

B-Team Boys Place Third in Tournament

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains B-team boys finished their season with a win and third place in the Western Kansas Liberty League basketball tournament in Brewster on February 14. They defeated Logan 32-18 in the first round on Thursday, but lost 15-37 to Northern Valley in the semi-finals. They defeated Cheylin 19-13 for the third place league finish.

The B-team boys were matched up against a much taller Logan team in their first round game on Thursday. They had lost a one-point game to them in the regular season. Not intimidated by their height advantage, the boys battled to a 10 point lead in the first half. The second half continued with the Bulldogs outthrusting their opponents.

"Our quickness was the difference in the game," said Coach Russ Aumiller. "We ended the game victorious 32-18." Points were scored by Austin Patmon-18, Rolis Loya-8, Colby Lathrop-2, Joseph Yanez-2, and Bryce TerHaar-2. Toby Korte, Austin Durham, and Ethan Brown helped out for the victory.

The boys advanced to play Northern Valley in the semi-finals on Saturday. They were matched up against a much quicker team than the first game of the tournament. "Getting good shots was a challenge for our kids," said Aumiller. "We were held scoreless in the first quarter." The boys did get four points in the second but trailed 4-20 at the half.

The second half continued to be a challenge for the Bulldogs. They only managed two points in the third, but Yanez and Patmon combined for 9 in the fourth. The game ended 15-27. Patmon finished with 9 points and Yanez put in 6.

The final game of the season was the consolation game for third place. It was a match-up against the Cheylin Cougars. The B-team had lost to Cheylin in a two-point game earlier in the season and this was another tight game that made our boys play hard.

The game was tied 4-4 at the end of the first quarter, but the Bulldogs edged past the Cougars 8-6 at the half. The defense held the Cougars to just 2 in the third while adding five of their own. They outscored them again in the fourth 6-5 for the 19-13 3rd place victory.

Points in the consolation game came from Patmon-7, Yanez-4, Loya-3, Korte-2, Brown-2, and Lathrop-1 with Durham and TerHaar contributing to the win. "We were pleased to finish the season with a win," said Yanez. "Our defense got better during the season, but our strength was in our shooting."

The B-team finished their season with a record of 7 wins/6 losses. The boys are looking forward to playing again next season. "We need to improve on our out of bounds play and our passing for next season," said Austin Patmon.