

Lady Bulldogs Start the Season Strong

By Brooke Stoll

The GPHS Lady Bulldogs won the first tournament of the 2019 volleyball season in Healy on August 30. They defeated Deerfield, Syracuse, Greeley County, Rolla, and Otis Bison to get the championship. “We played really good and had fun for the first tournament!” said Junior Ashley Stoll. “We now know what to work on during practice to improve and help continue our success for the rest of the season.”

The girls took the floor for the first game of the season against the Deerfield Spartans. They were ready to play and took the first set 25-11. The Lady ‘Dogs kept their intensity and won the second set 25-8.

The second match of pool play was against the Syracuse Bulldogs. GPHS played hard and captured the first set 25-15. With several attacks from Zoey Hillis and Mabel Lugo and a serving run from Morgan Wark, the GPHS Bulldogs were able to win the second set 25-8.

For the final match of pool play the Bulldogs took on the Greeley County Jackrabbits. The ‘Dogs started the game off slow, but continued to work hard and fight back to win the first set 25-15. The Jackrabbits did not let up in the second set, but the Bulldogs held on to win 25-23.

With a short break following the final pool play game, the ‘Dogs were matched up with the Rolla Pirates for the semi-final match. The Lady ‘Dogs and Pirates had long rallies, but the Bulldogs took the first set winning 25-14. Ashley Stoll and Carli Nieman had several attacks to help lead the Bulldogs to a 25-6 win and a spot in the championship game.

The Golden Plains Bulldogs took on the Otis Bison Cougars for the championship game—a rematch from last year. The Otis Bison Cougars were ranked #9 in the preseason rankings, so the Bulldogs knew they would have to bring their best game. The first set was back and forth, but the Cougars took it 18-25. The Bulldogs were determined in the second set and took it 25-16. With tough defense at the net, the Bulldogs went on to win the third set 25-16. They were crowned the 2019 Healy Tournament Champions. “I think we played with a lot of determination all day,” Senior Mabel Lugo stated. “If we keep working hard in practice, I think we will have a lot of success this season!”

The GPHS Bulldogs will continue their season on September 3, hosting Logan, Ness City, and Triplains/Brewster.