

**By Russ Pankonin**

**The Imperial Republican**

Three area teams will represent southwest Nebraska in this week's boys state basketball tournament which begins today (Thursday) and runs through Saturday.

SPVA conference winner Sutherland (17-6) goes in as the #6 seed in Class C2 and will face the #3 seed Ravenna (20-5) in first round action at Lincoln Southeast.

In Class D2, Hayes Center, who finished third last year, earned the #2 seed with points from a 20-2 mark. They will face #7 Litchfield (21-3) in their opener, also at Lincoln Southeast.

In Class B, McCook (15-12) comes in as the #8 seed and will face top-seeded Ralston (20-4) at the Sports Center.

Other regional out-state Nebraska teams include Arapahoe, Sidney, Scottsbluff and Chadron.

Arapahoe is the #1 seed in Class D1 with a 25-1 mark and will play Mead in their opener.

Scottsbluff and Sidney will also compete in the Class B tourney along with McCook.

Scottsbluff earned the #2 seed with points from their 24-3 record and will face #7 Omaha Skutt in the first round.

Sidney, who was defeated by Scottsbluff in the B6 boys' district, earned a wildcard berth with points from a 15-7 season. They go in as the #5 seed and will play the #4 seed, Columbus Lakeview.

Chadron goes in as the top seed in Class C1 with a 23-0 mark and will face Syracuse in the first round.

### **Area girls' results at state**

At the girls' state tournament last week, second-seeded Perkins County won their opener against Concordia 45-36 but fell to David City Aquinas 46-58 in the semis.

In the consolation game against Cambridge, they fell again, 36-55.

Cambridge won their opener over West Point Central Catholic 67-60 but fell to Ravenna, the eventual state champs, in the semis, 38-62.

Wauneta-Palisade couldn't get past Humphrey in their opener, falling 34-50.

SPVA member Hershey faced Kimball in the Class C1 tourney. Kimball defeated Hershey in the district final but Hershey got in on a wildcard.

At state, Hershey could still not overcome Kimball, falling 52-56 in the first round.

Kimball lost in the semis to Wahoo Bishop Neumann 30-55 and fell to Crofton in the consolation, 34-56.

Paxton came close to making the finals after nearly upsetting tourney runner-up Chambers in the semis.

Paxton opened with a 56-41 win over Hay Springs but lost a tough battle to Chambers 43-45.

In the consolation, they fell to Pleasanton 39-49.

### **Local officials**

#### **ref girls' tourney**

The local officiating crew of Miles Colson and Russ Pankonin of Imperial, and Shannon Messersmith of Wallace were among 12 three-man crews selected to referee at the girls' tournament.

This marks their second year officiating at the tournament.

In the first round, they worked the Chambers/Spalding-Spalding Academy game in D2 and the Lincoln Pius X/Gretna game in Class B.

In the semis, they worked the Elkhorn Valley/Silver Lake game in Class D1, which was

decided in overtime.

On Saturday, they worked the Class C1 consolation game between Kimball and Crofton.