

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

After playing some of their best basketball in recent contests, the Lady Longhorn basketball team had to say good-bye to its season last week.

Coach Marc Mroczek said his team's subdistrict games against Mitchell and Kimball were two of their best games this season.

Chase County's loss in the C1-12 subdistrict semi-finals to Kimball ended their season at 6-15.

Mroczek said the Lady Longhorns were in most of their games this year, and competed well in most contests. They played a lot of bigger schools on their schedule, and several are in the Div. I and II levels in NSAA point standings.

"We do play a very tough schedule, but that helps us at the end. And, that's when we played our best basketball," Mroczek said.

The lack of depth on the team, with just 14 on the girls' roster, was a big factor this season, he said.

At least week's subdistrict tournament, Chase County got an easy win against Mitchell in their opener, 70-41.

The Lady Longhorns had one of their better nights of field goal shooting of 46 percent against Mitchell, and also hit five of 15 attempts on treys.

"That was one of our better nights of field goal shooting," he said.

The only weakness was his team's free throw shooting, as they hit just nine of 20.

Morgan Strand led all scorers with 25 and had 16 rebounds. Karlee Palmer was also in double figures with 11. Kim Brophy had nine assists.

Imperial 70

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2 PT. 3 PT. FT/
 FG FG FTA F TP
Chantal Heathers 0 0 0-0 1 0
Michaela Ketter 0 0 0-0 0 0 Jilanne German 1 0 3-4 1
Nichole Dickey 1 2 0-0 3 8
Karlee Palmer 1 3 0-0 3 11
Karlee Kunnemann 0 0 0-0 0 0
Kim Brophy 4 0 1-2 4 9
Shannon Liewer 0 0 1-3 1
                         1
Carolina Ramos 0
               0 0-0 0
                         0
Molly Strand 1 0 1-4 2 3
Morgan Strand 11
                0 3-6
                          25
Lexee Reichert 4
               0
                  0-1
                      4 8
TOTALS 23 5 9-20 23
Mitchell 41
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T. King 7, B. Arnott 2, A. Grentz 3, C. Murrell 2, K. Thomas 11, M. Alvizar 10, D. Grentz 3, H. Huston 3.

Mitchell's totals: 2 pt. FG—10; 3 pt. FG—4; FT/FTA—9-26; Fouls—20; TP—41.

Points by quarters:

Imperial 17 24 12 17 70 Mitchell 10 9 15 7 41

Kimball game

A slow start didn't last long for the Lady Longhorns in the subdistrict semi-finals against Kimball last Tuesday.

After trailing 8-2 in the first quarter, Chase County stormed back to take an 11-8 lead at the end of the quarter.

The team struggled in the second quarter, however, trying to match up against Kimball's zone and couldn't make their shots. They fell behind 23-17 at halftime.

Switching to a man-to-man defense in the second half put the Lady Longhorns back in the game, Mroczek said. They pulled within four points of tying it, 34-38, with two minutes remaining, and again came within four with 20 seconds left.

"We got some momentum and started playing well together," Mroczek said in that half, and hit shots when they needed to.

As the seconds ticked away, though, and still trailing, Chase County was forced to foul, and Kimball was making their free throws. In the fourth quarter alone, they hit 13 of 17 free throw attempts, putting the game out of reach.

Kimball won the game, 48-41, and advanced to the subdistrict finals last Thursday.

Chase County's Nichole Dickey sprained an ankle halfway through the fourth quarter, which slowed her down considerably, Mroczek said, but she still hit a trey late in the contest, which pulled the Lady Longhorns back within four with 20 seconds remaining.

Dickey led the scoring in the game with 16, and Morgan Strand added 14.

Chase County actually hit one more field goal than Kimball, 11 of 27 compared to 10 of 42, and each team recorded three treys.

It was the free throw line where the game was won, as Kimball hit 19 of 26 (73%). Chase County dropped in 10 of 16.

Morgan Strand led the rebounding for Chase County with 14. Brophy had three steals and four assists, and Dickey was also credited with five assists.

Kimball defeated Gordon/Rushville in the subdistrict finals, 50-36, which puts them in the district championship game this Friday against Hershey, who won the C1-11 subdistrict. Hershey beatGothenburg, 59-53, to advance to Friday's game.

Ogallala is the site for Friday's C1-6 district game, with tipoff at 7 p.m. The winner of that game qualifies for the state tournament.

Imperial 41

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2 PT. 3 PT. FT/
FG FG 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 2 8-10 3 16
Karlee Palmer 0 0 2-2 3 2
Karlee Kunnemann 0 0 0-0 0 0
Kim Brophy 0 1 0-0 3 3
Shannon Liewer 0 0 0-0 0 0
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Carolina Ramos 0 0 0-0 0 0 Molly Strand 1 0 0-1 5 2 Morgan Strand 7 0 0-3 3 14 Lexee Reichert 2 0 0-0 4 4 TOTALS 11 3 10-16 21 41 Kimball 48
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H. Dickson 14, J. Prevance 5, K. Regeth 21, C. Pederson 2, J. Gompert 1, D. Perry 5.

Kimball's totals: 2 pt. FG—10; 3 pt. FG—3; FT/FTA—19-26; Fouls—17; TP—48.

Points by quarters:

Imperial 11 0 6 0 8 16—41 Kimball 8 15 11 14—48

Four seniors will be missed

Coach Mroczek said this year's four senior team members will be missed next year. All of them were leaders, he said.

Morgan Strand led the team in scoring (317 pts.) and rebounds with a total of 265, averaging 15.1 points per game and over 12 rebounds on average per game.

Strand also tied an individual game record this season for free throws attempts (16) against Gordon/Rushville.

Dickey was the team's second leading scorer with a 11.2 per-game average. She also led the team in three-pointers, setting a new school record in the process with 37 successful treys.

She also set individual records for season three-point attempts at 129, and for three-point attempts in a game at 13 (recorded in both the Gordon/Rushville and Wray games).

The team's other two seniors, Brophy and Molly Strand, were also big contributors, Mroczek said. Both came into the season after sitting out last year with injuries.

Brophy led the team with assists (101), and, along with Dickey, had the most steals (59 each).

The team tied the record for three point shots made in one game (7) against Gordon/Rushville, and set a new record for three-pointers attempted (23), also against Gordon/Rushville.

Team season records included most three-point attempts (249) and three-pointers made (69).

Mroczek said he'll miss the height of the Strand girls next year.

"We've been blessed with two girls over six feet," he said.

Brophy added a lot of spark to the team, coming off her shoulder injury last year, Mroczek said, and Dickey brought experience to the team, as well, seeing a lot of varsity play since her freshman year.

Next year, the team will return two current juniors, four sophomores and four freshmen.