



By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

Going into last week's subdistrict game against Gothenburg, Coach Carl Zuege felt it was a game they could win.

Practices had been crisp and his team seemed to be coming on.

Coach Zuege felt if his team could shoot 40 percent from the field against Gothenburg they would be right in it. Despite going 32 percent, the Longhorns were within six late.

But, the bigger problem—Gothenburg shot 59 percent from the field to defeat the Longhorns 50-40 in the opening round of subdistricts Tuesday, Feb. 19.

Going into the game, the Longhorns had split with the Swedes, defeating them in the Cabela's holiday tournament but losing there in regular season.

Zuege knew his team was out-sized by Gothenburg's 6-6 Logan Kohler and 6-8 Tanner Borchardt.

Despite that, the Longhorns managed to hold them to 15 and 12 respectively.

Zuege said they tried a number of defensive attacks to counter the big men.

"Their big guys played really big that night," Zuege said. Credit Gothenburg because they did a good job of getting the ball to the two bigs, Zuege added.

Most of their damage came in the first half, with Koehler scoring 10 and Borchardt 6 of the Swedes' 21 first half points.

Conversely, the Longhorns held their own in the first two quarters. Early in the second, they led by seven, 15-8, and had a chance to go in tied with a pair of technical foul free throws that wouldn't fall.

The difference in the game came in the third quarter. The Longhorns couldn't get shots to fall going 3-11 from inside the arc and 0-6 from three-point range.

Zuege said they opened the second half with a box-and-one defense in an attempt to shut down Koehler.

While that seemed to work, Gothenburg started pumping in shots from the perimeter to build up a 25-35 lead going into the fourth quarter.



The Swedes led by as many as 12 early in the fourth but the Longhorns scratched their way back. They collected six straight points to pull within six, 37-43.

Gothenburg stretched their lead back to nine, 37-46 before a trey by Travis Luhrs pulled the Longhorns back within six again 40-46.

Longhorns upended in first round of subdistricts

From there on, the Longhorns couldn't get a shot to fall as Gothenburg went on to take the win. Jeff Dickey and Kelton Fisher led the Longhorns with 11 each, with Isaac Sorensen finishing in double figures with 10.

Justus Wallin led the rebounding with 7.

Gothenburg went on to defeat Cozad 52-49 in the subdistrict final played on Wednesday, instead of Thursday in anticipation of last week's snow storm.

However, Kimball downed Gothenburg 51-40 in the district final Monday night to claim the state tournament berth.

The Longhorns finish the season with a 10-14 record.

Imperial 40

	2 PT.	3 PT.	FT/		
FG	FG	FTA	F	TP	
Travis Luhrs	0	2	0-0	1	6
Ryan Moline	0	0	0-0	0	0
Freddie Kasselmann	0	0	0-0	0	0
Kevin German	0	0	0-0	0	0
Dan Sullivan	0	0	0-0	4	0
Jeffrey Dickey	4	1	0-2	5	11
Kale Gockley	1	0	0-0	0	2
Kelton Fisher	5	0	1-2	4	11
Justus Wallin	0	0	0-0	2	0
Hunter Spady	0	0	0-0	0	0
Trey Milner	0	0	0-0	0	0
Isaac Sorensen	5	0	0-0	2	10
Darrin Knobbe	0	0	0-0	0	0
Brian Bell	0	0	0-0	0	0
TOTALS	15	3	1-4	18	40

Gothenburg 50

C. Schwanz 6, A. Collins 8, L. Sheets 1, B. Ristine 8, J. Franzen 12, T. Borchardt 15.

Gothenburg's team totals: 2 pt. FG—22; 3 pt. FG—0; FT/FTA—6-10; Fouls—5; TP—50.

Points by quarters:

Imperial	10	9	6	15—40
Gothenburg	8	13	14	15—50