



Chase County gets first post-season win since 2005 season

***By Jan Schultz
The Imperial Republican***

It may not be much consolation, but Chase County's 1-2 finish at the C-6 District Softball Tournament last week included the first post-season win for the team in seven years.

A 14-5 defeat of Chadron last Thursday in Chase County's opener marked the first win at the district tourney since 2005, when the Lady Longhorns were district runners-up and finished with a 15-18 record.

And, Chase County's final 3-26 record bettered the past two years of play when the team failed to record any wins. Since 2007, the team hadn't tallied more than two wins.

Coach Denise Smith said her team played well in all three games last Thursday.

"I feel we had a good day in the tournament. We wanted to play well and we did," she said.

It was a tournament of upsets, except for the district championship team, top-seeded Gothenburg.

The Lady Swedes breezed through the tournament with three straight victories and without a run scored against them to qualify for state.

After beating Chase County in their first game 11-0, Gothenburg defeated St. Paul 10-0 and then Minden 10-0 in the finals.

No. 7 Minden, the bottom-seeded tournament team, had to be the tournament's Cinderella team.

After topping No. 2 seed Blue Hill in their opener, Minden lost to St. Paul, but advanced through the loser's bracket with wins over Chadron, Southern Valley/Alma and a rematch with St. Paul to make it to Friday's finals.

Minden, coming into the tourney with a 2-23 record, had twice as many wins at districts than they had all season. After a 4-2 finish last week, they ended their season at 6-25.

Unfortunately for No. 5 Chase County, who also upset No. 4 Chadron in their first game, all the other upsets meant facing a higher-seeded team, No. 3 Southern Valley/Alma, in the loser's bracket.

Blue Hill, seeded No. 2, lost two straight in the tournament to be eliminated earliest of all teams.

District champion Gothenburg, at 25-5, was seeded No. 4 in the Class C state tournament that started Wednesday and continues through Friday in Hastings.



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