

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Outside of districts and state, Coach Matt Vlasin ranked Saturday's John Higgins Wrestling Invitational at Lexington the toughest this season.

The 16 teams at the tournament were largely from Class A and B schools, but Vlasin said his team gains a lot from the exposure there.

Some of the best wrestlers in the state were there, he said, and a number of brackets included more than one previous state medalist. At least one bracket had as many as three previous state champions in it.

Three of the Longhorns came home with medals—Keithan Cochran at 103, fourth place; Justin Lueth at 135, second; and Jeremy Mathews at 171, fourth.

In team points, Chase County finished 13th overall.

Vlasin said he was happy with how the Longhorns wrestled.

Even though they may have been down six to 10 points, they didn't give up and pushed to score points, he said.

The tournament ran on a 16-man bracket, the same as state. Completing the tournament in one day makes for a tiring schedule for the team, Vlasin said.

There were a lot of upsets in the tournament, he added, and three-fourths of the matches went the full three periods.

"Usually you see a lot of pins in the first round matches" at tournament like this, he said. That wasn't the case Saturday, however.

Kearney, Class A's state runner-up the past two years, won the tourney, edging Scott City, Kan., by four and a half points.

Team scoring was Kearney 174, Scott City 169.5, Beatrice 140, Millard West 128.5, Schuyler Central 120, Lincoln Southwest 93.5, McCook 83.5, Lexington 81, Millard North 72, Sidney 69, Holyoke, Colo. 68, North Platte 65, Chase County 58, Cozad 49, Yuma, Colo. 44 and Hastings 37.5.

□ *Individual Chase County results were as follows:*

103 Keithan Cochran pinned Thimm (MWe) 2:50, pinned Block (Beatr) 1:57, pinned by Edmonds (Holy) 3:11, dec. Bauer (Krny) 14-3, pinned by Mulligan (Sc City) 2:16 for 4th place.

125 Cody Cravey pinned by Crocker (Krny) 0:46, dec. by Carlson (Coz) 17-5.

135 Justin Lueth bye first round, dec. Sullivent (McC) 6-0. dec. Kelch (Beatr) 12-6, dec. by Stuckey (Sc City) 11-9 for 2nd place.

145 Jeremiah Lueth bye first round, dec. by Bushner (Yuma) 8-5, pinned by Conway (Hast) 1:15.

152 Joel Fisher bye first round, pinned by Bell (NP) 4:10, dec. by Jacobsen (Sid) 4-0.

160 Sean Langin pinned Heckendorn (MNo) 3:53, dec. by Diaz (Yuma) 16-7, pinned Holscher (NP) 4:44, dec. by Butler (Krny) 4-2.

171 Jeremy Mathews bye first round, pinned Chalupa (McC) 1:12, dec. by Foss (Krny) 8-6, pinned Parson (SchuyC) 3:28, dec. by Hoeme (Sc City) 6-4 for 4th place.

189 Trevor Fuehrer pinned by Hayes (Sc City) 0:19, pinned by Neal (Sid) 2:34.

215 Tyler Roenfeldt dec. by McMillin (MNo) 9-6, pinned by Bond (Sid) 2:15.

Hwt Nathan Hinojosa bye first round, pinned by Yost (MWe) 3:49, dec. by Pearson (LinSW) 8-7.

Parents Night this Thursday

Chase County will be home for its final dual meet of the season tonight (Thursday) when the Longhorns host McCook. It will also be Parents Night.

Activities start at 6:15 p.m. with the Parents Night introductions, said Coach Vlasin. Wrestling will follow.

McCook is rated in Class B, and it will be a tough dual for the Longhorns, Vlasin said, but will feature some good wrestling.

On Friday, Longhorns who need to make up a tournament will be at Curtis MV, then on Saturday, the team will compete at the North Platte St. Pat's Invitational, which has an 8:30 a.m. (MT) start.

Next Thursday, Feb. 5, the Longhorns compete at the SPVA conference tournament, hosted by Maxwell in North Platte.

Maxwell joined the SPVA conference this year, replacing Garden County.