Now, it's on to districts for Lady Longhorns

By Jan Schultz
The Imperial Republican

It's the middle of May, and that time of year brings district track meets across the state.

Chase County will be in Bayard today (Thursday) for the C11 District meet, and the Lady Longhorns are hoping for a number of state qualifiers to come out of Thursday's performances.

CCS Coach Al Zuege isn't one who likes to predict who or how many from his team might qualify for the state meet in Omaha, this year on May 22-23, over Memorial Day weekend.

But, currently, his 1600 meter relay team has the best time in the district, and the 400 meter team is sitting second. There's a good possibility some other Chase County athletes will qualify in individual events.

One plus is the fact he expects his full team to be at the district meet this week. Two of the team's sprinters, Karlee Palmer and Rebecca Martin, have recovered from injuries and will be in Bayard to compete.

The team's goal now is state qualifiers. Zuege said there will be some tough teams at districts, including Perkins County, Kimball, Gordon/Rushville, Bayard and Bridgeport.

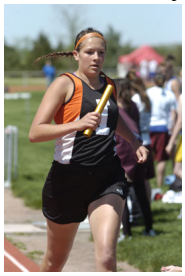
Those five teams will likely be vying for the district championship.

As Chase County prepares for Thursday, Zuege said they'd have a hard workout Monday at practice, back off some on Tuesday with a light practice Wednesday.

The district meet opens with field events at 9:30 a.m., and all of the field events are to be completed before the preliminary running events start at 11 a.m.

The track finals are set for a 2 p.m. start, or 45 minutes after the 200 meter prelims are done.

Besides those mentioned above and Chase County, other teams in the C11 district include Creek Valley, Hemingford and Morrill.



Dundy County meet

It was a battle between Dundy County/Stratton and Perkins County for the title at last Friday's Dundy County/Stratton twilight meet.

In the end, Dundy County/Stratton edged the Lady Plainsmen by eight points for the championship.

Chase County's girls finished fourth in a field of 10 teams.

It was a windy day until late afternoon, which had both positive and negative effects on times and marks, Zuege said.

He was pleased to report 12 personal bests by the Lady Longhorns that day, mostly in the sprints and hurdle events.

Rebecca Martin claimed fifths in both the 100 and 200 with a pair of personal bests.

All three of Chase County's 300 meter hurdlers ran personal bests and scored points Friday, led by Dee Dee Pursley, second; Kacia Smith, fourth; and Chantal Heathers, who tied for sixth.

Pursley also ran a PB in the 100 meter hurdles for fourth, and Heathers was edged for sixth, running a PB, as well.

Jilanne German ran her best time in the 800, and placed sixth.

Lexee Reichert collected a third in the shot put and Nichole Dickey finished third in the 400. Also placing was Shayla Dinnel, tying for sixth in the high jump.

Chase County's only first at the meet was from the 1600 meter relay team, who ran a 4:26.6, more than four seconds ahead of second.

That team of Pursley, Dickey, Smith and German ran its personal best of 4:20.2 at the Best in the Midwest meet last week in Sutherland.

Chase County's 400 meter relay team of Dickey, Pursley, Martin and Smith finished second (54.6 seconds) at Dundy County last week, but turned in a personal best at Sutherland's Best in the Midwest earlier last week at 53.2 seconds.

The 3200 meter relay team of Shanna Carter, German, Morgan Strand and Mayra Acosta was fourth.

Team scoring was DC/Stratton 114, Perkins County 106, Wauneta/Palisade 88, Chase County 75, Maywood 68, Wallace 60, Rawlins County (Kan.) 47, Cheylin (Kan.) 42, Hayes Center 31 and South Platte 21.

Long jump—7th, Shayla Dinnel, 13'5.25". Winning mark—Leah Sharp, RC, 15'3".
Shot put—3rd, Lexee Reichert, 34'2.25". Winning mark—Sara Wilson, PC, 39'6".
High jump—6th, Shayla Dinnel, 4'6". Winning mark—Dawnta Harchelroad, WP, 4'8".
3200 meter relay—4th, Chase County, Shanna Carter, Jilanne German, Morgan Strand, Mayra Acosta, 12:22.20. Winning time—Wallace, 11:02.70.
100 meter hurdles—4th, Dee Dee Pursley, 17.10; 7th, Chantal Heathers, 17.90. Winning time—Blair Dixon, WP, 14.70.
100 meter dash—5th, Rebecca Martin, 13.60. Winning time—Blair Dixon, WP, 12.20.
400 meter run—3rd, Nichole Dickey, 1:09.20. Winning time—Blair Dixon, WP, 1:01.40.
3200 meter run—1st, Gabby Mullanix, DC, 12:34.20.
200 meter dash—5th, Rebecca Martin, 28.40. Winning time—Blair Dixon, WP, 25.80.
Triple jump—1st, Mackenzie Hite, PC, 32'6".
Discus—7th, Molly Strand, 95'10". Winning mark—Tia Sager, Chey., 116'1".
Pole vault—1st, Elisa Carlson, PC, 9'9".
800 meter run—6th, Jilanne German, 2:44.80. Winning time—Brooke Koester, May., 2:28.00.
300 meter hurdles—2nd, Dee Dee Pursley, 50.40; 4th, Kacia Smith, 51.90; 6th, Chantal Heathers, 54.10. Winning time—Brooke Hansen, DC, 47.90.
1600 meter run—1st, Naomi Reeh, Chey., 5:59.60.

400 meter relay—2nd, Chase County, Nichole Dickey, Dee Dee Pursley, Rebecca Martin, Kacia Smith, 54.60. Winning time—Dundy County/Stratton, 53.50.
1600 meter relay—1st, Chase County, Dee Dee Pursley, Nichole Dickey, Kacia Smith, Jilanne German, 4:26.60.

Personal bests

100—Rebecca Martin, 13.6.
200—Rebecca Martin, 28.4.
800—Morgan Strand, 3:06.6; Jilanne German, 2:44.8.
1600—Devon Vaverek, 7:36.9.
3200 meter—Jade Vaverek, 18:30.3; Paula Leibbrandt, 15:56.9.
100 meter hurdles—Dee Dee Pursley, 17.1; Chantal Heathers, 17.9.
300 meter hurdles—Dee Dee Pursley, 50.4; Kacia Smith, 51.9; Chantal Heathers, 54.1.

How to get to the state meet in Class C

First place relay team, then next fastest five times statewide
First or second in individual running events, then next two fastest thirds statewide
First or second in individual field events, or by meeting the following automatic qualifying marks:

- High jump—5’1”
- Long jump—16’7”
- Triple jump—34’5”
- Shot put—38’0”
- Discus—118’4”
- Pole vault—9’6”