

Lady Bulldogs Battle at Home

By Ashley Stoll

The Golden Plains Bulldogs volleyball team went 1-2 at home against Trego/Wakeeney, Dighton, and Wheatland/Grinnell. The Dogs won in two against Dighton, and were defeated by the Thunderhawks and Eagles in two competitive games.

The first match of the day GP took on the Dighton Hornets. The Bulldogs came out ready to play and jumped ahead from the beginning to take the first set, 25-13. They carried their enthusiasm and intensity into the second set and continued the success. With the help of 7 kills by Mabel Lugo followed by 6 from Zoey Hillis, the Dogs defeated the Hornets, 25-11. "I thought we played really well as a whole and continued to keep our excitement throughout the game," said sophomore Rayna Taylor.

For the next match, the Dogs took on the Trego Eagles. These teams had previously competed at the Hill City Tournament, and the Eagles came out on top. The match started out a back and forth rally between the teams. The Eagles were able to pull ahead in the end, taking down the Dogs, 20-25. The Dogs played catch up most of the set but fought back with the help of Carli Nieman defending the net and tied it 17-17. The Dogs fell short, losing 23-25. Fifteen assists from Kassie Miller led to 11 kills from Mabel Lugo. "We played much better than when we had previously played Trego at the Hill City Tournament," stated sophomore Kassie Miller. "We were more prepared and played together to give them more of a challenge."

The final game of the day was against the Wheatland/Grinnell Thunderhawks. The Dogs began the game with a high level of energy and kept the momentum going throughout the whole set with help from an enthusiastic crowd. They defeated the Thunderhawks, 25-16. The 'Hawks came out fighting in the second set. The Dogs got into a slump and fell behind 10-17. GP was determined not to give up and put up a fight to tie the game 18-18. After continuous rallies, the Thunderhawks defeated the Bulldogs, 22-25. Beginning the third set, the Dogs had a rough start, while the Thunderhawks capitalized on the Bulldogs' mis-hits. The Dogs were able to recover, but struggled with injuries from two starters in the third set. They were able to continue to work hard and work together, but fell short losing 22-25. Twenty-four digs from Brooke Stoll and three blocks from Ashley Stoll led the Bulldogs to many defensive stops throughout the game. "I was very nervous but excited to be able to step up and help my team out when the others were injured," mentioned freshman Sidney Taylor.

The Dogs are now 24-5 and will continue their season on Saturday, October 19, with the WKLL League Tournament in Brewster. The Bulldogs will take on the winner of #8 Northern Valley and #9 Triplains Brewster at 9:00.