

## Bulldogs Win Two at League By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains High School boys basketball team won two games at the WKLL league Tournament in Grainfield and Wakeeney on February 3. “The tournament went pretty well for us,” said sophomore Dylan Wark. “We developed as a team throughout the week. We do better when we play as a team as it is harder for them to defend us and makes the offense run more smoothly.”

The Bulldogs opened the tournament on Tuesday, January 30, in Grainfield, against the Cheylin Cougars. They had lost to the Cougars the week before and, although they worked hard, they were once again unable to stop the Cougar offense. The Dogs posted 11 points in the first quarter while the Cougars took the lead with 13. Continuing to score in the second, the Dogs added 14 as the Cougars went on a run with 24.

The Cougars pumped in another 24 in the third while the Dogs were only able to make 5. The Dogs made two more shots in the fourth while the Cougars made three for the win 67-34. Josh Rath led the Dogs with 18 points—including four three’s in the first two quarters. Dylan Wark added 11, Abe Taylor 3, and Will Bruggeman 2. Rath led the Dogs with 9 rebounds, Wark 8, Miguel Garcia 6, Owen Patmon 6, Taylor 5, Diego Perez 2, Zeke Weiner 1, Dominic Stout 1, and Will Bruggeman 1. Patmon had 4 assists, Garcia 1, Taylor 2, and Rath, Wark, and Bruggeman with 1 each. Rath also had 4 steals, Wark 1, and Patmon 1. Bruggeman also had a block.

The Dogs advanced to the consolation side of the bracket to play Triplains/Brewster in the second round of the tournament. The Dogs jumped out to a 14-8 first quarter lead. They put up another 12 in the second quarter but the Titans added 14 to narrow the spread to a 26-22 Bulldog lead at the half.

The Dogs stepped up their defense in the third quarter holding the Titans to a single basket late in the quarter as their offense pushed for 17. The Dogs continued to play hard in the fourth and final quarter as they stepped to the free throw line 24 times in an aggressive 8 minutes adding 14 to their total. The Titans shot for 21 points in the fourth, but the Dogs held on for the 57-43 win.

Dylan Wark led the Bulldogs with 23 points while Josh Rath scored 13. Diego Perez and Miguel Garcia each had 6 along with 4 apiece from Owen Patmon and Zeke Weiner. A final point was scored by Abe Taylor. The Bulldogs shot a total of 37 free throws throughout the game making 16 of them as three of the Titan players fouled out.

The Dogs also had a total of 21 steals in the game with Rath claiming 8, Perez 7, Wark 3, Patmon 2, and Taylor 1. Wark had 7 rebounds, Rath 5, Patmon 4, Bruggeman 4, Garcia 2, Weiner 1, and Taylor 1. Patmon and Wark had 2 assists each with 1 apiece from Bruggeman, Taylor, and Rath. Taylor also had a block.

The Bulldogs final game of the Tournament was against the Wheatland/Grinnell Thunderhawks on February 3 in Wakeeney. The Bulldogs had a strong start to the game with an 18-8 lead at the end of the first. They added 9 more in the second holding the ‘Hawks to 7 for a 27-15 half time lead.

The Dogs spread the ball around the floor in the third quarter for an additional 22. The ‘Hawks also had their best quarter with 16. The ‘Hawks outscored the Dogs 11-9 in the fourth but the Dogs early lead gave them the win 58-42. This placed the Bulldogs 5<sup>th</sup> overall in the tournament.

Dylan Wark led the Dogs with 26 points against the Hawks. He had 60 total in the tournament. Rath added 9. He had 40 total during the week. Owen Patmon added 8, Miguel Garcia 5, Diego Perez 4, Abe Taylor 4, and Will Bruggeman 2. Rath had 9 rebounds against the Hawks. Wark had 8, Garcia 6, Patmon 6, Taylor 5, Perez 2, and 1 apiece by Weiner, Dominic Stout, and Bruggeman. Patmon had 4 assists, Garcia 3, Rath 1, Wark 1, and Bruggeman 1. Rath had 4 steals, Wark 1, and Patmon 1. Bruggeman also had a block.

“This was the first time in a long time for our boys to play in the league tournament,” said junior Josh Rath. “We played really well as a team and worked together. We can still work on our offense but we were glad to claim the two wins.” “It’s probably the best league tournament we’ve had in a while,” added Wark. “Our goal is to continue to add some wins to our record.”

The Dogs return to the regular season as they travel to Hill City on February 6.