



By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

North Platte St. Pat's took home the SPVA conference boys' track title this year, winning it last Friday during a cool day in Hershey.

Chase County didn't expect to have the chance to regain the title this year, because the Longhorns just don't have the depth.

Chase County finished fifth this year, ahead of last place Hershey.

Coach Marc Mroczek said he was pleased with the huge number of personal bests turned in by his team at the SPVA meet, but he knew it wasn't in the cards to compete for the title.

"We did have a number of improved times and marks in several events, but not enough depth in all events to compete with St. Pat's and Sutherland," he said.

St. Pat's won the title easily, 36 points ahead of runner-up Sutherland. St. Pat's last won the title in 2004.

Last year's SPVA champ, Perkins County, placed fourth this year.

Except for the past two years and St. Pat's win in 2004, Chase County captured the SPVA track title 30 of the past 33 years.

Alex Sharp took first in both the shot and discus, the only firsts won by the Longhorns Friday.

Two other Longhorns scored in the weights, as Tyler Roenfeldt placed fourth in the shot and Lucas Bauerle was sixth in the discus with a personal best.

Mroczek also highlighted Kyle Bottom's second place in the 1600, running his personal best at 4:52.6. That time currently leads the C11 district, at which the Longhorns will be competing next Thursday.

Chase County had two place-winners in the 3200, Tyler Talbott in third and Preston Bernhardt, sixth.

Mroczek said Talbott continues to bring down his 3200 time, and will have to continue to do so to make the cut for state.

Bernhardt also earned fifth in the 800, running his personal best in that race at 2:09.6.

Chase County's 3200 meter relay team also ran a faster time, dropping under nine minutes last week and taking third. Friday's time of 8:55.5 is setting second in the district right now, behind Gordon/Rushville.

Team scoring was North Platte St. Pat's 144, Sutherland 108, Maxwell 83.5, Perkins County 75, Chase County 60.5 and Hershey 56.



...the Longhorn boys' team finished fifth at the SPVA meet. The team's performance was impressive, especially considering the challenging conditions. The athletes showed great resilience and teamwork throughout the competition. The coach praised the team's effort and dedication. The meet was a great opportunity for the boys to gain experience and compete against top talent. The results were a mix of success and disappointment, but the team's spirit remained high. The coach believes the team has a lot of potential and will continue to work hard to improve. The boys' performance was a testament to their hard work and dedication. The meet was a great success for the Longhorn boys' team.