

## Top-seeded, undefeated St. Pat's upset by Sutherland in finals



**By Jan Schultz**

***The Imperial Republican***

Chase County finished where it was seeded—fourth—in last week's SPVA Conference volleyball tournament held in Imperial.

But that wasn't the case for top-seeded North Platte St. Pat's, which came into the tourney with a 20-0 record but lost in the SPVA finals Saturday to 16-5 Sutherland.

The finals went the five full games, and Sutherland, seeded No. 2, went home with the championship plaque.

Chase County might be able to lay claim to wearing out St. Pat's earlier in the day when the Lady Longhorns and Lady Irish met in the semi-finals.

In that contest, Chase County took the top-seeded team to four close, hard-fought games.

St. Pat's ended up with the 3-1 match win, but CCS Coach Jodie Schuller credited her team for their strong play Saturday morning.

"We battled and fought hard. Winning that first game was exciting," she said.

It was the second time this season the Lady Longhorns and Lady Irish have met. The first came at a triangular on the St. Pat's court Oct. 2, when Chase County also won one of the three games with St. Pat's that night.

The rest of the teams in the tourney held Thursday and Saturday finished as seeded, including No. 3 Hershey which handed Chase County a loss in the consolation finals. After Chase County defeated Perkins County in the first round, Perkins County defeated Maxwell for fifth place.

At 21-1, St. Pat's still is No. 2 in the Class C2 NSAA point standings.

After Chase County's 1-2 finish in the tournament, their record stood at 14-12 with one varsity game on the schedule this week Tuesday this week in Hershey.

Lady Longhorn 9-10 teams will be at Dundy County/Stratton Saturday and at Southwest Monday for tournaments.

The varsity's final regular season game will be in Imperial on Tuesday, Oct. 23, when they host McCook for C, JV and varsity action. It will also be Parents Night.

Here is a recap of Chase County's tournament games.



### **Perkins County**

It was a third defeat of Perkins County by the Lady Longhorns last Thursday in the tournament first round, which came in four games, 25-13, 25-19, 24-26 and 25-14.

Chase County had a .199 hitting efficiency, coming on 49 kills with 17 errors. Leading the

charge at the net was MaKenna Ketter with 16 kills. Paige Spady and Kristen Jussel each tallied 11.

Perkins County put across 35 kills, but had 27 errors for a .049 hitting efficiency.

On serves, Chase County was 93-99 from the line for 94 percent and seven aces. Scoring two aces apiece were Spady, Bridget Langin and Kaycee Bubak.

On defense, libero Morgan Fisher led the team with 27 digs. Cheyanne Kuhlmann picked up 14, while Jussel had 13. Langin had four of the team's seven solo blocks.

Setter Bethany Sorensen had 46 assists.

### **North Platte St. Pat's**

In the first match of the day Saturday, Chase County gave the top-seeded St. Pat's team a run for their money.

Chase County won the first game of the match 25-23, but dropped the next three 20-25, 13-25 and 24-26, almost forcing a fifth game.

The Lady Longhorns improved their hitting efficiency from the match two days earlier to .210, as they put across 41 kills with 15 errors.

Leading the offense again was Ketter with 14 kills. Jussel put down nine.

In comparison, St. Pat's had a .318 hitting efficiency, coming on 46 kills and 19 errors.

At the line, Chase County served 78-84 for 92 percent, including five aces, two of them from Sorensen. She also had 38 set assists.

Defensively, Fisher had 53 of the team's 128 digs, while Jussel had 29. Spady tallied seven of the team's nine solo blocks.

### **Hershey**

Coach Schuller said her team had no gas left for the consolation match later Saturday when they faced Hershey. Again, Chase County opened with the first game win.

The match had five very close games, 26-24, 27-29, 25-21, 22-25 and 8-15.

Hershey had a slight edge on hitting efficiency finishing with .224 compared to Chase County's .195, which came on 48 kills and 18 errors.

Ketter was again the team leader on kills with 18, as Jussel added 13.

At the line, Chase County missed 10 serves, 99-109, for a 90 percent mark. Bubak scored five of the team's eight aces.

Sorensen had 45 set assists, while Fisher picked up 14 digs. At the net, Spady knocked back five solo blocks of the team's 11 total.