

Girls Win Two at League By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs won two of their three games at the WKLL basketball tournament last week. The girls lost their first round game to Weskan, but finished the week with two wins over Palco and Triplains/Brewster.

The first game against Weskan was held in Grainfield on January 30. It started out close with the Bulldogs holding a slight 11-10 lead at the end of the first quarter. The girls traded baskets with the Coyotes throughout much of the second until the Coyotes went on a six point run to take over the lead 27-23 by halftime.

Weskan's girls were successful at the basket as they extended their lead to 32-23 in the third. The Bulldogs didn't give up as they played even 12-12 in the fourth, but the Coyotes were able to hang on for the 44-35 win.

KayCee Miller led with 8 points for the Bulldogs along with six each from Morgan Ritter, Gabrielle Schiltz, Maggi Nieman and Kaylie Schaben. Mabel Lugo added the final three. "This was a good learning experience," said Ritter. "We have to be able to play every game."

Following this early tournament loss, the Bulldogs turned right around on Tuesday to face Palco. This was the first time they had played Palco this year and they were determined to recover from the Monday night loss.

The game was another close one in the first with the 'Dogs holding a 10-9 lead. The Bulldogs started to pull away from the Roosters in the second but still only held a 22-18 lead at half time.

The girls came back onto the floor in the second half with renewed determination. They played their game and stepped up their defense as they pulled away from the Roosters 43-24.

Continuing their momentum throughout the fourth, the Bulldogs claimed the win 52-30. Points came from Schiltz 12, Miller 9, Schaben 9, Lugo 8, Ritter 8, Nieman 4, and Amanda Cheney 2.

The final game was held on Friday for the consolation championship. The Bulldogs faced off against the Triplains/Brewster Titans for the third time this season. Although they had defeated them both times previously, they knew they would have to play a good game to get another win.

The Bulldogs started off on fire and gained a 10-1 lead before the Titans hit a three to end the quarter 10-4. The Titans battle back to add 8 in the second as another 10 from Golden Plains maintained their lead 20-12.

The Bulldogs opened the game up in the third as they held the Titans to three pushing in 15 of their own. Both teams played full out basketball to the end with 14 points each—many from the free throw line. The Bulldog maintained their lead to win the game 49-29.

Four girls were in double figures for the Bulldogs with Schiltz 13, Nieman 10, Ritter 10, and Schaben 10. Additional points came from Miller 5, and Lugo 1. "Our offense worked better in the last two games of the tournament," said Schaben. "Everyone played more aggressive," added Schiltz.

The Bulldogs return to regular season play with a 12-3 record as they host Hill City on Tuesday and travel to Cheylin on February 10. "We have some tough games ahead of us," continued Schiltz. "This will help us prepare for the post season."