***By Jan Schultz***
***The Imperial Republican***

Last week, the Lady Longhorn basketball team picked up two wins and a third place finish in the SPVA conference tournament.

With just one win on their record when the tourney was set up, Chase County was handed the sixth seed in the six-team tournament played at North Platte Community College.

But, a first round upset of North Platte St. Pat's on Jan. 20 put the Lady Longhorns into contention for some hardware.

Chase County lost in Friday's semi-finals to No. 2 Hershey, but secured the third place trophy by defeating No. 5 seed Sutherland on Saturday.

"I was happy with them," said CCS Coach Marc Mroczek.

"After the Hershey loss, our goal was to bring home some hardware. They responded well with a short night and playing the next day," he said.

The two wins in the tournament upped Chase County's record to 3-11 with five regular season games left on the schedule.

Top-seeded Perkins County defeated Hershey, 53-43, Saturday night for the SPVA title.

**St. Pat's game**

Six three-pointers in the first half kicked off a pretty good night of scoring last Tuesday, as the Lady Longhorns beat the Lady Irish, 45-36.

Coach Mroczek said his team responded well to the zone defense St. Pat's put on them in the first half, as his team connected for six of eight trey attempts.

Nichole Dickey hit three of them, Karlee Palmer sunk two and Kim Brophy added a trey.

The team also utilized Morgan Strand inside, which helped open up the outside shots.

Chase County had to contend with some hot shooting from North Platte's Shelby Pieper, who scored 16 of her 21 points in the first half.

Mroczek switched his defense to box and one in the fourth, which held off St. Pat's from any points in the final eight minutes.

"That was a good move. The girls really executed it well," Mroczek said.

Dickey led Chase County's scoring with 15 points, followed by Palmer and Strand, who had 10 apiece.

From two-point range, Chase County was 10 of 31 (32 percent), while St. Pat's shot 14 of 53 (26 percent).

On free throws, the Lady Longhorns hit seven of 14. St. Pat's dropped in two of six.

Morgan Strand pulled down 14 of the team's 33 rebounds. Dickey collected three steals and four assists. Kim Brophy also had four assists in the game.

**Imperial 45**

| | 2 PT. FG | 3 PT. FG | FT/ FTA | F | TP |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chantal Heathers | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Michaela Ketter | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jilanne German | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nichole Dickey | 1 | 3 | 4-5 | 2 | 15 |
| Karlee Palmer | 2 | 2 | 0-0 | 0 | 10 |
| Karlee Kunnemann | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kim Brophy | 1 | 1 | 0-0 | 2 | 5 |
| Shannon Liewer | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Carolina Ramos | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Molly Strand | 2 | 0 | 0-0 | 2 | 4 |
| Morgan Strand | 4 | 0 | 2-7 | 3 | 10 |
| Lexee Reichert | 0 | 0 | 1-2 | 0 | 1 |
| TOTALS | 10 | 6 | 7-14 | 9 | 45 |

N.P. St. Pat's 36

S. Pieper 21, B. Wieseler 2, C. Shelton 6, A. Thomas 4, M. Mayfield 3.

N.P. St. Pat's totals: 2 pt. FG—14; 3 pt. FG—2; FT/FTA—2-6; Fouls—14; TP—36.

Points by quarters:

Imperial 17 14 3 11—45

N.P. St. Pat's 12 13 11 0—36

**Hershey game**

Chase County couldn't find an answer to Hershey's shooting and speed in Friday's semi-final game, losing 68-27.

The Lady Longhorns had a good start early in the first quarter, leading 7-3, but were shut out the rest of the quarter as Hershey went on a 21-point scoring run.

Hershey's guards put a lot of pressure on Chase County's guards, forcing turnovers that turned into scores.

Chase County tallied 30 turnovers in the game, while Hershey had 10.

The Lady Panthers shot really well in the game, 27 of 51, for 53 percent, and also hit four treys.

The Lady Longhorns were nine of 34 from the field (26 percent), and hit one of seven three-pointers.

On free throws, Chase County was six of 17, and Hershey was two for two.

Individually, Morgan Strand was the only one in double figures for Chase County with 14

points. She also pulled down 10 of the team's 24 rebounds.

Brophy had three steals, and Dickey was credited with three assists.

**Imperial 27**

| | 2 PT. FG | 3 PT. FG | FT/ FTA | F | TP |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chantal Heathers | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Michaela Ketter | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jilanne German | 0 | 0 | 0-1 | 0 | 0 |
| Nichole Dickey | 2 | 1 | 0-0 | 0 | 7 |
| Karlee Palmer | 1 | 0 | 1-2 | 0 | 3 |
| Karlee Kunnemann | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 1 | 0 |
| Kim Brophy | 0 | 0 | 1-2 | 2 | 1 |
| Shannon Liewer | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Carolina Ramos | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Molly Strand | 0 | 0 | 0-2 | 0 | 0 |
| Morgan Strand | 5 | 0 | 4-8 | 0 | 14 |
| Lexee Reichert | 1 | 0 | 0-2 | 0 | 2 |
| TOTALS | 9 | 1 | 6-17 | 3 | 27 |

Hershey 68

J. Skomp 14, A. Kuroki 7, M. Munsen 17, T. Otzel 2, T. Arensdorf 9, D. Elsasser 14, C. Nickolite 3, T. Dobbins 2.

Hershey's totals: 2 pt. FG—27; 3 pt. FG—4; FT/FTA—2-2; Fouls—13; TP—68.

Points by quarters:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Imperial | 7 | 5 | 10 | 5—27 |
| Hershey | 24 | 19 | 15 | 10—68 |

**Sutherland game**

The Lady Longhorns never trailed in the consolation finals, beating fifth-seeded Sutherland, 45-28.

Chase County took a 5-0 early lead, extending it to 13-4 at the end of the first quarter. They held a 25-12 halftime lead.

The Lady Longhorns were on the other end in this game, forcing Sutherland into a number of turnovers that resulted in baskets.

"We played well and really pressured their guards," Coach Mroczek said.

Chase County successfully used Morgan Strand's height inside. She pulled down a lot of offensive rebounds and was fed inside by her teammates as she led all scorers with 23 points.

Brophy also had one of her better games of the season, scoring 11 points, had six assists, three steals and four rebounds.

"She had a really good all-around game," Mroczek said.

Chase County didn't connect on any threes, but were 16 of 42 from two-point range (38 percent).

Sutherland was six of 40 for 15 percent, and hit one three-pointer. Both teams were 13 of 22 on free throws.

Sutherland's five points in the fourth quarter came from free throws as Chase County's defense shut down their shooting.

With a 17-point lead late in the game, most of Chase County substitutes were able to see action in the final two minutes of the game.

**Imperial 45**

| | 2 PT. FG | 3 PT. FG | FT/ FTA | F | TP |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chantal Heathers | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Michaela Ketter | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jilanne German | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 2 | 0 |
| Nichole Dickey | 1 | 0 | 1-3 | 1 | 3 |
| Karlee Palmer | 1 | 0 | 0-0 | 4 | 2 |
| Karlee Kunnemann | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kim Brophy | 3 | 0 | 5-7 | 3 | 11 |
| Shannon Liewer | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Carolina Ramos | 0 | 0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 |
| Molly Strand | 0 | 0 | 2-4 | 3 | 2 |
| Morgan Strand | 10 | 0 | 3-4 | 4 | 23 |
| Lexee Reichert | 1 | 0 | 2-4 | 1 | 4 |
| TOTALS | 16 | 0 | 13-22 | 18 | 45 |

Sutherland 28

K. Sandberg 1, R. VanSkiver 2, J. Frary 2, A. Frary 8, N Hornyak 15.

Sutherland's totals: 2 pt. FG—6; 3 pt. FG—1; FT/FTA—13-22; Fouls—15; TP—28.

Points by quarters:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Imperial | 13 | 12 | 12 | 8—45 |
| Sutherland | 4 | 8 | 11 | 5—28 |

**Sutherland here this week,**
**then to Holyoke Saturday**

After all week off, the Lady Longhorns will see Sutherland again this Friday on the home court.

The girls-only night of basketball starts at 5:30 p.m. with the JV game in the Longhorn gym.

Having just played them less than a week earlier, Coach Mroczek said they will tweak a few things against the Lady Sailors Friday, and will mix up the defense to keep them off balance.

He said the week's rest will allow them to pressure Sutherland's guards more.

Sutherland's varsity girls come into the game with the same 3-11 record as Chase County.

Then on Saturday, the boys and girls teams will travel to Holyoke, Colo., for games starting at 3 p.m.

The girls will play only JV and varsity games, while the boys will play C, JV and varsity contests against the Dragons.