

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

Several area and western Nebraska basketball teams will make the trip to Lincoln for the boys' state basketball tournament that opens today (Thursday).

In Class D2, Chase County will be represented by eighth-seeded Wauneta-Palisade, 13-10. They face off against another western team in top-seeded Leyton, 21-1, at 8 a.m. MT today.

In Class D1, Paxton goes into the tournament as the number three seed at 25-0. They will face sixth-seeded Arapahoe, 24-4, at 2:45 MT.

In Class C2, North Platte St. Pat's, 22-3, will represent the SPVA conference, going in as the number four seed.

They will face Hartington Cedar Catholic at 9:45 a.m. MT. One of St. Pat's three losses came at the hands of Paxton in the second half of the season.

Southern Valley, 21-3, also qualified in C2 as the number three seed and will play Lincoln Lutheran.

In Class C1, western Nebraska will be represented by third-seeded Kimball, who goes in with a 20-1 mark. They will face Gibbon in the opening round.

In Class B, Scottsbluff is the lone western Nebraska team in the bracket and will face Aurora in the first round.

With a season mark of 21-5, Scottsbluff comes into the tournament as the top seed in hopes of defending the Class B title they won last year.

In Class A, seventh seeded North Platte, 16-7, will face off against Omaha South in the opening round.

Finals will be held Saturday with C2 at 8 a.m.; D2 at 10 a.m.; A at 12 noon; C1 at 3:30 p.m.; B at 5:30; and D1 at 7:30 p.m. (All times are MT.)