

Lady Bulldogs Post 24-1 Season
By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs posted a 24-1 season following a sub-state overtime win over Dighton and a loss to Thunder Ridge on March 2 in Wakeeney.

The Bulldogs were 23-0 entering the sub-state tournament following the Regional Championship in Rexford. They faced the Dighton Lady Hornets for the semi-final game on February 28. The Hornets won the tip, but Kassie Miller put in a three to get the Bulldogs started. KayCee Miller added another basket before the Hornets could score. With a late quarter basket, the Hornets took the lead 10-9.

The Bulldogs reclaimed the lead to start the second, but the Hornets outscored them 9-7 to lead 19-16 at the half. The Dogs relit their fire during the break and came back in the third with 13 additional points. The Hornets added 11 to hold a one point lead 30-29 going into the fourth. The girls battled it out in the as the Dogs tied the game at 31 with just under two minutes to play.

The Hornets hit a free throw to pull ahead. With a minute left in the game, KayCee Miller made a free shot for the Bulldogs to tie the game. The Hornets held the ball with 13 seconds to play but the tough Bulldog defense held them away from the basket to send the game into overtime.

The Dogs opened the overtime with six points in less than 30 seconds with shots from each of the Miller girls and Brooke Stoll. Mabel Lugo added a basket and KayCee finished with a final free throw as the defense held the Hornets scoreless to win the game 41-32.

KayCee Miller put in 13 points for the Bulldogs along with 12 from Mabel Lugo. Brooke Stoll added 7, Kassie Miller 5, and Ashley Stoll 4. This win gave the girls a spot in the Championship game on Saturday against the Thunder Ridge Longhorns.

With the pep band playing and a full house of fans, the Bulldogs started the championship game with a first quarter 9-8 lead. The Longhorns outscored the Dogs 12-6 in the second to lead 20-15 at the half. The Bulldogs were only able to get another 6 to fall in the third as the Longhorns pulled ahead 36-21. The Dogs rebounded in the fourth with 12 points holding the Longhorns to 11 to finish the game with their first and only loss of the year 33-47.

KayCee Miller finished her senior season with 14 points. Brooke Stoll put in 6, Zoey Hillis 4, Mabel Lugo 3, Kassie Miller 3, Ashley Stoll 2, and Carli Nieman 1.

The Bulldogs will graduate 3 seniors--KayCee Miller, Amanda Cheney, and Noel Ritter. "It is hard to put into words what the last fours of basketball at GP have meant to me!" said KayCee Miller. "Every year challenged me with a new task! Basketball has brought me great joy and has made me very proud and that is what I will hold on to forever! I want to thank my family for always pushing me to do my best, especially the two sisters I got to spend my first year and last year playing with, my coaches for everything they have done for me and making my four years of GPHS basketball very memorable, all my teammates that pushed me in practice to be better, and to all the others I have looked up to. You all mean so much to me."

"I'm so proud of how hard everyone worked throughout the season," added Amanda Cheney. "Our crowd is always so supportive and we all appreciate them so much! My four years of playing at Golden Plains have been filled with so many laughs,

tears, and amazing memories I'll carry with me every day; once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog. Thank you to our coaches and teammates for pushing us seniors to be better every single day; go get it next year!" "It was great to play basketball at GPHS," continued Noel Ritter. "Although I will miss it, I look forward to coming to watch the girls play next year."

The Bulldogs will return a core group of underclassmen. "I really enjoyed this season," said junior Mabel Lugo. "It was a blast to play and to be part of a team that brought laughter and excitement! This was the most fun I had throughout the three years of my high school career, and I am blessed to have such an incredible family. I will truly miss our seniors next year, but we keep on working very hard and we are determined to come back and finish what we started!"

I think it was a very successful season!" said Brooke Stoll, sophomore. "We worked hard every day in practice which paid off! I am going to miss the seniors next year but am excited to work hard and improve in the summer to see what we can do next winter!"

"I loved every part of the season this year!" agreed sophomore Ashley Stoll. "The intensity and laughter we brought everyday to practice and games made it even more enjoyable. The seniors were a huge part of our accomplishments this year, and I hope we can carry on next year from where we left off." "You guys will come back better than ever!" encouraged KayCee Miller. "Thank you everyone for all the support for the last four years!"