Lady Longhorn season ends with 15-14 record

By Jan Schultz
The Imperial Republican

Chase County's Lady Longhorns gave it their all Tuesday night in the first round of the C1-11 subdistrict volleyball tournament, but in the end, came up a couple points short.

Battling No. 2 seed Gothenburg, No. 3 Chase County fought back from an opening game loss to force the Lady Swedes to five tough sets.

Scores were 18-25, 25-20, 22-25, 25-21 and 14-16.

In the crucial fifth game, after a fourth game in which Chase County never trailed, the score was tied five times.

After an 8-8 tie in the finale, Gothenburg jumped up 12-8. But, a cross-court kill from Kristen Jussel rolled in front of the net and down, Paige Spady put down two straight kills and Chase County was within one again, 11-12.

Gothenburg was helped with a wayward Chase County hit, then a blocked ball fell out, and the Lady Longhorns found themselves trailing, 11-14.

Not giving up, Chase County was aided by a Spady kill, a lift called on Gothenburg and a big kill from MaKenna Ketter to tie it again at 14.

But that would be the final points for Chase County. A tip-in fell to the floor, just missed by a diving Morgan Fisher, then a back-line Gothenburg kill ended the game, 14-16.

The Lady Longhorns faced one of the strongest hitters they've seen this season in Gothenburg's 6-1 Tiani Reeves.

But, Chase County had strong performances from its hitters, as well, and was helped with a lot of missed serves on the Gothenburg side.

A full recap of the subdistrict match and 2012 season will be in next week's issue. Chase County finished the season at 15-14.

The five-game marathon apparently took its toll on Gothenburg in the subdistrict championship later Tuesday night, as Ogallala swept the Lady Swedes in three straight. Ogallala also beat Cozad three straight in the earlier semi-final match Tuesday.

As the C1-11 subdistrict champion, Ogallala advanced to this Friday's district final against Chadron. The 7 p.m. match is in Bayard, with the winner there going to state.