

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

Seniors Kale Gockley, Brian Bell and Hunter Spady earned the recognition as honorary captains for the 2012-13 Longhorn boys' basketball team.

Gockley served as the team's point guard and Bell and Spady came in to offer valuable minutes throughout the season.

Statistically, when it came to 3-pt. shooting this season, Gockley led the team with a 27 percent average, hitting 13 of 48. He also dished out the most assists with 48.

Sophomore Travis Luhrs and junior Jeff Dickey each canned a total of 24 treys this season to lead that category.

From inside the trey line, sophomore Kelton Fisher led the team with the most baskets made at 77. Percentage-wise, Dickey and sophomore Isaac Sorensen led the team, hitting 52 percent of their shots inside the trey line.

Fisher also went to the free throw line 78 times, more than any of the other players. He made 45 of those.

Average-wise, Justus Wallin led the team from the free throw line, hitting 65 percent of his 48 free throw attempts.

Dickey led all scorers with a double-figure scoring average of 10.8 points on 237 points for the season.

In the rebounding category, Fisher and Wallin led the team with offensive rebounds totalling 36 each. Fisher led the boards on the defensive end with 64 rebounds followed closely by Dickey with 58.

Dickey did the best job of avoiding fouls, collecting just 36 compared to Fisher's team high of 64.

Wallin led the team in blocked shots with 13.

In the steal and turnover categories, Dickey led the team in steals with 41. Fisher was responsible for 51 while Sorensen tallied the fewest of the eight-man rotation with 18.

Coach Zuege reflects on year

Looking back on the 2012-13 season, Zuege said he was disappointed with a less-than-.500 record at 10-14.

He said the Longhorns lost several games that they should have won, like at Holyoke and Hershey.

He and his assistant coaches went into the season knowing they would face some really tough teams, such as McCook, Sidney, North Platte St. Pat's and Yuma.

While the Longhorns were unable to capture wins against those teams, he noted the team was in most of the games before falling.

He said there were about 12 games he felt the Longhorns had a legitimate shot at winning. He was hoping they could get eight to 10 of those. Unfortunately, the Longhorns were less than .500 in those.

He said the Longhorns struggled to replace the height they lost from last year's team.

One thing the Longhorns didn't struggle with was their man-to-man defense. Zuege said he was proud of the tough defense his team played. "We didn't lose any games because of poor defense," he said.

What did hurt them was their inability to put the ball in the hoop consistently.

For the season, the Longhorns only shot 35 percent from the field, going 39 percent inside the arc and 24 percent outside the arc.

Offensively, they averaged 46.4 points per game.

The Longhorns will only lose just one senior starter, meaning Zuege will return seven of the eight players who saw most of the action this season.

Opponent	CCS	Opp
Cozad	47	49
McCook	44	58
Sidney	37	58
Ogallala	50	40
Garden County	51	20
Yuma, Colo.	38	59
Douglas, Wyo. (Cabela's) (OT)	62	64
Hershey (Cabela's tourney)	65	59
Gothenburg (Cabela's tourney)	52	48
Holyoke, Colo.	50	53
Dundy County	45	43
Southern Valley	50	58
Perkins County	53	54
Gothenburg	37	53
Hershey (SPVA semis)	47	38
N.P. St Pat's (SPVA final)	33	44
Haxtun, Colo.	52	45
Wray, Colo.	67	30
N.P. St Pat's	38	41
Wauneta-Palisade	51	55
Bayard	51	19
Hershey	36	37
Sutherland	47	16
Gothenburg (subdistrict)	40	50
Wins vs. Losses	10	14