By Jan Schultz
The Imperial Republican

Sutherland's Lady Sailors faced the Lady Longhorns a second time in less than a week, but the outcome wasn't any different.

Chase County picked up its fourth win of the season Friday night, after handing Sutherland back-to-back losses.

The final score, 42-31, was a little closer than in the SPVA tourney's consolation game just six days earlier on Jan. 24, but a win's a win.

Initially, it looked like it might be a different ball game, as Sutherland took an early 8-3 lead.

"We started off slow and Sutherland controlled the tempo," said Coach Marc Mroczek.

But two quick baskets from Morgan Strand pulled Chase County within two.

Sutherland hit a field goal with 2:17 left in the quarter, but that was answered by three straight baskets from Strand, Lexee Reichert and Nichole Dickey, and just that quickly, Chase County took a 12-10 lead as the quarter ended.

Except for an unanswered 11-point run by Sutherland in the fourth quarter, Chase County never was threatened. The Lady Longhorns led by as much as 14 in the game.

Free throws were key in the final quarter, as Sutherland was forced to foul. Chase County hit seven of 10 attempts that quarter from the charity stripe.

Kim Brophy was perfect with a four-for-four mark in that quarter, and was six-for-six in the second half.

Behind Morgan Strand's game leading 22 points, Brophy with eight points was Chase County's second leading scorer. She also had seven steals and five assists to lead the team.

Mroczek said his team took advantage of its height, as Morgan Strand pulled down 20 of the team's 32 rebounds.

From two-point range, Chase County hit 15 of 43 for 35 percent, and was 12 of 19 (63%) from the free throw line.

Sutherland hit 10 of 47 (21%) on field goals and was eight of 17 (47%) on free throws.

Imperial 42

	2 PT. FG	3 PT. FG	FT/ FTA	F	TP
Shayla Dinnel	0	0	0-0	0	0
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	0	4-7	3	6
Karlee Palmer	0	0	0-0	0	0
Karlee Kunnemann	0	0	0-0	0	0
Kim Brophy	1	0	6-6	4	8
Shannon Liewer	0	0	0-0	0	0

Molly Strand 2 0 0-2 5 4
Morgan Strand 10 0 2-4 3 22
Lexee Reichert 1 0 0-0 1 2
TOTALS 15 0 12-19 16 42
Sutherland 31
K. Sandberg 4, K. Stewart 2, J. Frary 6, A. Frary 4, M. Hecht 2, N. Hornyak 13.
Sutherland's totals: 2 pt. FG—10; 3 pt. FG—1; FT/FTA—8-17; Fouls—14; TP—31.
Points by quarters:
Imperial 12 8 7 15—42
Sutherland 10 5 2 14—31

Holyoke game Saturday

Again, a slow start hampered the Lady Longhorns against Holyoke, Colo., Saturday night.

The Lady Dragons struck quickly with two treys and a free throw, and led 7-0 before Chase County got on the board.

But, the Lady Longhorns battled throughout the contest, never giving up, against the 9-3 Lady Dragons, and even took a late lead in the fourth quarter before falling, 52-45.

A big factor in the game was Holyoke's ability to shut down Chase County's leading scorer, Morgan Strand. Averaging nearly 15 points a game, she was held to seven against Holyoke.

Chase County's second leading scorer, Dickey, was also limited on offense a bit. She averages 11.5 points a game, but scored eight Saturday night.

Coach Mroczek credited the efforts of sophomores Karlee Palmer and Lexee Reichert, who picked up the Chase County offense.

Palmer, who exploded in the second half with 14 of her 16 points, led the team. Reichert scored 10, getting all of them in the first half.

"That was good to see," Mroczek said. "We need to see that more consistently."

Mroczek said the game's turning point came in the fourth quarter, after Palmer hit back-to-back two-pointers tying the game, then giving Chase County a two-point lead.

But Holyoke responded with a seven-point, unanswered run taking a 47-40 lead with about three and a half minutes left in the game.

A trey from Palmer with a minute left pulled them within three, but Chase County was then forced to foul and Holyoke hit most of their free throws.

Mroczek's team switched to a box-and-one defense in the second half which helped shut down Holyoke's leading scorer, Marisa Smith. While she led the game with 18 points, she only had two points the second half.

Brophy had the task of guarding Smith in the game, Mroczek said. She didn't score on offense, but had eight assists and two steals in the game.

"She did a really good job defending Smith," Mroczek said.

The Lady Longhorns also had to do without Molly Strand much of the first half, as she fell and hit her head early on. She played sparingly the rest of the game.

Chase County shot 13 of 45 (29%) from the field, and was 10 of 18 on free throws (56%).

That was matched by Holyoke's 15 of 38 from the field (39%) and a 7-11 mark on free throws. Holyoke hit five treys to Chase County's three.

While Morgan Strand was shut down on scoring, she still dominated the boards with 17 rebounds.

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	1	0	0-0	0	2
Nichole Dickey	1	1	3-5	4	8
Karlee Palmer	4	2	2-2	2	16
Karlee Kunnemann	0	0	0-0	0	0
Kim Brophy	0	0	0-0	3	0
Shannon Liewer	0	0	0-0	0	0
Molly Strand	1	0	0-0	2	2
Morgan Strand	1	0	5-7	2	7
Lexee Reichert	5	0	0-4	2	10
TOTALS	13	3	10-18	15	45

Holyoke, Colo. 52

M. Smith 18, C. Pelle 2, K. Hoffner 11, S. Beavers 3, M. Strarvebaum 12, P. Carper 2, N. Roth 4.

Holyoke's totals: 2 pt. FG—15; 3 pt. FG—5; FT/FTA—7-11; Fouls—17; TP—52.

Points by quarters:

Imperial 9□□13□11□12—45

Holyoke 16□□16□□6□14—52

St. Pat's here Friday

The Lady Longhorns will play their final home game of the season Friday night when they host North Platte St. Pat's.

It's a girls and boys night of basketball, starting at 4 p.m. with the JV games.

It will be a rematch of the first round of the SPVA tournament when Chase County upset the Lady Irish, who are now 11-5 on the season.

Chase County will enter the game at 4-12.

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, Chase County will be in Wauneta for games against the Lady Broncos, who have a 14-4 record.

Wauneta-Palisade returned to the Longhorn schedule last season, but the games were snowed out and never rescheduled.

Mroczek said his team will have the height advantage, but W/P will be quick with good perimeter shooting.

The night of girls' and boys' JV and varsity basketball gets underway in Wauneta at 3 p.m. on Tuesday.