By Russ Pankonin
The Imperial Republican

North Platte St. Pat's handed the Imperial Longhorns their sixth straight loss Friday, 51-64, by taking advantage of free throws in the second quarter.

The second quarter proved to be the difference maker, Coach Carl Zuege said this week.

The Longhorns trailed by six late in the first quarter, 5-11, but got it back to just one on a trey by Colin Larson and a pair of free throws by Alex Sharp.

In the second quarter, the St. Pat's Irish started taking advantage of the Longhorns' zone defense, hitting shots from the perimeter.

As the zone loosened up, the Irish attacked inside and began to draw fouls.

Trailing by just one, 12-13, the Longhorns got outscored by the Irish 17-5 in the middle four minutes of the second quarter.

The Irish drained a pair of treys and went 6-6 at the free throw line during the run.

The Longhorns added a bucket by Sharp and a pair of free throws by Tanner Stromberger to stay within 11 at half, 21-32.

Early in the third, the Longhorns trailed by 13 but pulled to within 10 several times in the first three minutes.

After St. Pat's knocked down a trey to go back up 13, Josh Schuman knocked down three shots in a row to pull the Longhorns within seven, 35-42.

The Irish answered with a trey and a deuce to go into the fourth quarter up by 12, 35-47.

Zuege said that each time the Longhorns got some momentum going in the third, the Irish would hit some key baskets to reopen their lead.

In the fourth, St. Pat's knocked down a trey to open the quarter and the Longhorns were unable to rally back, falling 64-51.

Stromberger got the start Friday and led the Longhorns with 10. Zuege noted Schuman was sick much of the week and didn't see the minutes he normally does, with Stromberger picking up Schuman's duties underneath.

Zuege said they also experimented some by moving Larson outside to a guard position.

Imperial 51

	2 PT. FG	3 PT. FG	FT/ FTA	F	TP
Josh Schuman	3	0	0-1	3	6
Kyle Bottom	0	1	3-4	4	5
Matt Hayes	0	0	0-0	1	0
Alex Strand	0	0	0-0	5	0
Jakob Burke	0	0	0-0	0	0
Alec Spady	0	0	1-2	1	1
Jeff Banks	2	0	1-1	0	5
Casey Francis	0	0	0-0	0	0

Charlie Haarberg 1 0 0-0 1 2
Daniel Regier 0 0 0-0 0 0
Colin Larson 2 1 0-0 3 7
Daniel Morales 1 0 5-7 1 7
Alex Sharp 1 1 2-2 1 7
Tanner Stromberger 3 0 4-6 2 10
TOTALS 13 3 16-22 22 51
N.P. St. Pat's 64
C. Britten 6, S. O'Malley 7, M. Troshynski 11, K. Harrich 1, Q. Salazar 3, S. O'Conner 12, J. Jones 10, M. Honerman 2, M. Clinch 1, G. Vinton 2, T. Bradney 9.
N.P. St. Pat's totals: 2 pt. FG—9; 3 pt. FG—7; FT/FTA—21-28; Fouls—17; TP—64.
Points by quarters:
Imperial 10 11 14 16—51
N.P. St. Pat's 11 21 15 17—64

Action this week

On Tuesday, the Longhorns traveled to Wauneta to face the 10-7 Wauneta-Palisade Broncos.

Saturday night, the Longhorns go to Hershey for a girls/boys doubleheader.

Hershey's boys sport a 6-10 record and will play St. Pat's Thursday before facing Imperial Saturday.

Jayvee action at Hershey begins at 3:30 p.m. MT.