



Friday's win in final seconds is second victory of season

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

A basket with three seconds left and a tied score lifted the Chase County Lady Longhorns to a thrilling win Friday against Holyoke, Colo.

And, a last second layup after stealing the inbound pass added two more as Chase County finished the game with the 40-36 victory.

Their big win at home Friday led into a busy week of three contests, preceding next week's always anticipated SPVA Conference Tournament in North Platte.

The SPVA bracket was out Wednesday morning, and the Lady Longhorns were seeded seventh after a loss Tuesday night to Southern Valley.

Early this week, Chase County and Perkins County were tied in the NSAA standings with the same 37.900 points, which are used for tournament seeding.

Due to that tie, A.D. Troy Hauxwell at Chase County Schools said they decided to wait until after Tuesday's game this week to see how the points fell.

Perkins County's girls did not have a game on Tuesday.

First round tournament games will be Monday at the North Platte Community College gym when Chase County will play No. 2 seed Hershey in the 7 p.m. MT game.

Semi-finals are slated for next Thursday, Jan. 23, with the championship and consolation games on Jan. 25.

But, before the tournament even gets here, Chase County will play three games this week.

After hosting Southern Valley Tuesday, the Lady Longhorns will travel to Grant tonight (Thursday), then host Gothenburg back on the home hardwoods Friday.

While Perkins County has just one win on the season, Coach Nancy Sorensen is not looking past them.

The Lady Plainsmen have a small roster with just about a dozen players, but they work hard, she said, and it's usually a battle between the two friendly rivals.

Thursday also marks the annual Pink Out breast cancer research fund-raiser as part of the varsity games, sponsored by the FFA chapters at the two schools.

Chase County chalked up its first win of the season against Gothenburg at the holiday tournament, but Coach Sorensen said "they'll be coming with a vengeance" on Friday.

Now with a 5-7 record, Gothenburg has logged recent wins over McCook and Sutherland.

"They've been playing well since the (holiday) tournament," Sorensen said.

JV contests start both nights of basketball at 4:30 p.m. Thursday and 4 p.m. on Friday.

Holyoke a big win

In the game against Holyoke Friday, there was never more than a five-point spread in the

score, and the score was tied at least 10 times.

Chase County took an early 5-0 lead and held the lead until the final minute of the quarter when Holyoke jumped up by a basket, 9-7.

The second quarter was marked by back-and-forth scoring, but as the teams went to the locker room, Chase County had a slight 19-18 lead.

Chase County's offense went a bit flat in the third quarter, as Holyoke outscored them 11-6 and took a 29-25 lead into the fourth quarter.

With just 2:15 left in the game, Destiny Reinke scored her first points of the game on a bucket after the ball was stolen by Jodi Koellner. That tied the game 33-33.

Reinke came right back about 20 seconds later and hit a three-pointer, giving the Lady Longhorns a 36-33 lead with just 1:55 left in the game.

Holyoke tied the game again after sinking three free throws, their last one with 50 seconds remaining.

The ball was traded between the teams with no score until Paige Spady hit a bucket with just three seconds on the clock, giving Chase County a 38-36 lead.

Taylin McNair, just seconds later, scored another layup for Chase County as Holyoke's inbound pass was intercepted for the 40-36 win.

Coach Sorensen said her team's intensity at the finish and good communication were keys to pulling out the close game with Holyoke, which is now 4-4 on the season.

"I also feel the girls are getting more confident with their offense," she said.

She pointed to Spady in that regard, who was in double figures to lead the team Friday with 17 points. The CCS junior also scored 19 against Dundy County/Stratton earlier last week.

Sorensen also credited their defense, noting Holyoke likes to shoot the three, but scored no treys Friday.

One area that continues to haunt the team is success at the free throw line. Against Holyoke, Chase County hit just one of eight.

Sorensen said the team also needs to be getting to the line more often.

From the field, Chase County was 18 of 65 for 28 percent, and hit one of 10 trey attempts.

In addition to Spady's 17, Koellner put up six points and Reinke, five, in the win.

Koellner was also strong on the boards Friday, grabbing 17 rebounds. Makala Bartels had 13.

Spady tallied four steals and three assists, as well.



Imperial 40

	2 PT.	3 PT.	FT/		
	FG	FG	FTA	F	TP
Destiny Reinke	1	1	0-0	3	5
Cheyenne Kuhlmann	0	0	0-0	1	0
Makala Bartels	2	0	0-4	0	4
Taylin McNair	2	0	0-0	0	4
Makenna Wallin	0	0	0-0	1	0
Emma Engbrecht	0	0	0-0	0	0

Paige Spady	8	0	1-2	4	17
Emma Bauerle	0	0	0-0	0	0
MaKenna Ketter	0	0	1-2	2	0
Valeria Cervantes	2	0	0-0	3	4
Jodi Koellner	3	0	0-0	4	6
Anna Bauerle	0	0	0-0	2	0
Bridget Langin	0	0	0-0	0	0
TOTALS	18	1	1-8	20	40

Holyoke 36

Lopez 4, Pena 6, King 17, Vieselmeyer 5, Beavers 2, Razo 1, Bencomo 1.

Holyoke's totals: 2 pt. FG—13; 3 pt. FG—0; FT/FTA—10/24; Fouls—13; TP—36.

Points by quarters:

Imperial 7 12 6 15—40

Holyoke 9 9 11 7—36

Dundy Co./Stratton game

Another thriller of a game came Jan. 7, when Chase County lost an overtime contest in Benkelman against undefeated Dundy County/Stratton, 43-39.

The Lady Longhorns were down by as much as 12 in the second half but came back to tie the game 39-39 in the fourth and force overtime.

But, Chase County was unable to score in the O.T. period, while the Lady Tigers added four to win, 43-39.

Coach Sorensen said she was very proud of how the girls came back in the second half, never giving up.

But, just like in the Holyoke game, Chase County's third quarter scoring was minimal with just five points, and something that needs to change, Sorensen said.

"We need to come out after half ready to go," she said.

One other downfall in the game was another injury to senior Kaycee Bubak, who's been out much of the season with a back injury. According to her mother, Kim, she suffered a probable concussion. She has seen a doctor and was scheduled to take the IMPACT test Wednesday this week.

She missed school most of last week after the game, as well as Monday, and her return to action this week is doubtful.

Shooting from two-point range was 41 percent for Chase County, as they hit 15 of 37. But the number of shots taken was severely limited by the DC/Stratton defense.

Again, Reinke hit the team's only trey in 11 attempts.

Chase County's success at the line was better as they hit six of 13 for 46 percent.

Reinke added six and Koellner, five, in addition to Spady's team-leading 19 points.

Spady and Bubak led the rebounding with eight and five, respectively. Reinke had three assists and Spady was credited with six steals.

Imperial 39

	2 PT.	3 PT.	FT/		
	FG	FG	FTA	F	TP
Destiny Reinke	1	1	1-2	2	6
Cheyenne Kuhlmann	0	0	0-0	0	0
Makala Bartels	2	0	0-0	4	4
Taylin McNair	2	0	1-2	1	5

Lady Longhorns win thriller against Holyoke

Kaycee Bubak	0	0	0-1	4	0
Makenna Wallin	0	0	0-0	3	0
Emma Engbrecht	0	0	0-0	0	0
Paige Spady	8	0	3-5	3	19
Emma Bauerle	0	0	0-0	0	0
MaKenna Ketter	0	0	0-0	0	0
Valeria Cervantes	0	0	0-0	0	0
Jodi Koellner	2	0	1-3	2	5
Anna Bauerle	0	0	0-0	1	0
TOTALS	15	1	6-13	20	39

D.C./Stratton 43

K. Confer 2, F. Sanford 1, A. Peckham 2, N. Kent 8, A. Frederick 8, N. Kent 17, J. Ragsdale 4.

D.C./Stratton's totals: 2 pt. FG—10; 3 pt. FG—3; FT/FTA—14/24; Fouls—17; TP—43.

Points by quarters:

Imperial 6 13 5 15—39

D.C./Stratton 13 10 9 7—43