Sub-district tournament starts Monday in Alliance

By Jan Schultz
The Imperial Republican

After just handing Sutherland a second loss this season two weeks ago, the Lady Longhorn basketball team did the same thing to North Platte St. Pat's.

Chase County's 44-27 win Friday night marked the second St. Pat's defeat at the hands of the Lady Longhorns. The first came in an upset win in January's SPVA tournament first round.

The Lady Longhorns have won three of their last four outings and four of the last six.

Coach Marc Mroczek likes seeing that this time of the season with sub-districts next week.

"They've been playing well these last few games," Mroczek said.

Despite the team's 5-12 record as of Monday, Mroczek said his team can do well in next week's C1-12 sub-district tournament in Alliance.

Seeding was to be out today (Thursday), and the Lady Longhorns are likely to earn the No. 4 seed in the five-team tournament.

If that holds true, Chase County will play No. 5 seed Mitchell, who was 4-13 on Monday. That game at Alliance High School will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday night.

Kimball is likely the No. 1 seed, followed by No. 2 Chadron and No. 3 Gordon/Rushville.

The semi-final games will be at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 17, with the finals next Thursday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m.

If the Lady Longhorns win their opener Monday, they'll meet top-seeded Kimball Tuesday night in the early game at 5 p.m.

The Chase County coaches and team will be staying overnight Monday in Alliance due to the distance.

St. Pat's falls a second time to Chase County

The second and third quarters proved the difference in Friday's win over North Platte St. Pat's, 44-27.

After knotted 9-9 at the end of the first quarter, Chase County came out in the second to score 13 while holding St. Pat's to five.

Then, in the third quarter, the Lady Longhorns outscored them 15 to 6, and took a 37-20 lead.

Part of that third quarter dominance was eight unanswered points by Chase County. The Lady Longhorns also dropped in a trio of treys in the third, once each by Nichole Dickey, Karlee Palmer and Kim Brophy.

Unlike the first half, Chase County also hit its free throws in the second half, making seven of eight. They ended up eight of 14 at the charity stripe.

Dickey's 19 points led all scorers in the game and came from some balanced shooting. She hit two treys, four field goals and was five of five at the free throw line.

"She got some good looks early and was hitting them against their zone," Mroczek said.

Morgan Strand, Chase County's leading scorer, was held to eight points in the game, largely due to the double teaming St. Pat's applied.

But, it opened up the Lady Longhorns' outside game, and the team responded well, Mroczek said.

North Platte's leading scorer Shelby Pieper was held to just 10 points in the game. While she rattled off seven in the first quarter, she was held to just one trey in the second half.

Mroczek said that was largely due to the efforts of Brophy, who got the assignment to guard Pieper again and did another good job against her.

Brophy also added seven points on offense, had seven assists and eight rebounds.

After reviewing the film, Mroczek said his team didn't rebound well on St. Pat's side of the floor.

He said they'll be focusing on that as they prepare for their final regular season game Saturday at Hershey and in sub-districts next week.

In team stats, Chase County hit 12 of 35 from the field (34%) while St. Pat's was nine of 53 (17%).

Both teams had 34 rebounds in the game. Morgan Strand led the team with 10.

Imperial 44

	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	1	0
Nichole Dickey	4	2	5-5	4	19
Karlee Palmer	0	1	0-0	0	3
Karlee Kunnemann	0	0	0-0	0	0
Kim Brophy	2	1	0-2	3	7
Shannon Liewer	0	0	0-0	0	0
Molly Strand	1	0	1-2	4	3
Morgan Strand	3	0	2-4	2	8
Lexee Reichert	2	0	0-1	1	4
TOTALS	12	4	8-14	15	44

N.P. St. Pat's 27

S. Pieper 10, B. Wieseler 2, C. Shelton 1, A. Thomas 8, J. Nozicka 2, M. Mayfield 4.

N.P. St. Pat's totals: 2 pt. FG—9; 3 pt. FG—2; FT/FTA—3-10; Fouls—16; TP—27.

Points by quarters:

Imperial 9 13 15 7—44

N.P. St. Pat's 9 5 6 7—27

Hershey final regular game

This Saturday, Feb. 14, marks the final regular season game for the Lady Longhorns when they travel to Hershey.

The day of boys' and girls' basketball starts at 3:30 p.m. (MT) with the JV games.

Hershey's varsity girls haven't lost since taking second in the SPVA tournament on Jan. 24. On Monday, they had a 14-3 record.

Mroczek said they will attempt to slow down the tempo of Saturday's game and cut down on turnovers, an area that plagued them against Hershey in the SPVA tourney.