

MS Lady Bulldogs Win Three-Peat Championship

By Amanda Cheney

The Golden Plains Middle School A-team girls won their third straight WKLL basketball tournament in Brewster on February 10, keeping their three year undefeated streak alive. “I’m really happy with how well the tournament went for our teams,” said 8th grader Carli Nieman. “It was awesome to win the championship three years in a row, and I couldn’t be happier with how we finished the season.”

The girls had a first round bye, so they would go on to face Western Plains/Healy in the quarterfinal game on Thursday, February 8. They had won against WPH 40-5 in the regular season, so the girls were feeling confident. The Bulldogs jumped to an early 18-3 lead in the first and extended the lead to 32-3 into halftime.

The girls continued with 14 points in the third, making the score 46-7, and ended the game with a 52-11 win. Points came from Kassie Miller-22, Carli Nieman-16, Rayna Taylor-6, Amie Cheney-4, and Lauren Patmon-4.

With an easy win over the Bobcats, the girls advanced to the semi-finals to play Cheylin on Saturday, February 10. “We felt good going into this game,” said 8th grader Amie Cheney. “We had beaten them before in regular season, which gave us confidence.” The Bulldogs played tough defense and didn’t allow the Cougars to score in the first quarter, ending it 9-0. Both teams would score 6 in the second quarter, heading to halftime with a score of 15-6.

Coming out of the locker room, the girls continued to play well together, scoring 7 points in the third. Holding Cheylin to 4 points in the third, they would finish the quarter 22-10. The Bulldogs added another 10 to their score, winning the game 32-14 and heading to the championship game. Scoring came from Amie Cheney-12, Carli Nieman-9, Breanna Rath-6, and Kassie Miller-5. “This was a really fun game to play in,” added Cheney. “We were glad to get a win and go into the championship again.”

The Bulldogs would face their rival, the Grinnell/Wheatland Thunderhawks, in their last game of the season. The girls played a tough and physical game against the Thunderhawks before, so they were expecting it to be a good game. The teams would stay even in the first quarter, ending it 4-4. The Bulldogs started to pull away in the second, outscoring the ‘Hawks 8-2. The teams would head into halftime with a score of 12-6.

The Bulldogs would step onto the court with determination after halftime, scoring 7 points and holding Grinnell/Wheatland to 4 to end the third quarter 19-10. The girls remained strong and finished the game and their season with a 27-16 win and an undefeated record. Points in the championship game came from Kassie Miller-12, Carli Nieman-9, Morgan Wark-2, Rayna Taylor-2, and Lauren Patmon-2.

“We worked hard and played well throughout the tournament and season,” said 8th grader Kassie Miller. “It was awesome to finally get what we’ve been working towards for three years! I’m so proud of everyone and how we improved as a team throughout the season.”