By Jan Schultz
The Imperial Republican

A big win in the opener of the SPVA conference tournament set the Chase County Lady Longhorns on pace to finish a place higher than seeded.

In the last two years, the girls have placed one spot higher than the year before, from sixth place in 2011, fifth last year and fourth in this year's tourney that concluded Saturday in North Platte.

While they lost their Friday and Saturday games, Chase County's overtime win against Perkins County Jan. 15 set them on track to finish higher than their No. 5 seed.

Coach Nancy Sorensen said her team worked hard the entire tournament, and gave them credit for continuing to fight hard and finish fourth, even when trailing in the Friday and Saturday games.

After a three-game series last week, the 4-14 Lady Longhorns will have a full week off before traveling to Haxtun, Colo., Saturday for a full day of basketball.

Haxtun has just one gym, so games will start at 1 p.m. (an hour earlier than the schedule states), due to addition of a boys' C game at 1 p.m.

That will be followed by JV girls, JV boys, varsity girls and varsity boys action.

On Monday, Perkins County will be here for a 9-10 game at 5:30 p.m., then the JV and varsity teams travel to Wray, Colo., on Tuesday for girls' and boys' games starting at 4 p.m.

Perkins County

Chase County's best shooting of the SPVA tournament came in their 37-36 overtime win last Tuesday against Perkins County in their first tournament game.

Strong field goal shooting at the end of the game, despite a lot of missed free throws in overtime, helped Chase County hold onto a one-point victory.

That was the difference from the two teams' first meeting on Jan. 10, when the Lady Plainsmen won by four.

Chase County led at the half in both games, but their scoring fell off in the second half of the earlier contest.

"It was nice to be ahead at half and hold on for the win" this time, Sorensen said. "It's a good thing we didn't need the free throws in overtime."

It wouldn't have been much of an overtime contest if they had. Perkins County was forced to foul, but Chase County had trouble connecting in the four-minute O.T., hitting three of 11 from the line. Paige Spady hit the only field goal in the overtime period.

"We stepped up when we needed to," Sorensen said.

Chase County was 13 of 47 (28 percent) from two-point range, while the Lady Plainsmen hit nine of 46 (20 percent).

On free throws, Chase County hit eight of 17 (47 percent) as Perkins County was 12 of 20 (60

percent). Perkins County had a 2-1 edge on treys.

Bethany Sorensen led all scorers in the game with 14. Spady added seven while Valeria Cervantes and Bridget Langin each had five.

Sorensen was also credited with four steals, while Spady and Kaycee Bubak each pulled down six rebounds.

Imperial 37

	2 PT. FG	3 PT. FG	FT/ FTA	F	TP
Morgan Fisher	0	1	1-2	2	4
Cheyanne Kuhlmann	0	0	0-0	0	0
Kristen Jussel	0	0	0-2	0	0
Makala Bartels	0	0	0-0	2	0
Bethany Sorensen	7	0	0-2	3	14
Kaycee Bubak	1	0	0-0	5	2
Paige Spady	2	0	3-4	1	7
Bridget Langin	2	0	1-2	3	5
MaKenna Ketter	0	0	0-0	0	0
Kelsey Wood	0	0	0-0	0	0
Valeria Cervantes	1	0	3-5	3	5
Anna Bauerle	0	0	0-0	0	0
Jodi Koellner	0	0	0-0	0	0
TOTALS	13	1	8-17	19	37

Perkins County 36

J. Hoffert 6, M. Curtis 8, M. Prante 8, M. Humphries 2, S. Metcalf 10.

Perkins Co.'s totals: 2 pt. FG—9; 3 pt. FG—2; FT/FTA—12-20; Fouls—16; TP—36.

Points by quarters:

Imperial	7	4	9	12	5—37
Perkins Co.	5	2	10	15	4—36

Hershey

In Friday's semi-finals,

Chase County faced top-seeded Hershey, the eventual tournament champion.

It was hard to hold down the high-scoring Lady Panthers, who took a 47-16 win, sending Chase County into the consolation game.

Chase County was scoreless in the first quarter, but Coach Sorensen said her team continued to work hard against Hershey.

The Lady Panthers had the edge in all three areas of shooting in the game.

From the field, Chase County hit eight of 37 (22 percent), had no treys and was 0-3 from the line.

Hershey hit 16 of 40 (40 percent) from two-point range, was three of 11 outside the arc and six of 11 (55 percent) on free throws.

Spady and Makala Bartels had four each to lead the team's scoring.

Sorensen had seven rebounds and two steals, while Bartels pulled down six and had two assists.

Hershey advanced to Saturday night's finals, where they defeated No. 2 seed North Platte St. Pat's 44-30 for the conference title.

Imperial 16

	2 PT. FG	3 PT. FG	FT/ FTA	F	TP
Morgan Fisher	0	0	0-0	2	0
Cheyanne Kuhlmann	0	0	0-0	0	0
Kristen Jussel	1	0	0-0	2	2
Makala Bartels	2	0	0-1	2	4
Bethany Sorensen	1	0	0-0	0	2
Kaycee Bubak	1	0	0-2	0	2
Paige Spady	2	0	0-0	2	4
Bridget Langin	1	0	0-0	0	2
MaKenna Ketter	0	0	0-0	0	0
Kelsey Wood	0	0	0-0	0	0
Valeria Cervantes	0	0	0-0	0	0
Anna Bauerle	0	0	0-0	0	0
Jodi Koellner	0	0	0-0	0	0
TOTALS	8	0	0-3	8	16

Hershey 47

D. Miller 15, B. Frederick 7, M. Hiatt 7, T. Baker 9, M. Seamann 6, T. Mustion 2, J. Young 1.

Hershey's totals: 2 pt. FG—16; 3 pt. FG—3; FT/FTA—6-11; Fouls—10; TP—47.

Points by quarters:

Imperial	0	6	8	2—16
Hershey	13	8	13	13—47

Sutherland

In the consolation game Saturday, Chase County's defense had a good start, holding Sutherland to nine points the first eight minutes, but the Lady Sailors blew it open in the third quarter to ice a 49-21 win.

After an 18-6 halftime lead, Sutherland scored 24 in the third, helped by four treys, and continued to press. Chase County just couldn't make up the difference.

Spady led the scoring with six, while Bubak and Jodi Koellner each put up four.

From two-point range, Chase County was eight of 32 (25 percent), was one of four on treys and two of nine (22 percent) on free throws.

Sutherland hit 13 of 37 from the field (35 percent), was five of 15 on treys and eight of 11 from the line.

In other stats, Bubak had seven rebounds to lead the Lady Longhorns. Spady had three steals.

Imperial 21

	2 PT. FG	3 PT. FG	FT/ FTA	F	TP
Morgan Fisher	0	1	0-0	1	3
Cheyanne Kuhlmann	0	0	0-0	0	0

Kristen Jussel 1 0 0-0 2 2
Makala Bartels 0 0 0-1 3 0
Bethany Sorensen 0 0 2-2 1 2
Kaycee Bubak 2 0 0-3 2 4
Paige Spady 3 0 0-0 1 6
Bridget Langin 0 0 0-2 2 0
Kelsey Wood 0 0 0-0 0 0
Valeria Cervantes 0 0 0-0 0 0
Anna Bauerle 0 0 0-0 0 0
Jodi Koellner 2 0 0-1 0 4
TOTALS 8 1 2-9 12 21
Sutherland 49
S. Kennedy 9, K. Bush 2, J. Hopping 12, K. Stokey 2, J. Schuster 9, S. Staggs 12, A. Stewart 3.
Sutherland's totals: 2 pt. FG—13; 3 pt. FG—5; FT/FTA—8-11; Fouls—17; TP—49.
Points by quarters:
Imperial 2 4 7 8—21
Sutherland 9 9 24 7—49