By Russ Pankonin
The Imperial Republican

Chase County's Longhorns moved to 2-0 Friday with a 48-8 home-field win over the Sidney Red Raiders.

After giving up a first-quarter touchdown to trail 8-7, the Longhorns reeled off six touchdowns en route to the win.

Coach Dan Lenners said he saw continued improvement in his squad, which will be put to the test Friday when they travel to Chadron.

While Sidney proved to be more physical than Gordon-Rushville, Lenners is expecting to see a much better team in Chadron this week than in the last two weeks.

Don't be deceived by their record, Lenners cautioned. While only 1-2, they've lost to two Class B schools, Gering and Alliance. And in their one win, they pounded Ainsworth 68-0.

Lenners said they have a good quarterback, big backs and like to throw the ball all over the field.

Improvements in the line

Lenners liked the improvement he saw in his offensive line in last Friday's win against Sidney. "They opened up some nice holes," he said.

After forcing a three-and-out on Sidney, the Longhorns had to score twice to get on the board.

Their first score, a pass from Kale Gockley to Hunter Spady got called back, due to a pentaly.

However, a 22-yard reverse by Michael May moved the ball into the red zone at the 14. Two plays later, Dan Sullivan took it over from the three. David Almanza's kick gave Imperial a 7-0 lead early in the quarter.

Sidney responded by moving in Longhorn territory before turning the ball over on downs.

But their defense got the ball back, forcing a fumble after a hit to Gockley while trying to pass. Three plays later, they scored their only touchdown of the night. They added a two-point conversion to pull ahead 8-7.

On the next possession, the Longhorns needed just five plays to go 90 yards. Trey Milner got 74 of those years, including a 60-yard run. Sullivan finished off the drive, getting outside for 20 yards.

The two-point conversion failed, making the score 13-8, Longhorns.

On their next possession, Sidney got inside the Longhorn 10 on a 60-yard pass but fortunately was negated by a penalty.

Sidney's defense followed by forcing the Longhorns to punt late in the half. However, Sidney fumbled the ball away on the return the Longhorns took over on Sidney's 30.

Four plays later, Sullivan went in from the Sidney 11. Almanza's PAT kick gave Imperial a 20-8 lead with 1:11 left in the half.

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