By Jan Schultz
The Imperial Republican

It was a skeleton crew of seven athletes from the Chase County boys' track team at Friday's rescheduled Ogallala Invitational.

Due to the forecasted storm that did hit Saturday, Ogallala moved its meet a day earlier.

However, that meant a large contingency of the Chase County team wouldn't make the meet due to the FFA and FBLA state conventions that same day. A number of Chase County's athletes were also ill.

It resulted in about a fourth of the Longhorn team who were able to compete.

While the meet's schedule change affected other schools, too, CCS Coach Marc Mroczek said his team seemed to be hit the hardest.

Despite the lack of numbers, the Longhorn boys did score in four events at Ogallala, and performed well, Mroczek said.

"A highlight was that of the seven who competed, six of them earned personal bests," he said.

Alex Sharp placed third in both the shot and discus, and earned a personal best in his discus throw of 135'3".

Chase County's 1600 meter relay team finished fifth on the efforts of Misael Lopez, Jeremiah Lueth, Joel Fisher and Schyler Heathers.

Chase County's other place-winner was Lopez, who took sixth in the 400 meter dash.

Mroczek really credited Lopez's efforts because he ran in the slow heat of three, easily outpacing the other two in his heat. He also beat all of the runners in the middle heat, and some in the fast heat, to claim sixth.

Others competing Friday and earning personal bests at Ogallala included Schyler Heathers, Jacob Pankonin, Joel Fisher, Shane German and Jeremiah Lueth.

Perkins County didn't send any athletes to the meet due to a large flu outbreak there. Perkins County had no school for two days prior to the meet due to the rampant sickness there.

Team scoring was Gothenburg 163, Ogallala 154, Sidney 110, Cozad 35, Hershey 35, Chase County 15, Ogallala JV 6, Mitchell 2 and Gothenburg JV 2.

- Discus—3rd, Alex Sharp, 135’3”. Winning mark—Matt Henry, Coz., 154’3”.
- Shot put—3rd, Alex Sharp, 46’1”. Winning mark—Matt Henry, Coz., 55’5”.
- 400 meter dash—6th, Misael Lopez, 58.80. Winning time—Ryan Wieser, Sid., 54.00.
- 400 relay—5th, Chase County, 4:01.90. Winning time—Sidney, 3:31.40.

Personal bests

- 800—Schyler Heathers, 2:23; Shane German, 2:27.
- Discus—Alex Sharp, 135’3”.
- 400—Jacob Pankonin, 68.8.
- 300 i.h.—Joel Fisher, 46.4.
- 1600—Shane German, 5:28.
- 100—Jeremiah Lueth, 12.5.
- 200—Jeremiah Lueth, 25.6.
- 1600 relay—Misael Lopez, Jeremiah Lueth, Joel Fisher, Schyler Heathers, 4:01.90.

To Perkins County Thursday

Nine teams are expected today (Thursday) for the Perkins County Invitational in Grant.

Other than Chase County and the hosts, other teams expected include Garden County, North Platte St. Pat’s, Ogallala, Hershey, Southwest, Wauneta/Palisade and Sutherland.

All of the SPVA conference schools except Maxwell will be there.

Field events get underway at 9 a.m., with running events at 10:30 a.m., starting with the 3200 meter relay.

There will be both a varsity and JV division Thursday, so Mroczek expects everyone to have a chance to compete.

Mroczek said he’s hoping most of the team will be in full force at practice this week. He expects two good, hard days of practice Monday and Tuesday, with a light day on Wednesday before the meet.

There will be practice on Monday, April 13.