

Bulldogs Gain First Win at Sagebrush

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldogs won their first game this season in the second round of the Sagebrush tournament on December 9 in Brewster.

The Bulldogs played Cheylin for the first game on Monday. They fell behind the Cougars 17-12 in the first quarter. The Cougars kept the lead in the second to pull ahead 30-20 by half time.

The third quarter saw the 'Dogs outscore the Cougars 7-6 but the Cougars came back in the fourth with 17 to the Bulldogs 10 to win 53-37. Scoring for Golden Plains were Caleb Korte and Brett Gerbitz with 12 each, Nolan Ritter with 7, and 2 each from Dawson Spresser, Jesus Aragon, and Austin Patmon. "We didn't play as well against Cheylin," said senior Brett Gerbitz. "Although we ran our offense well, the press is still killing us."

On Friday, the boys faced off against the Heartland Christian Crusaders. Although there were only a few boys on the Crusader squad, they were a tall group for the Bulldogs. The Crusaders grabbed a six-point lead before Brett Gerbitz hit a 3 for the Bulldogs. The Crusaders continued to increase their score throughout the first, but another basket from Gerbitz brought the 'Dogs to within three by the end of the quarter (11-8).

The Bulldogs opened the second quarter with a steal and a pass from sophomore Nolan Ritter. He handed it off to senior Nick Brown for the basket. Ritter then hit a three to give the Bulldogs their first lead of the game. The Crusaders tied it back up, but sophomore Caleb Korte regained the lead. Another basket by Brown and a three from freshman Austin Patmon gave the 'Dogs 20 at the half, but the Crusaders kept a slight lead at 21.

Both teams were determined in the second half as they battled back and forth. Korte tied it up, the Crusaders answered, then Korte tied again. Dylan Spresser and Dawson Spresser each added points, but the 'Dogs just couldn't pull ahead. A final steal by Dawson handed off to Korte kept the game tied at 30 going into the fourth.

The teams were patient as they worked the ball around for the shot. Following a 34 tied game, Dawson Spresser hit a three to pull ahead of the Crusaders. Brown hit a final shot for the Bulldogs to gain their first win of the season 39-34. "It felt good to get the win," said Gerbitz. "They were way bigger than us. Slowing the game down gave us more control." Korte finished the game with 11, Gerbitz 8, Dawson Spresser 6, Brown 6, Patmon 3, Ritter 3, and Dylan Spresser 2.

The final game of the tournament was against Wichita County out of Leoti. "We played our overall best game against Wichita County," added Gerbitz. "Although this was the most physical game we've played this season, we did what we should be doing all year—breaking the press and getting the shots." Wichita County opened with a fast paced game in the first and quickly pulled ahead to lead 18-7 at the end of the quarter. The Bulldogs shot 11 free throws in the second, but only made four of them. The Indians held on to the lead 27-15 at half time.

With a slower pace in the second half, the Bulldogs only put in 7 points as the Indians added 20. The Bulldogs outscored the Indians 14-1 in the fourth, but it wasn't enough as the Indians won the game 48-36. Gerbitz was the lead scorer with 11. Korte added 9, Brown 6, Dawson Spresser 4, Jose Ortiz 2, Austin Patmon 2, and Nolan Ritter 2.

The Bulldogs will play their first home game on Friday, December 16, when they host the Northern Valley. "We should match up pretty well with the Huskies," continued Gerbitz. "They're going to be tough but it should be a good game."