By Russ Pankonin
The Imperial Republican

The Imperial Longhorns will seek to end their regular season on an up note Friday when they play host to 13-6 Sutherland.

Sutherland comes in having won seven of their last eight games, which included an overtime win over Maxwell in the SPVA championship game.

A win Friday would end an eight-game skid that goes back to mid-January. Plus, it would be a boost as the Longhorns enter subdistrict play Monday at Alliance.

As the fifth seed, the Longhorns will face fourth-seeded Gordon-Rushville (5-14) in the play-in game that begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Alliance High School gym.

Losses to W-P, Hershey

The Longhorns go into this Friday's game with a 3-14 record after suffering a pair of losses at the hands of Wauneta-Palisade and Hershey.

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, the Longhorns traveled to Wauneta for a match-up of Chase County teams.

The Broncs finished the night with a 54-50 win over the Longhorns.

The Longhorns held a five-point 13-8 lead after the first eight minutes. But it was the second quarter that proved to be their undoing.

Coach Carl Zuege said their zone defense broke down, giving up the outside shots to the Broncs, known for their three-point shooting.

Zuege said the top of his defense caved in on the guard inside the key, leaving shooters open on the outside.

The Broncs put up 23 points with 12 of those coming on treys. At the other end, the Longhorns only managed to score 11 to trail by seven at half, 24-31.

Alex Strand hit a pair of treys in the third, along with three each from Josh Schuman and Tanner Stromberger to close the Bronc's lead to four, 36-40, going into the fourth.

Zuege said they couldn't break that four-point barrier and only went 3-8 at the line while the Broncs' final seven points came from the line with a 7-12 effort as the Longhorns were forced to foul.

Schuman led the Longhorns with 15 followed by Stromberger with 10.

Imperial 50

	2 PT. FG	3 PT. FG	FT/ FTA	F	TP
Josh Schuman	7	0	1-1	3	15
Kyle Bottom	0	0	0-0	1	0
Matt Hayes	1	0	0-0	0	2
Alex Strand	0	3	0-1	5	9
Jakob Burke	0	0	0-0	2	0
Jeff Banks	0	1	0-0	0	3
Casey Francis	0	0	0-0	1	0

Daniel Regier 0 0 0-0 0 0
Colin Larson 2 0 1-3 2 5
Daniel Morales 0 0 1-2 3 1
Alex Sharp 0 1 2-2 2 5
Tanner Stromberger 3 0 4-6 3 10
TOTALS 13 5 9-15 22 50
Wauneta-Palisade 54
B. Geier 8, T.J. Ellicott 5, 9, C. Bartels 20, D. Harris 13, R. Martin 8.
Hershey's totals: 2 pt. FG—9; 3 pt. FG—7; FT/FTA—15-25; Fouls—17; TP—54.
Points by quarters:
Imperial (3-13) 13 11 12 14—50
W-P (11-7) 8 23 9 14—54

3rd quarter difference at Hershey

Zuege's Longhorns put up a 21-17 lead in the first half and had chances to turn the game into a blowout, but Hershey rallied back.

He said Hershey put up seven points before the end of the half, including answering a Longhorn trey with one of their own right at the buzzer.

The third quarter, in Zuege's words, turned into a "train wreck."

He said Hershey put on a half-court press to open the second half. Despite practicing on it all the time, the Longhorns failed to attack the press.

Instead, they turned the ball over and "made every mistake possible against the press," Zuege said.

"We shut down," the coach added. It showed on the scoreboard as the only bucket in the quarter came on a trey by Alex Sharp.

Despite a three-point quarter, the Longhorns trailed by just three, 24-27.

The Longhorns found themselves down by eight in the fourth but cut Hershey's lead to four in the final minute.

The Longhorns were forced to foul to get possession of the ball but Hershey didn't leave any openings, making 11 of 14 free throws in the final quarter to fall 38-48.

The Longhorns failed to have a double-figure scorer with Sharp scoring 9 and Stromberger 8.
Imperial 38

	2 PT. FG	3 PT. FG	FT/ FTA	F	TP
Josh Schuman	1	0	0-0	5	2
Kyle Bottom	0	0	0-0	1	0
Matt Hayes	0	0	0-0	0	0
Alex Strand	2	1	0-2	2	7
Jakob Burke	0	0	0-0	0	0
Alec Spady	0	0	0-0	0	0
Jeff Banks	0	0	0-0	1	0
Casey Francis	1	1	0-0	1	5
Charlie Haarberg	0	0	0-0	0	0
Daniel Regier	0	0	1-2	0	1
Colin Larson	3	0	0-0	5	6
Daniel Morales	0	0	0-0	2	0
Alex Sharp	0	3	0-0	2	9

Tanner Stromberger 3 0 2-3 1 8
TOTALS 10 5 3-7 20 38
Hershey 48
P. Young 6, T. Johnson 9, K. Kuroki 12, Z. Kortan 5, A. Elliott 10, J. Hiatt 6.
Hershey's totals: 2 pt. FG—12; 3 pt. FG—1; FT/FTA—21-30; Fouls—12; TP—48.
Points by quarters:
Imperial (3-14) 11 10 3 14—38
Hershey (7-11) 9 8 10 21—48

Final home game

Friday's game with Sutherland will be at home and will include parents' night for the boys. Jayvee action begins at 6 p.m. MT.