



Chase County may get rematch with St. Pat's

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

After a disappointing loss last week to North Platte St. Pat's, the Lady Longhorns are eyeing a possible rematch in this week's SPVA Conference Tournament in North Platte.

That could only happen if Chase County defies its No. 3 tournament seed and meets the Lady Irish in Saturday's championship match.

That's a real possibility, but Chase County has to get by No. 6 Kimball tonight (Thursday) and then No. 2 Hershey or No. 7 Perkins County.

"They are a very beatable team," Coach Jodie Schuller said of St. Pat's.

In anticipation of a possible rematch with St. Pat's, now 13-6, she realizes her team has to play very good volleyball to get into the championship round.

That means elimination of the errors they committed against St. Pat's last week in the triangular at Imperial with Southwest.

Schuller said a full week off between last week's matches and the start of SPVA tourney will allow some time to work on things at practice. That will be a big plus, she said.

Chase County goes into the tournament this week with a 16-7 record.

The Lady Longhorns will first meet up with Kimball, a new team to the SPVA this year, in first round action tonight (Thursday) at 5 p.m. MT

A win sends Chase County into the semi-finals on Saturday at 12 noon against either Hershey or Perkins County. Hershey is 15-3 this week, while Perkins County is 2-16.

The championship match is set for 4 p.m. MT Saturday, with the consolation game for third place at 2 p.m. MT.

St. Pat's High School is hosting this year's SPVA tourney, and all matches are at the St. Pat's gym.

Following the conference tournament, Chase County will play its final matches of the season at home on Tuesday, Oct. 22, when Hershey is her for C, JV and varsity action starting at 4 p.m. It will also be Parents' Night activities.

Triangular with St. Pat's, Southwest

All three teams at the Oct. 8 triangular hosted by Chase County finished 1-1.

After an opening loss to St. Pat's, Chase County then beat Southwest in two straight. In between, Southwest won in straight sets over St. Pat's.

Chase County's loss to St. Pat's couldn't have been much closer. Scores were 21-25 and 23-25.

Coach Schuller said her team was not in rhythm for the match and their 14 errors were too

many.

“We just had too many of our own errors,” she said.

Chase County outhit St. Pat’s 23 to 21 in kills, but had more than double their errors, 14 to six.

That meant a hitting efficiency for Chase County of .143, while St. Pat’s recorded a .300.

MaKenna Ketter led the team in kills with 12, but Schuller said the other hitters on the team needed to step up a little.

In the first game, the score was tied six times after St. Pat’s took an early 4-1 lead.

After an 18-18 tie, the Lady Irish scored four straight, two of those points coming on unforced Chase County errors—a bad pass and an out-of-bounds kill attempt.

The Lady Longhorns were able to take advantage of a St. Pat’s error, and pulled within three, 19-22, but that was the closest they got before dropping the first game 21-25.

It was a similar start to the second game, as St. Pat’s went up early, 5-1, before Chase County’s offense could get going.

They battled back to an 11-11 tie. The back-and-forth scoring had the game tied three more times before Chase County had its best run of the night, taking a four-point lead, 22-18.

But then St. Pat’s got their offense going, scoring six unanswered points, two on Chase County errors, to take a 24-22 lead. A blocked kill attempt pulled Chase County within one, 24-23, before a kill attempt by Ketter fell short and the game ended, 25-23.

Chase County’s serving was near perfect, 43-44, with six aces. Kaycee Bubak had three of those ace serves.

Defensively, Kristen Jussel had eight digs, while Bubak picked up six.

It was also a pair of close ones with Southwest. But, this time, Chase County won by the same, 25-21 and 25-23 scores.

Coach Schuller said her team played more in rhythm against Southwest.

She said it was a great win over Southwest, now 16-6. Chase County lost to them earlier this season at the Sutherland Tournament.

At the net, Chase County tallied 25 kills with five errors for a .373 hitting efficiency. Ketter again led the team with 11 kills, while Makala Bartels had six.

Southwest finished with 18 kills, seven errors and a .175 hitting efficiency.

At the line, the Lady Longhorns were 91 percent (44-48). Bridget Langin had two of the team’s four ace serves.

Jussel led the team in digs with 15; Jaeger had nine.

Perkins County match

It was another straight-set night at Perkins County last Thursday as Chase County won in three, 25-11, 25-19 and 25-6.

Coach Schuller said it was good to see more shared duties at the net, as Bartels recorded 10 kills, while Ketter and Paige Spady each had seven.

In all, Chase County had 35 kills and 12 errors for a hitting efficiency of .280.

Perkins County finished with 17 kills, but had 18 errors, so had a below zero hitting efficiency.

On serves, the Lady Longhorns were 68-72 for 94 percent. Bubak had four of the team’s eight aces.

Injury report

Two Chase County players suffered injuries the past couple of weeks that will keep them out of action for the rest of the season, Schuller said.

Mindy Castle, who plays both JV and varsity, broke a finger in the Sutherland tournament the end of September. Freshman Jadin Bussell suffered a season-ending injury to her foot last

week in the Oct.7 C team quadrangular.