

Lady Bulldogs Repeat Healy Performance By Hailee Spresser

On Saturday, August 25, the Golden Plains High School Lady Bulldogs traveled to Healy for their first games of the season. With only ten days of practice behind them, they were determined as ever to bring home a plaque. The Healy Tournament was familiar to Golden Plains, who got third last year at the tournament. Teams competing were: Wallace County, Heartland Christian, Moscow, Western Plains, Rolla, Healy, Cheylin, and Golden Plains.

The Lady Bulldogs started out the day playing the very first match of the tournament against Western Plains. With some good defense by Golden Plains, the first match was a quick match, ending in the Lady Bulldogs favor, 25-20. Western Plains started out with a 5-1 run in the second match. The Lady Bobcats easily took control of the match winning 14-25. Both teams fought, giving all they had for their first victory of the season in the third set. But the Lady Bulldogs came out on top winning the third game and the match 25-20. Junior, Kylie Jones expressed, "It felt great to get the first win of the season. It set the pace for a good day. Our team unity was amazing! We need to keep that up for the rest of the season."

After sitting out a game, the Lady Bulldogs were ready to take on the Rolla Pirates. Golden Plains was down the whole match until Hailee Spresser served an ace serve making the score 18-17. Things only went up from there with the last serve from Angela Ritter and a kill by Kylie Jones to win the set, 25-19. In the second set, Golden Plains started a little sloppy, but quickly redeemed themselves with good digs and passes by Jordan Christensen and Macayla Easton. The Lady Bulldogs did all they could to end the game in two, but couldn't quite pull it off, 27-29. Ready to make the pirates walk the plank, the Lady Bulldogs came out determined and won the third set, 25-16.

The last match in pool play was against the Heartland Christian Crusaders. Kami Miller put the ball down for a kill and then had an ace serve to tie the match 9-9. But Heartland got on a roll and Golden Plains couldn't stop them ending the match 13-25. Easton started out the second match with hot serves to get the Lady Bulldogs fired up. Golden Plains led most of the game until Heartland tied it up 16-16. With kills by Leea Juenemann and Jones, the Lady Bulldogs came back in the lead, 24-23. But Heartland Christian took control to win the game, 24-26.

In the semifinals, the Lady Bulldogs took on Wallace County Wildcats. Golden Plains came out with a will to win and ended the match destroying Wallace County, 25-14. But the Lady Wildcats quickly answered back defeating Golden Plains, 14-25. In the third set, the Lady Bulldogs fought hard but couldn't quite triumph over Wallace County just missing the win, 20-25.

After a long, hot day, the Lady Bulldogs were ready to quickly end the consolation match to get a third place plaque. That is just what Golden Plains did, digging deep and pushing through, defeating Moscow in two sets, 25-17 and 25-18. Once again, the Lady Bulldogs proudly took home the third place plaque. Senior, Angela Ritter exclaimed, "Getting third was a great way to end my last year of being at the Healy Tournament! I'd like to thank our sponsors High Plains Coop, McCarty Dairy, Cervosky Insurance, and Dave's Auto who made it possible for the people who couldn't make it to Healy to still get to watch and support us on Open Spaces Sports. Also, a huge thanks to our amazing crowd who motivated and cheered for us the whole day. This tournament was a great start to the season, and I can't wait to see what the rest of the season brings."