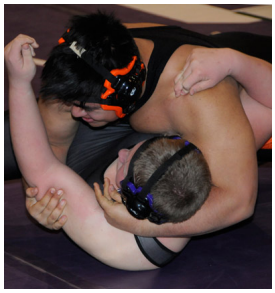

By Alan Carman
The Imperial Republican

With eight Longhorn wrest-lers out at the start of the season, hopes are high for a more productive season this year. However, at the opening meet in Oshkosh last Thursday, only six of the wrestlers were eligible to compete.

In the first dual of the night, Chase County faced off with the Garden County Eagles. Wrestling started with the 220 pound class in which both teams were open.

In the 285 pound match, Luis Rodriguez faced off with Jeremy Hart. Rodriguez wasted no time getting the Longhorns on the board, pinning Hart in just 45 seconds of the first period.

Both teams were open at the 106, 113 and 120 pound weight classes. At 126 Hunter Dillan made his debut against Jesus Marquez. After falling behind 1-5 in the first period, Dillan got caught in the second period in a pinning combination at the 1:29 mark. That tied the team score at 6-6.

After sitting out of wrestling his freshman and sophomore years, David Almanza returned to the mat in the 132 pound class facing Rio McGinley. In the first period, Almanza found himself trailing 3-10. McGinley took the top to start the second period and Almanza was unable to find a way out as he was pinned in 28 seconds.

Both teams were open at 138.

Michael May faced Terrel Vineyard at 145. May dominated the match leading 4-1 at the end of the first period. It only took 1:07 of the second period before May secured a pin to tie the match again at 12-12.

At 152, Jake Lueth faced Makay Beck. Lueth completely controlled the first period, leading 7-1. In the second period Beck caught Lueth out of position and was able to secure a pin at the 1:32 mark. This put Garden County on top 18-12.

Khristofer Kuhlmann had not seen action on the mat for the last two years after a very promising junior high showing. Kuhlmann went up a weight class to wrestle at the 160 pound class against Tristen Kirch. After trailing in the first period 2-5, Kuhlmann got caught in a pin at the end of the second period with just five seconds.

Both schools were open at the 170, 182 and 195 pound weight classes giving the dual win to Garden County 24-12.

Chase County turned right around to wrestle the next dual against a fresh team of Bridgeport

Bulldogs. The early season conditioning seemed to really set in on the Longhorns as they were shut out on the dual 51-0.

Rodriguez started the match against Will Frerichs. Frerichs wasted no time pinning Rodriguez in 1:16 of the first period.

Both teams were open at 106 and Adrien Dally received a forfeit in the 113 pound division.

Dillan faced Tod Widener at 126. Widener built a 4-0 lead in the first period and capped off the match with a pin at 1:34 of the second.

Almanza had the only three period match of the night against Dylan Shaffer. Both wrestlers scored two in the first period and Shaffer held the edge after the second at 6-4. In the third Shaffer got the victory edging out Almanza 8-5 for the decision.

Wes Christenson received a forfeit at 138.

May faced Brandon Nichols at 145. Nichols led after the first period 0-2. The second period went back and forth before Nichols secured a pin at the 1:03 mark.

At 152, Lueth seemed to have his match well in hand against Lawrence Schneider. Lueth rolled Schneider in an attempted pinning combination, but Schneider was able to slip out and reverse the move to pin Lueth at 1:27.

In the final match of the night, Kuhlmann faced Troy Isom. Isom controlled the match leading 10-2 after the first and pinning Kuhlmann in 55 seconds of the second period.

Head Coach Matt Vlasin said his wrestlers just need more mat time. They seem to look very good in practice, but get nervous when it comes time to compete.