

Lady Bulldogs Finish Season at Sub-State By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs finished their season at the Sub-State Tournament in Ransom on October 26 with a two set loss to the Victoria Lady Knights who went on to win the tournament. “We just weren’t there as a team,” said senior Zoey Hillis. “Our nerves were a big factor in how we played.”

The Bulldogs got off to a rough start as they fell behind the Knights 1-5 early in the first set. With serves from Brooke Stoll and Rayna Taylor, the ‘Dogs tied the game up and pulled ahead 7-6. The Knights regained the lead but a front row hit from Carli Nieman tied it backup. The Knights continued to hold a slight lead throughout the remainder of the set to win 22-25

With a large group of Bulldog fans cheering them on, the Bulldogs grabbed a 2-0 lead to start the second set. The Knights took over, pulled ahead, and maintained the lead for the remainder of the game to win the second set and the match 17-25.

“We didn’t play our offense,” said Kassie Miller. “We continually played our defense. We didn’t attack like we normally do. We weren’t in our team unit—just couldn’t get everyone together.” “We never had control of the game,” added Brooke Stoll. “They played very well.”

The Lady Bulldogs finished their season with 30 wins and 7 losses. They were the Healy Tournament Champions, placed second at the Gove County Classic, third at the WKLL Tournament, and were the Regional Champions. “We all improved a lot throughout the season,” continued Brooke Stoll. “It was a very enjoyable season. Our goal was to qualify for sub-state-which we did.”

“It was definitely a bigger step from last year,” added senior Zoey Hillis. “We had a lot of diversity with different players stepping in to play due to injuries. We had to stick together to work through the changes. Volleyball was important to me as it helped me learn to interact with others both in and out of school.”

“It was a good senior season,” said Candace Taylor. “It was the best record we’ve had in all four years. I will miss playing with all the girls, especially playing with two of my sisters—freshman Sidney Taylor and sophomore Rayna Taylor.”

“It went by so fast,” said Karlissa Shepherd, who joined the team this year. “Everyone welcomed me and helped me to adjust. The coaches were patient with me as I learned the system. It was a really good season; we had amazing teamwork. I’m sad to see it be over.”

“We had a fun season,” said senior Karla Hernandez-Lopez. “I enjoyed every moment with the girls. We all improved this season and we finished strong every game. I wish the girls the best for next year!”

Although the Lady Bulldogs will be graduating five seniors, they will be returning several varsity starters including juniors Brooke Stoll and Ashley Stoll, along with sophomores Kassie Miller, Carli Nieman, Rayna Taylor, and Morgan Wark as well as freshman Breanna Rath who stepped in towards the end of the season. “Our goal for next year is to go further than we did this year,” said Ashley Stoll. “We

are losing seniors that will be missed but we have girls that work together well. We should have another successful season.”

“The last four years were a lot of fun,” added senior Mabel Lugo. “I want to thank my coaches for teaching and always pushing me to do my best. This season was really fun but didn’t finish like I wanted with the injury. I wish the girls the best next year and encourage them to never give up to accomplish their goals!”