



By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Their efforts at continuing to battle and never giving up contributed to Chase County's strong showing at subdistricts last week.

While they lost the first round match in five games to Gothenburg, Coach Jodie Schuller said it wasn't for her team's lack of heart.

"Once again, the girls battled and didn't give up. We played well," Schuller said.

"We just couldn't put it away," she said.

The win went to the Lady Swedes, Schuller said, because their hitters were able to score at the right times.

In the end, Gothenburg won the match 3-2. It was a battle, with Gothenburg winning the first, third and fifth games, and Chase County taking the second and fourth.

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

In the third game alone, the score was tied 11 times and unfortunately, the game ended on a questionable call.

Tied at 19, 20, 21 and 22, Gothenburg went up 24-22 after scoring on a kill and ace serve. As the teams battled for the next point, Chase County put down a kill that went out of bounds, but one ref called a touch by Gothenburg, but was overruled by the head ref and the Lady Swedes won it 25-22.

Not to be daunted, Chase County took a quick 6-0 lead in the fourth game, forcing a Gothenburg time-out. Server Kristen Jussel served another point after Gothenburg's hit went wide.

Chase County continued to dominate in that fourth game, never trailing as their 25-21 win sent the match into the critical fifth game.



The final game was knotted five times, including a 14-14 tie. Gothenburg prevailed, though, with a tip-in that fell to the floor and a kill to the back line, winning it 16-14.

Chase County finished the match with a hitting efficiency of .176, compared to Gothenburg's .241.

Chase County scored on 43 kills with 17 errors, while the Lady Swedes tallied 66 kills on 24 errors.

Leading the offense for Chase County was MaKenna Ketter with 16 kills against a strong

Gothenburg defense.

Also in double figures was Paige Spady with 11. Jussel added eight.

Schuller also cited her team's 14 ace serves against Gothenburg, higher than when the two teams met earlier in the season. Bridget Langin had four aces to lead the team.

As a team, Chase County served 93 percent (94-101).

Morgan Fisher had 21 digs, and Jussel was credited with 20. Setter Bethany Sorensen tallied 39 set assists.

Chase County finished the season at 15-14.

Schuller noted their 14 losses this season went to a lot of good teams, and none of them were give-aways.

Of Chase County's 14 losses, eight went to Nebraska teams that qualified for state.



Good nucleus to return

Coach Schuller noted the team will have a good nucleus of returners next year, although they will lose two senior starters.

She said the experience the underclassmen gained this season will carry-over to a good team next year.

The season stats and a look at the 2013 season will be recapped next week.