



Team finishes season with just one loss

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

In a battle between two Chase County teams, Imperial came out on top in the Tri-County South League softball tournament Saturday, beating Wauneta 14-7.

The championship capped a 7-1 season for Imperial, with only one loss, also to Wauneta, earlier in the season.

Atwood, Kan., hosted this year's tournament. All games were played on Saturday.

In the 14-7 championship contest, Coach Denise Smith said the final score was not entirely indicative of the game.

Wauneta opened up in the top half of the first with three runs, but Imperial came back to score seven in the bottom of the first.

Each team scored one in the second. Imperial still led, 8-4.

In the third, Wauneta scored a pair of runs, but held Imperial scoreless in their half. Wauneta scored another in the top of the fourth to pull within one of tying Imperial.

Holding onto an 8-7 lead going into the bottom of the fourth, Imperial added six runs to gain the momentum back.

Pitcher Kacia Smith faced just three batters in the top of the fifth, striking out one and the other two grounded out, ending the game at 14-7.

Imperial tallied 14 hits in the finale, all singles, led by Kacia Smith, Bre Brown, Taylor Wilson, Lexee Reichert and Jordan Gibb, all with two hits.

As tournament winners, all of Imperial's players received championship T-shirts, and the team will hold onto a traveling trophy for the year.



First round game

In their first round tournament game Saturday, Imperial defeated Atwood, 13-5, to advance to the championship.

Imperial put up six runs in the first and six more in the fourth to dominate the offense. Atwood was held to just one hit in the game, while Imperial chalked up five.

Scoring hits were Kacia Smith, two singles; and Bre Brown, Taylor Wilson and Ally Vrbas, all with a single.

Smith was the winning pitcher in both tournament games.

Regular season win

over Wauneta June 18

In their final regular season game last Thursday, Imperial defeated Wauneta in the bottom of the fifth, 17-16.

Imperial trailed by two heading into the fifth, but combined for two singles, a walk and fielder's choice to score the two runs to win.

The win came after trailing 12-0 following Wauneta's first at-bat. Coach Denise Smith said her team battled back, helped by a nine-run second inning.

Imperial tallied 17 hits in last Thursday's game, led by Kacia Smith, who was five for five with two triples; Lexee Reichert, five for five, all singles; and Sabrina Hayes, two singles.

The Tri-County North League, in which several other Imperial teams are competing this summer, did not have enough senior girls' teams to schedule games.

So, the Imperial senior girls opted to play in the South League, along with Wauneta, Benkelman and Atwood, Kan.

