

What an outstanding week

By Larry Pritchett

Past PCHS Activities Director

This past week was a really busy one at a lot of levels of activities. I got in some interstate driving time; saw a couple of really good basketball games, one at the high school level, and one at the college level and got to see my son reach a milestone in his coaching career. That is just a little bit of what took place during the week.

First of all, congratulations goes out to the Perkins County girls basketball team and their coaches as they captured their sub-district tournament just up the road in Gering. Now on Friday they will get the opportunity to play in a game that is just like any other game except the winner gets to go to the Nebraska girls high school state tournament. Good luck as they do battle with the North Platte St. Pats girls. Game time is 6:30 MT at Sutherland.

Congratulations are also in order to the three state wrestling qualifiers and their coaches. It is always an honor to participate in the state tournament and all three of the wrestlers had outstanding regular seasons. Christian Miyamoto, Vinny Ross and Austin Thelander, made the trip and Ross and Thelander came home with medals.

Congratulations are also in order to former PCHS girls basketball player Debi Johnson. Johnson is finishing up her career at UNK and has been an outstanding performer all four years. As her career winds down, she has left her mark on the UNK's record book. The following are some of her accomplishments as a Loper player:

- 10th in Career points with 1425
- third in Career three-point FG's made with 195
- fourth in career free throws percentage.
- 10th in career free throws made with 295
- eighth in season three-point field goals made with 64
- first in single game three-point field goals made with nine
- sixth in free throws made in a single game with 12, did it twice
- scored 30 points in a single game, twice
- second and eighth in free throw percentage in a single game with a 12-12 and 8-8.

Friday night we spent at Malcolm High School as the Clippers played Ashland-Greenwood in the last regular season game for Malcolm. I know I am biased, but I watched the best half of high school basketball that I have seen this season.

The Clippers have made improvement over the season and it came together against the C-1 Ashland Greenwood team. It has always been my philosophy that one of the coach's responsibilities is to put his team in a position to have the best chance to be successful.

The Clippers strength is in their two junior post people and their game plan used those two

players with great help from their perimeter people to build a 15 point first half lead. They needed that cushion and in the end, Marlene and I got to see our son Troy pick up his 200th career win. It was a great feeling to be able to share that with him Friday night.

Saturday night Marlene, Troy, Mark Runyan, and I made a trip to Omaha and watched the Creighton and Long Beach State Bracket Buster game. There is a big difference between the atmosphere at Creighton games and UNL games. Having a 23-5 record will do that. The attendance at Creighton was announced at 17,500 and they were loud.

Long Beach state is a really good team and even though Creighton jumped out to a 11-2 lead, the 49ers chipped away and led for most of the game. Creighton has a legit All-American in Doug McDermott, son of Head Coach Greg McDermott.

McDermott had 36 points and Antoine Young who played at Omaha Central hit a basketball with three-tenths of a second left to win the game.

It was a great game and the first time I had ever been to the CenturyLink arena, formerly the Quest Center. I really enjoyed the game, the atmosphere was super. I don't consider myself a prude and I realize that people like to consume alcohol at sporting events, but I hope that UNL keeps the alcohol sales out of the university setting.

Along with some pretty good basketball, I saw my selection for All-American percussion players. Creighton had three outstanding "Cow Bell" people and never once did I think they were light on the cow bell. They would have done the Saturday Night Live skit great justice plus a couple of them had great dance moves. Outstanding week!