



By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Another season is over for Lady Longhorn volleyball. The team went into Monday night's C1-11 subdistrict tournament with its first 20-win season since 2006, but after a first round win over Cozad, couldn't get past top-seeded Ogallala.

The C1-11 subdistrict is likely one of the toughest in the state.

Even with a respectable 20-8 record coming into the tourney, Chase County was still seeded No. 4 out of five teams.

Ogallala and No. 2 seed Gothenburg, who played for the subdistrict title Tuesday, are in the top eight in point standings of all C1 teams in the state.

Chase County defeated fifth-seeded Cozad in the first round match Monday, having to come from behind in all three games to win, 25-19, 25-20 and 26-24.

They fell behind by as much as seven points in the second game, 8-15, but then scored seven straight to tie it 15-15 on serving from senior Shelby Jaeger. She was helped by a pair of MaKenna Ketter kills, and some Cozad errors in her string of serves.

Coach Jodie Schuller said she was pleased to see her team pull it out after it seemed they just couldn't get into rhythm.

"It's hard to come back from that many behind," she said.

But, they continued to fight and went on to win three straight.

After a break during the first semi-finals match, in which Gothenburg beat Hershey, Chase County faced No. 1 seed Ogallala.

Chase County lost in three, 14-25, 18-25 and 16-25.

"We gave it our best," Schuller said, "but our problem was our own errors."

She said her team had no double-digit individual totals on kills against the Lady Indians, and many of their errors came at the wrong times.

"Ogallala does well with a lot of aspects of the game," she said. "And, they don't make a lot of errors.

"But, we never gave up," she said.

Chase County's season ended with a 21-9 record, the best since 2006, when the team finished 23-5 after earning a wild card ticket to the state tournament where they won their opening match, and were then defeated in the semi-finals.

More on the subdistricts and a season wrap-up will be in next week's issue.

Coach Schuller bypassed the 300-win mark this season, and has recorded a total of 307 wins at Chase County since taking over as head volleyball coach in 1996.



Win at McCook

In closing out the regular season schedule, Chase County won in straight sets at McCook Oct.

29, by scores of 25-19, 25-18 and 25-9.

McCook had a 3-29 record on Monday. All three wins have come against Lexington.

However, Coach Schuller said they weren't looking past the match, and said McCook played well against her team.

Chase County was 90 percent on serves (67-74), and scored four aces.

They finished with a .357 hitting efficiency on 37 kills and seven errors. Leading on offense were Makala Bartels, Kristen Jussel and Paige Spady with seven kills each. Shelby Jaeger had seven digs. Taylin McNair and Jussel each had six.

McCook finished with a .137 hitting efficiency.