

Bulldogs Fight to the Finish

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains boys basketball team played a hard fought game at the Sub-State Tournament in Tribune on Tuesday, February 28. The 'Dogs led throughout much of the first half but fell behind in the third quarter. They came back in the fourth but Tribune walked away with the 49-56 win ending the Bulldogs season.

The Jackrabbits opened the game with a five point lead but baskets by seniors Brett Gerbitz and Nick Brown tied the game up at 7. The Rabbits hit a three only to have it answered by Bulldogs sophomore Jacob Ritter. A free throw from junior Devin Carter, good passes, and a final basket by senior Dawson Spresser gave the Bulldogs a 13-10 lead at the end of the first.

Senior leadership helped the Bulldogs maintain their lead in the second quarter as the 'Dogs led 27-24 at the end of the second. A three point foul at the buzzer sent the Jackrabbits to the line. Three made shots tied the game up at 27 for the half time break.

The Jackrabbits hit the floor with a vengeance in the third quarter and despite moving the ball well, the Bulldogs were only able to score a single basket by Brown. Their frustrated efforts gave them numerous fouls as the Jackrabbits pushed their way to a hefty lead. A final free throw from Bulldog freshman Jaime Infante gave the Bulldogs a 16 point deficit 30-46 going into the fourth.

The 'Dogs may have been down, but they definitely weren't out of the game. The 'Rabbits slowed their pace in the fourth and the visiting Bulldogs took advantage. Baskets from seniors Spresser and Brown closed the gap early in the quarter before Brown fouled out. Spresser and sophomore Nolan Ritter added more points to the Bulldogs side of the board.

Jacob Ritter was fouled on a three and stepped to the line to make all three of his shots bringing the 'Dogs even closer on the score. Gerbitz was fouled on a steal as the Bulldogs hustled their way around the court. Additional free shots from N. Ritter and Spresser brought the 'Dogs to within five points with just over a minute to play.

The Bulldogs were able to add another basket by junior Devin Carter and several free throws as the clock wound down. The Jackrabbits also went much of the last minute of the game on the line. A final basket by Gerbitz ended the Bulldog season with a 56-49 win for Tribune.

Final point totals for the game were Dawson Spresser 12, Gerbitz 11, Brown 10, Jacob Ritter 6, Nolan Ritter 6, Carter 3, Infante 1. The Bulldogs finished their season with a 4-18 record. They will graduate three seniors—Brett Gerbitz, Nick Brown, and Dawson Spresser—from the team.

"The season didn't end how we wanted," said senior Nick Brown, "but I wouldn't have wanted to be with any other team. This last game was a fight and it was a great way to go out." "Although this isn't what we wanted," added senior Dawson Spresser, "it is still a good way to end the season. We played hard and competed with them."

"It was an honor playing for the Golden Plains Bulldogs the last 3 years!," exclaimed Brett Gerbitz. "Well played, boys, we gave it our all and good luck on the future seasons to come! Basketball has been everything to me and my passion! I want to thank the community, my coaches, and my teammates for getting me where I am today!"

"I can't believe it but our season has come to an end," said Coach Lane Patmon. "We had a lot of ups and we had a lot of downs. Growing pains were definitely part of our team but we got through it all and started to fly."

"I couldn't be more proud of these guys," continued Patmon. "Thank you for letting me be your coach. To the parents of these great guys I want to thank you for all your support all season long. It'll be something I'll never forget. It has been an honor and a privilege to be their coach. I look forward to many more seasons as we keep building for success."