



By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

A week with six varsity volleyball matches meant a busy one for the Lady Longhorn team. Chase County won matches against Class B Sidney, Dundy County/Stratton and St. Francis, Kan., in action last week, but went 1-2 at the Sutherland tournament Saturday. □

The Lady Longhorns had an 11-5 record early this week before a pair of triangulars away Tuesday and Thursday, and a third one at home Tuesday, Oct. 8.

Tonight (Thursday) the JV and varsity teams will be at a triangular in Maxwell that also includes Sutherland. Maxwell's varsity was 9-5 early this week, while Sutherland is 5-10. Both are SPVA schools.

Action in Maxwell starts at 5 p.m. MT

The team has the weekend off before hosting a triangular on Tuesday, Oct. 8, with North Platte St. Pat's, 10-3, and Southwest, 11-5.

That is also a JV/varsity triangular with matches starting at 4 p.m.

Next Thursday, Oct. 10, the Lady Longhorns will be in Grant to face Perkins County for JV and varsity matches beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Sidney match

After a loss to Sidney three days earlier in the McCook tournament, Chase County upended the Class B Lady Red Raiders Sept. 24 in straight sets, 25-18, 25-16 and 28-26.

Coach Jodie Schuller said it was good to see the win in a very good match.

"It was a good finish for the girls, and coaches, in that third game," she added.

It was close comparing both teams in total kills (Sidney 38, Chase Co. 37), but Sidney committed more than double the errors of Chase County, 26 to 12, which made a difference in the hitting efficiencies of .107 (Sidney) and .234 (Chase Co.)

Leading the attack for the Lady Longhorns was MaKenna Ketter, who had 11 kills. Paige Spady added nine.

The team had five ace serves, three of them from Mindy Castle, as Chase County racked up 96 percent serving in the match (74-77).

Shelby Jaeger had 17 digs, while Kristen Jussel picked up 10.

DC/Stratton triangular

Chase County had an easy time in their opener against St. Francis last Thursday night, winning 25-10 and 25-18.

Coach Schuller commended the effort of Mindy Castle, who stepped up in the absence of Ketter.

Castle led the team in kills with nine, out of the team's 25 total. Jussel had six kills, as the team compiled a .462 hitting efficiency after committing just one error at the net.

St. Francis had nine kills and no errors for a .225 hitting efficiency.

The only area a bit down in the match was serving, as Chase County missed six (46-52) for an 88 percent finish. Spady had four the team's six ace serves.

On defense, Castle had 14 digs while Jaeger picked up 13.

It was a battle with DC/Stratton in the nightcap, but Chase County pulled out the win in straight

sets, 25-19 and 25-23.

Chase County compiled 21 kills with six errors for a .278 hitting efficiency against the Lady Tigers. Jussel had six kills and Spady, five, to lead the team.

DC/Stratton tallied 18 kills with seven errors, finishing with a .180 hitting efficiency.

At the line, the Lady Longhorns were 96 percent (58-60), and had seven aces. Two aces each were served by Jaeger and Spady.

For digs, Jaeger picked up 12 while Castle had 11.

Sutherland tourney

A 1-2 finish for Chase County in Saturday's Sutherland tournament wasn't the finish Coach Schuller hoped for.

Too many hitting and blocking errors plagued the team, she said, as they finished a busy week that included Homecoming distractions.

They lost the opener to eventual tourney champion Wood River (10-3) in two, 23-25 and 15-25. The teams had similar stats at the net, Chase County with 17 kills and eight errors to Wood River's 18 kills and 10 errors.

Chase County finished with a .127 hitting efficiency while Wood River was .118.

Ketter had six kills and Spady, five, to lead the Lady Longhorns. Taylin McNair had the team's only ace serve, as they finished 36-39 from the line for 92 percent.

Chase County faced Dundy County/Stratton in the second match of the day, winning in two, 25-19 and 25-20.

They were near perfect on serves, 48-49, and compiled seven aces, two each from McNair and Spady.

At the net, Chase County had 26 kills and 10 errors for a .219 hitting efficiency.

DC/Stratton put down 16 kills, had eight errors and finished at .113.

Jaeger was busy on defense, picking up 34 digs in the two games. Jussel had 11.

In their final match with Southwest, Chase County took the first game 25-20, but dropped the next two and the match, 15-25 and 23-25.

"That third one should have been ours," Schuller said, "but we had too many errors."

Chase County finished with a .154 hitting efficiency (30 kills, 12 errors), compared to Southwest, which had 40 kills and 10 errors for a .250 hitting efficiency.

Ketter led with 10 kills, while Spady contributed seven.

On serving, Chase County finished 59-61 (98 percent). Ketter had two of the team's four ace serves.

In the back row, Jaeger had 39 digs and Jussel, 18.

Mindy Castle broke her pinkie finger in the first tournament match, so will most likely be out of action this week, Schuller noted.