

Lady Bulldogs Advance at State By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs won their first round game of the state tournament in Dodge City on March 8 to advance to the semi-finals on Friday. The 3rd seed girls defeated 6th seed Hutchinson Central Christian Cougars 60-38 for the win and the right to move on. They will face league opponent Wheatland/Grinnell at 6:30 on Friday at the United Wireless Arena for a shot at the championship.

Golden Plains Junior Maggi Nieman opened the game with the first two baskets for a 4-0 start. The Cougars got their first shot off with over half the quarter down. Senior Gabrielle Schiltz extended the Bulldog lead but an and-one for the Cougars gave them a 7-6 lead. A bucket from senior Carmen Sepulveda put the 'Dogs up 8-7 at the end of the quarter.

The Cougars pulled ahead again at the beginning of the second, but the Bulldogs quickly took over and, working together, they led 26-12 at the half.

The Cougars outscored the Bulldogs 11-10 in the third quarter but the 'Dogs were able to hang on to their lead 36-23 as they entered their last 8 minutes of play.

The Cougars didn't give up easily and pushed forward in the fourth. They were no match for the Bulldogs experience as the 'Dogs continued to extend their lead for the 60-38 win.

The Bulldogs teamwork was evident in the scoring as the girls worked together throughout the game. Junior KayCee Miller and Senior Gabrielle Schiltz each had 16 points while juniors Maggi Nieman and Kaylie Schaben each scored 9. Seniors Morgan Ritter added 8 and Carmen Sepulveda made 2 points.

"The crowd was awesome," said Morgan Ritter. "Their cheering and support gives us energy on the floor." The girls are ready to compete with the Thunderhawks on Friday. They had lost to the 'Hawks the first game of the season but had gotten down in the first and played even with them the rest of the game. They look forward to the rematch.

The girls invite everyone to come to Dodge City to support them on Friday and Saturday. "Our goal is to get the win and play in the championship game," said Carmen Sepulveda. If you can't get to Dodge City, you can watch the games live online at openspacsports.com