

## Bulldogs Add Two Wins at League

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldog basketball team added two wins to their record during the Western Kansas Liberty League Tournament in early February. The boys won their first round game over Western Plains/Healy and their semi-final game against Palco.

“The work we put in the weeks before the tournament really paid off,” said junior Devin Carter. “How we played in the tournament showed how we’ve progressed this season.”

Following the boy’s 50-26 play-in game over Western Plains/Healy on January 28, they faced off against Triplains/Brewster in the quarterfinals. The Bulldogs struggled to get a basket throughout most of the game held in Grainfield. The Titans pushed their way to the 62-10 win. Bulldog points came from Nick Brown 4, Nolan Ritter 2, Brett Gerbitz 2, and Devin Carter 2.

The Bulldogs played Palco on Tuesday night in Colby. The Bulldogs came out ready to play as they began the game with a 16-0 lead before the Rooster were able to score. They ended the first with an 18-4 lead.

The Roosters rallied in the second but the Bulldogs stayed with them to extend their lead to 27-12 by half time. The Roosters were not ready to give up the contest as they outscored the Bulldogs 9-6 in the third, but the Bulldogs continued to play with focus and precision as they held on with another 11 in the fourth to win the game 44-30.

Dawson Spresser finished the game with 14 points along with 11 from Gerbtiz, 6 from Nolan Ritter, and 5 from Jacob Ritter. Devin Carter scored 4, Dylan Spresser 2, and Nick Brown 2.

For the final game of the tournament, the Bulldogs played the Weskan Coyotes on Friday, February 3. Although they had a big loss to the Coyotes earlier in the season, the ‘Dogs were undeterred. Senior Brett Gerbitz put in 6 points in the first to the 14 from the Coyotes as the Bulldogs worked to develop ball control.

Working as a team, the ‘Dogs closed the spread to within 3 early in the second. The Coyotes answered, and with both teams scoring 7, the Coyotes held the lead 21-13 at the half.

The Coyotes pushed the ball in the third as they opened the game up with 20 additional points. The Bulldogs answered with 11 as they fell behind 41-24. The Coyotes continued to push the ball in the fourth all the way to the 60-36 win over the Bulldogs.

Brett Gerbitz led the Bulldogs with 17 points-12 coming from behind the arc. Nolan Ritter added 7, Dylan Spresser 6, Devin Carter 3, Jacob Ritter 2, and Dawson Spresser 1. “The players continue to develop as a team,” added Carter as the Bulldogs return to regular season play with a 4-12 record.