyle Bottom | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Matt Hayes | 1 | 0 | 0-0 | 2 | 2 |
| Alex Strand | 1 | 0 | 0-2 | 3 | 2 |
| Jakob Burke | 0 | 0 | 2-2 | 0 | 2 |
| Alec Spady | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jeff Banks | 1 | 0 | 0-0 | 1 | 2 |
| Casey Francis | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Charlie Haarberg | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Daniel Regier | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Colin Larson | 7 | 0 | 2-2 | 5 | 16 |
| Daniel Morales | 1 | 0 | 1-2 | 0 | 3 |
| Alex Sharp | 0 | 2 | 0-0 | 2 | 6 |
| Tanner Stromberger | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 2 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 17 | 2 | 5-9 | 17 | 45 |

Gothenburg 54

A. Abramson 27, N. Jensen 3, D. Johnson 2, B. Oliver 3, L. Huake 3, I. Edson 16.

Gothenburg's totals: 2 pt. FG—15; 3 pt. FG—4; FT/FTA—12-19; Fouls—13; TP—54.

Points by quarters:

Imperial (3-8) 12 4 14 15—45

Gothenburg (7-5) 9 9 14 22—54



Hoping for a bounce back

Zuege said he felt the Longhorns could bounce back Monday against Perkins County in the opening round of the SPVA, after playing them to within five last week.

The Longhorns led after the first quarter 11-10 but could only stretch the lead to three in the second. However, the Plainsmen dropped a bucket in the final seconds of the first half to take a 21-20 lead into the locker room.

The Plainsmen opened the second half with a pair of buckets to open a 20-25 lead.

Imperial's Colin Larson knocked down three straight shots to help the Longhorns regain a 26-25 lead. However, by the end of the quarter, Perkins County edged back ahead 29-32.

In the fourth, the Plainsmen opened with five unanswered points to go up eight points. The Longhorns fell behind by 10 but got it down to seven before falling 39-48.

Larson led the team with 16 followed by Schuman with 11.

Monday's loss puts the Longhorns in the 5th place game against Hershey Saturday at the Mid-Plains College gym in North Platte. Hershey (4-9) fell to Sutherland (7-5) 46-26 in the other game Monday night.

The boys' fifth place game will begin at 11 a.m. MT. Semifinals of the boys' tournament will be played tonight (Thursday) with all finals on Saturday.

Imperial 39

| | 2 PT. | 3 PT. | FT/ | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-----|----|----|
| | FG | FG | FTA | F | TP |
| Josh Schuman | 4 | 0 | 3-4 | 4 | 11 |
| Kyle Bottom | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Matt Hayes | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 1 | 0 |
| Alex Strand | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 4 | 0 |
| Jakob Burke | 0 | 1 | 0-0 | 1 | 3 |
| Jeff Banks | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 1 | 0 |
| Casey Francis | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 2 | 0 |
| Daniel Regier | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 2 | 0 |
| Colin Larson | 8 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 16 |
| Daniel Morales | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 1 | 0 |
| Alex Sharp | 0 | 3 | 0-0 | 1 | 9 |
| Tanner Stromberger | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 1 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 12 | 4 | 3-4 | 18 | 39 |

Perkins County 48

B. Mayer 8, A. Pelster 8, S. Lampman 1, M. Jones 5, J. Mahnken 6, M. York 11, K. Kurkowski 9.

Perkins County's totals: 2 pt. FG—16; 3 pt. FG—2; FT/FTA—10-20; Fouls—9; TP—48.

Points by quarters:

Imperial (3-9) 11 □ 9 9 10—39

Perkins County (7-5) 10 □ 11 □ 11 □ 16—48