



Finish regular season with win over Sutherland **By Russ Pankonin**

The Imperial Republican

Carl Zuege's Longhorns took a four-game winning streak and a 16-6 record into this week's C1-11 subdistricts after defeating Sutherland Friday to close out the regular season.

Looking to extend that streak by three more games to earn a trip to Lincoln, the Longhorns moved a game closer by defeating Hershey in their opening game of subdistricts Tuesday night, 50-35.

Tonight (Thursday), they will face Cozad for the opportunity to play in the district final Monday night against the winner of the Chadron-Valentine game in the C1-12 subdistrict.

Cozad defeated Gothenburg Tuesday night 60-46 in the other side of the C1-11 sub.

When the Longhorns traveled to Cozad in the season opener, they came away with 52-48 win. Zuege said this week that Cozad is playing much better, compared to their first meeting. Cozad was coming off a state football championship and didn't have a lot of practices before that first game.

Cozad comes into the game with a 15-8 mark after Tuesday's win.

Before Tuesday night's games, Zuege said he preferred to play Cozad rather than Gothenburg because he believes the Longhorns match up better with Cozad. Nonetheless, the Longhorns will have to deal with Cozad's quickness and speed.

Subdistricts vs. Hershey

The Longhorns earned the opportunity to face Cozad by downing Hershey Tuesday night 50-35.

Hershey came out on top over Ogallala Monday night in the bunny bracket to see who got to face the top-seeded Longhorns.

The Longhorns got off to a slow start, leading just 6-2 after one quarter. They extended that lead to seven by halftime, 19-12.

In the second half, Hershey pulled within a pair before the Longhorns stretched it out by outscoring Hershey 31-23 in the second half for the win.

Free throw shooting proved big for the Longhorns, going 10-10 in the fourth quarter and 15 of 20 for the game.

Jeff Dickey led the Longhorns with 19, including three treys in the second quarter. Kelton

Fisher also finished in double figures with 10.

Imperial 50

	2 PT.	3 PT.	FT/		
	FG	FG	FTA	F	TP



Travis Luhrs	0	1	2-2	0	5
Ryan Moline	1	1	0-0	2	5
Kevin German	0	0	2-2	0	2
Dan Sullivan	0	0	0-0	0	0
Jeff Dickey	3	3	4-7	2	19
Kelton Fisher	4	0	2-2	1	10
Justus Wallin	0	0	4-4	4	4
Trey Milner	0	0	0-2	1	0
Isaac Sorensen	2	0	1-3	0	5
TOTALS	10	5	15-22	10	50

Hershey 35

Logan Weir 3, Clay Frels 5, Landan Maasen 5, Kalon Czarnick 5, Josh Margritz 5, Ariel Quirogo 2, Jason Davis 4, Dusty Streeter 6.

Hershey totals: 2 pt. FG—10; 3 pt. FG—5; FT/FTA—0-2; Fouls—17; TP—35.

Points by quarters:

Imperial 6 13 13 18—50

Hershey 2 10 10 13—35

Regular season finale

The Longhorns capped off their regular season Friday with a 51-33 win over Sutherland.

The Longhorns got off to a slow start in Friday's game as well, trailing 8-6 after one.

Zuege said the Longhorns experienced problems getting the ball to fall in the first half.

Sutherland was packing in their defense, giving the Longhorns plenty of three-point opportunities. Unfortunately, the Longhorns could only convert 1 of 11 attempts.

Despite that, they did get some deuces to fall to build a 19-15 lead by halftime.

During the break, Zuege told his team they needed a 16-point third quarter while holding Sutherland to four or less.

To open the third, Travis Luhrs hit a 3 ball to get the Longhorns back on track. Fisher added a bucket, followed by a 3 from Jeff Dickey.

"From there, we were on our way," Zuege said.

The Longhorns got their 16 points in the third while holding Sutherland to just 5.

In the fourth, the Longhorns led by as many as 21, finishing the game with an 18-point, 51-33

margin.

Fisher led the scoring Friday with 13, followed by 12 from Dickey. Zuege credited junior Isaac Sorensen with a great defensive effort on Sutherland's Tyler Fear.

Zuege said Sorensen is a big key in the Longhorns' defensive scheme, with the weekly assignment of taking on the opponents best player.

Stats showed the Longhorns' first half shooting woes, going just 4-16 from the 3-point line for the game. Inside, that mark improved to 54 percent.

The Longhorns held Sutherland to 1-8 from 3-point range and 9-27 inside the arc.

Imperial 51

	2 PT.	3 PT.	FT/										
	FG	FG	FTA	F	TP								
Travis Luhrs	0	2	0-0	3	6	Ryan Moline	0	1	0-0	2	3		
Kevin German	1	0	2-5	3	4								
Dan Sullivan	1	0	0-2	1	2								
Destyn Milner	0	0	0-0	1	0								
Jeff Dickey	2	1	5-5	2	12								
Kelton Fisher	6	0	1-3	2	13								
Justus Wallin	2	0	1-2	0	5								
Trey Milner	2	0	0-0	3	4								
Isaac Sorensen	1	0	0-2	2	2								
TOTALS	15	4	9-19	19	51								

Sutherland 33

Tyler Fear 13, Trey Rongisch 1, Kadin Copeland 12, Brook Blomstedt 7.

Sutherland's totals: 2 pt. FG—9; 3 pt. FG—1; FT/FTA—12-17; Fouls—19; TP—33.

Points by quarters:

Imperial	6	13	16	16—51
Sutherland	8	7	5	13—33