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.