



**By Russ Pankonin**  
**The Imperial Republican**

Basketball official Miles Colson of Imperial capped off his season last week as one of 36 officials selected state wide to officiate in the girls' state tournament.

This marks Colson's third trip to the state tournament. He and partners Shannon Messersmith of Wallace and Russ Pankonin of Imperial officiated the tournament in 2008 and 2009.

Colson was paired up for the tournament with Ron Luikens of Scottsbluff and Ed Sughroue of Alliance.

The trio opened the tournament with two games Thursday—the Wahoo/Fillmore Central game in C1 and the Sutton/Hastings St. Cecilia game in C2.

On Friday and Saturday, officials work just one game.

They worked the D2 semi-final of Wynot and Lindsey Holy Family, who defeated Wauneta-Palisade in the first round.

On Saturday, they closed out the tournament by working the Class B consolation game between Seward and Beatrice.

Colson said this week he enjoyed the experience along with the opportunity to work with two officials he hadn't worked with before.

Colson has been a registered official with the Nebraska School Activities Association for 17 years.

One other area crew officiated at the state tournament. They included Brent Thelander of Grant, Chad Lyons of McCook and Nik Johannsen of Palisade.