



Pole vaulters on the Longhorn track teams have benefitted this season from six new poles purchased, in part, with funds from the Logan Bauman Memorial Foundation. The Chase County vaulters this season include, from left, Brooklyn Christensen, Morgan Peterson, Brit Gockley, Taylor Jablonski and Trevor Peterson. (Johnson Publications photo)

Former Longhorn pole vaulter gives back to CCS

By JAN SCHULTZ
THE IMPERIAL REPUBLICAN

Andy Bauman looks back fondly on his experience as a pole vaulter at Chase County High School and later in college.

Bauman lives in Parker, Colorado with wife Karla now, but they still have a lot of ties back in Imperial. They haven't forgotten where they came from as they continue to memorialize their son, Logan, though his foundation.

Chase County Schools has been one of the biggest beneficiaries of the Logan Bauman Memorial Foundation, and this year's track program was one of its latest.

A \$1,500 donation from the foundation helped purchase six new Essx pole vault poles.

Longhorn pole vault coach Matt Jablonski said he and Bauman were visiting recently when he mentioned one of the

program needs was increasing its pole inventory. With different sizes of athletes, just the right pole can make the difference, he said.

"We were really getting short on the weights we needed," Jablonski said.

Bauman told Jablonski to give him a call.

That call eventually was made and the six poles (three girls' poles and three for the boys) were purchased and arrived early this season, Jablonski said.

Jablonski sent a big thanks to Bauman for considering their program for the donation.

Bauman, originally from Gothenburg, has a particular love for pole vaulting, and still follows the accomplishments of Nebraska athletes in that event.

And, more notably, Bauman still holds the Chase County Schools' pole vault record of

15'0" set in 1983. He went on to vault three years for Doane College, as well as play football there.

Bauman said growing up in the sport, he realizes how fast poles can get "chewed up."

"They're not cheap and if you're not on the right pole, it can be a dangerous sport," he added.

"If we can help out young athletes enjoy the sport more and also be safer, that's great," he said this week.

He said it's from the blessings of others they are able to remember their son in ways such as this. Young Logan was killed in a vehicle accident in 2008 at the age of 14.

Since starting the Logan Bauman Memorial Foundation, more than \$300,000 in charitable giving has been donated to projects that help youths through education and athletic endeavors, Bauman said.