Fumbles Cost Bulldogs
By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Middle School Football team lost to the Grinnell/Wheatland Thunderhawks 8-56 on September 17 in Rexford.

The Bulldogs received the ball to start, but a fumble was recovered by the Hawks who turned it into their first touchdown of the game. The Dogs fumbled again on their next possession with the Hawks again recovering and scoring to lead 12-0 at the end of the first.

A third Bulldog fumble gave the ball back to the Hawks. The Bulldog defense stopped the Hawks repeatedly but the Hawks were able to run in a third touchdown and an extra point to lead 20-0 midway through the second.

The Bulldogs advanced the ball with carries by Diego Perez and Dylan Wark but another fumble was recovered by the Hawks in the end zone for a score. The PAT gave them the lead 28-0.

Back on offense, the Dogs moved the ball down the field with carries by Wark, Perez, and Josh Rath. Dylan Wark ran in the Bulldogs only touchdown and PAT with 28 seconds left in the quarter. The Hawks answered with another long pass run in for a score as to go into the half with a 34-8 lead.

The Dogs kicked to the Hawks to start the second half. The Hawks quickly scored once more despite tackles by Perez, Brian Holguin, and Miguel Garcia. The Hawks ran the ball just short of the goal line to be stopped by Hoguin before trading penalties with the Dogs. The Hawks ran in one more score midway through the third.

Wark picked up the kick and ran to the 30 but a fifth Bulldog fumble was recovered by the Hawks. The Dogs defense forced the Hawks to punt but a sixth fumble was recovered by the Hawks who picked up the ball and ran it in for their final touchdown to end the game 56-8 with less than two minutes left in the third.

"We worked well together," said Diego Perez, "but didn't go full out even though we ran most of our plays as assigned. We need to work on our blocking and on keeping hold of the ball."

The Dogs continued their season at Logan/Palco on September 24 losing their third straight game 6-52.