

MS Dogs Open Season on the Road By Emma Weiner

The Golden Plains Middle School Football Team opened their season in Bird City against the Cheylin Cougars on August 31 in Bird City. This year, the Bulldogs have six 8th graders, four 7th graders, a student from Heartland Christian Middle School, and one homeschool student on the tackle team. Six 6th graders make up the flag team. The Dogs' tackle team fought hard but fell short, 0-46. The flag team wasn't able to start their season due to the Cougars not having enough for a team.

The Dogs received the opening kick to begin the game. The first game jitters created some inefficiency on the offensive side. Defensively the boys played tough and were able to make some tackles, holding the Cougars to 7-0 to end the first quarter. The Dogs continued to play hard in the second quarter but still were not able to capitalize on offense. Their defense remained tough, but they had some difficulties tackling the Cougar's running back, leading to three more Cougar touchdowns. At the end of the first half, the Dogs found themselves in a 28-0 hole.

After halftime, Tage Sullivan kicked off for the Dogs to begin the second half. The Bulldogs continued to struggle on the offensive end and still were not able to make it to the endzone. On defense, the boys continued to hold their own, and 8th grader Dalton Miller intercepted a pass from the Cougars. "Since I'm an 8th grader now, I need to step up and help the 7th graders learn," said Miller. "We need to work on blocking, but I'm excited to see what the rest of the season brings." The Cougar offense continued to find themselves in the endzone, increasing their lead to 40-0 at the end of the 3rd Quarter. The Cougars added a final touchdown in the 4th quarter to win the game 46-0 over the Dogs. "The boys played hard the whole game," said head coach Ed Weiner, "No matter what the score was, they never gave up."

The Dogs will continue their season on September 7th, facing Western Plains/Healy for their first home game.