

## B-Girls Win League Championship

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains B-team girls won three in a row for the Western Kansas Liberty League Championship at Brewster on February 14. The young girls defeated Logan 32-18 on Thursday to advance in the tournament. They won a close game with Northern Valley 32-27 in the semi-finals and took the championship from Grinnell/Wheatland 21-8.

In the first game on Thursday against Logan, the Lady Bulldogs were tied 4-4 at the end of the first quarter, by the Lady Bulldogs' defense held the Lady Trojans scoreless in the second while pulling ahead 11-4 by the half.

The Lady 'Dogs continued to control the ball in the third outscoring the Lady Trojans 9-2 in the third. The Lady Trojans were determined and bot teams put up 12 in the fourth. Fortunately for the Golden Plains girls, they held on to their lead for the 32-18 win. Points came from Ashley Stoll-12, Rileigh Korte-10, Tylor Todd-7, and Brooke Stoll-3.

The semi-final game early Saturday was against the Northern Valley Lady Huskies. The B-team girls had lost a close game to the Lady Huskies earlier in the season and were determined to get the win this time around.

The Lady Huskies held a narrow 6-5 lead at the end of the first, but the Lady 'Dogs added 10 to the Huskies 9 to tie the game up at 15 by the half. The Huskies knew they could beat the Bulldogs and pulled back ahead 25-21 by the end of the third. The Lady 'Dogs were not about to give it up, knowing they had to win to get to play in the championship game.

Rileigh Korte put in 6 points in the fourth along with baskets from Ashley Stoll and Tylor Todd as the defense held the Huskies to only 2 points to come from behind for the 32-27 win. Korte finished the game with 12 points, A. Stoll-8, Todd-6, Bella Sauvage-2, B. Stoll-2, and Danica Ritter-2.

The championship game for the B-team girls was against Grinnell/Wheatland. Although they had defeated the Lady Thunderhawks in the preseason tournament, the Lady Bulldogs had lost to these girls just two weeks earlier. These young Bulldogs were not at all intimidated by that loss as they stepped on the floor ready to claim their first championship. The girls put in six points in the first quarter and ten in the second. In this hard fought game, the girls only got one free throw in the third and four points in the fourth, but the Lady Bulldog defense held strong throughout the game. They held the Lady Thunderhawks to two points per quarter to gain the win 21-8.

Points came from Korte-6, A. Stoll-6, Todd-5, and B. Stoll-4. Additional girls contributing to the league championship on both offense and defense were Bella Sauvage, Candace Taylor, Beth Luna, Hannah Bange, Berenice Villa, and Danica Ritter.

The B-team girls finished their season with a 9-3 record and WKLL Champions. "It was fun to win the championship," said Rileigh Korte. "We worked together and had great teamwork." "We were aggressive on both offense and defense," added Candace Taylor. "We played together the best we have all year," said Hannah Bange. "It was exciting!" said Brooke Stoll, "We never gave up." Ashley Stoll added, "Our goal is to repeat next year." Taryn Fleckestein, who played on the A-team enjoyed watching them win and said, "They had good support from the crowd throughout the tournament."

"These young girls improved dramatically over the season," said Coach Travis Smith. "We drug our feet in the middle of the season, but pulled it together in time to win three games

in the tournament to claim the championship. Many of these girls will be called upon to step up and start of the varsity next year. It was a very enjoyable group of young ladies to coach.”