By Jan Schultz
The Imperial Republican

With three games on the horizon in the next five days, the Lady Longhorns are working to regroup after a pair of losses in opening season action.

After losing last Thursday's season opener to Cozad, Coach Nancy Sorensen saw some improvement the next night in McCook.

While they also lost to the Lady Bison, her team scored more points against what she said was a better team than the night before.

Fundamentals and eliminating turnovers will be the focus at practice this week, she said, as a busy week faces them with games on Friday, Saturday and Tuesday.

Chase County will be at home Friday to meet Class B Sidney, which is 2-1 this week after defeating Alliance and Mitchell and losing to Chadron in their conference tournament. Games start at 4:30 p.m. with the JVs, followed by the girls' varsity in the Longhorn gym.

On Saturday, the teams travel to Ogallala, where the Lady Indians are 1-1. They opened with a three-point win over Lexington, then lost to Minden. Games there also start at 4:30 p.m. with the JVs.

On Tuesday, it's girls-only basketball in Imperial when the Lady Longhorns host Sutherland. The Lady Sailors are 1-1 with a win over Broken Bow and a loss to North Platte St. Pat's. The JV game opens the night of action here Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

Cozad game

Coach Sorensen said last Thursday's 38-21 loss to Cozad is one game she'd definitely like to do over—mainly due to the first quarter.

In the opening eight minutes, Cozad took a 16-1 lead helped by a pair of treys. It proved to be a hole the Lady Longhorns couldn't dig out of.

For the rest of the game, Chase County and Cozad were just points apart in each of the second, third and fourth quarters. It came down to the unbalanced first quarter.

Sorensen said, after that opening quarter, her team played well on defense. In all, they held Cozad to 24 shots in the game from two-point range, forcing them to shoot from outside the arc where they were three of 17.

Chase County was six of 31 from the field (19 percent) and one of six from three-point range. At the line, they hit six of 17 (35 percent).

Cozad was 10 of 24 from two-point range for 42 percent, and dropped in nine of 17 free throws (53 percent).

On rebounds, Cozad had the edge with 31 to Chase County's 25. Kaycee Bubak led the Lady Longhorns with eight.

Chase County had 26 turnovers in the game, while Cozad committed 29.

All of Chase County's scorers were in single digits, led by Bethany Sorensen with four.

Coach Sorensen said her team continued to fight and worked until the end of the game, and never quit.

Imperial 21

	2 PT. FG	3 PT. FG	FT/ FTA	F	TP
Morgan Fisher	1	0	0-1	3	2
Cheyanne Kuhlmann	0	0	0-2	0	0
Kristen Jussel	0	0	2-3	2	2
Makala Bartels	0	0	0-0	1	0
Bethany Sorensen	2	0	0-0	2	4
Kaycee Bubak	1	0	1-2	4	3
Makenna Wallin	0	0	0-0	0	0
Paige Spady	1	0	1-3	0	3
Bridget Langin	0	0	2-6	3	2
Kelsey Wood	0	0	0-0	0	0
Anna Bauerle	0	1	0-0	0	3
Jodi Koellner	1	0	0-0	4	2
TOTALS	6	1	6-17	19	21

Cozad 38

S. Carlson 4, K. Griffis 2, S. Sigler 7, K. Reyes 12, E. Reyes 8, C. Geiger 3, E. Laird 2.

Cozad's totals: 2 pt. FG—10; 3 pt. FG—3; FT/FTA—9-17; Fouls—21; TP—38.

Points by quarters:

Imperial	1	5	8	7—21
Cozad	16	6	7	9—38

McCook game

Chase County faced a good Class B team at McCook Friday, where they took the short end of a 50-31 score.

While the Lady Longhorns shot better overall compared to the night before, except on free throws, Sorensen said her team still missed some easy shots and gave up points early when they didn't transition well.

"McCook was a team that could shoot inside and out," she said.

Turnovers were again a problem, too, for Chase County, as they racked up a total of 40 in the game to McCook's 19.

From two-point range, Chase County was 10-29 for 34 percent, while McCook hit 13 of 46 for 28 percent.

On threes, Chase County was two of eight (25 percent) while McCook hit five of 19 (26 percent).

At the line, Chase County had a five of 15 mark (33 percent) as McCook hit nine of 17 (53

percent).

Anna Bauerle came off the bench to lead Chase County's scoring with nine. Bubak added eight.

Makala Bartels led the Chase County rebounding with seven of the team's 31. McCook tallied 36 rebounds in the game.

Imperial 31

	2 PT. FG	3 PT. FG	FT/ FTA	F	TP
Morgan Fisher	0	0	0-0	3	0
Cheyanne Kuhlmann	0	0	0-0	0	0
Kristen Jussel	0	0	0-0	0	0
Makala Bartels	0	0	1-2	1	1
Bethany Sorensen	1	1	0-2	3	5
Kaycee Bubak	3	0	2-5	2	8
Makenna Wallin	0	0	0-2	0	0
Paige Spady	1	0	0-0	1	2
Bridget Langin	1	0	2-4	2	4
Kelsey Wood	0	0	0-0	0	0
Anna Bauerle	3	1	0-0	0	9
Jodi Koellner	1	0	0-0	0	2
TOTALS	10	2	5-15	12	31

McCook 50

B. Daum 2, M. Sughroue 9, M. Chitwood 7, B. Trew 5, K. Guillen 8, M. Ruppert 19.

McCook's totals: 2 pt. FG—13; 3 pt. FG—5; FT/FTA—9-17; Fouls—13; TP—50.

Points by quarters:

Imperial	6	9	6	10—31
McCook	17	12	16	5—50