



By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

With the first track meet of the season behind them, the Lady Longhorns and their coaches can now look ahead to what work needs to be done.

Head Girls' Coach Al Zuege said he was happy with his team's performance in Cambridge Saturday, but added, "We certainly are not where we need to be."

"But, no one else is either," he added.

Chase County's girls finished in a tie for third and fourth with Elm Creek. Coincidentally, Alma and Cambridge tied for first and second.

The weather conditions, with temperatures in the 30s when they arrived and strong winds all day, played havoc with the times and marks at the Don Stine Invitational.

But, Zuege said it was evident his team needs to work on conditioning.

"That's where we really need to work hard," he said. "But, we got out of them as much as we could that day."

There were some pleasant surprises, he said.

One area was in the sprints. Chase County had three medalists in the 200 and two more in the 100.

Karlee Palmer, a sophomore who transferred here last fall, took a pair of seconds in both the 100 and 200.

Zuege said she did not compete in track at the high school she attended last year, "so we were unsure how she would do.

"We were pleasantly surprised," he said.

Palmer also ran on the team's 400 meter relay, the only event in which Chase County took first Saturday. Others on that relay were Nichole Dickey, Dee Dee Pursley and Rebecca Martin.

Dickey also put in a good mark in the long jump Saturday, finishing third with a jump of 14'6".

"That's pretty good for this early in the season," Zuege noted.

Dickey was out of second by only an inch and a half.

Another event in which the Lady Longhorns pulled in a lot of points was the 200 meter hurdles, with second, third and fourth place finishes from Pursley, Kacia Smith and Jilanne German.

Pursley and German also went fourth and fifth in the high hurdles.

While the marks were not near her best, Lexee Reichert finished fourth in the discus and fifth in the shot.

"She'll do better as the season progresses," Zuege predicted.

Team scoring at the meet was Alma 132, Cambridge 132, Chase County 97, Elm Creek 97, Wauneta/Palisade 43 and Cambridge JV 13.



[REDACTED]