

Rush/Loya Lead Boys to Place Second At League by Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Middle School competed at the Western Kansas Liberty League meet in Logan on May 12. The eighth grade competed separately from the seventh/sixth grade. The 8th grade Bulldogs scored 67.5 points for a second place in the league. Leading the boys toward their runner-up title were Wade Rush and Rolis Loya with league championships.

Wade rush won the league championship in the softball throw with a distance of 220' 2". He not only won the league championship with a personal record throw, but he also set a new school record breaking the record of 219' 1" set by Rilee Spresser in 2007. "I'm glad to see an improvement on the record," said Spresser. "There's nothing that makes me happier than to see young individuals succeed at something, whether athletic or academic, through hard work and dedication." Rush also won the league championship with a first place/season best discus throw of 139' 9" and placed second in shot put with a 40' 0" throw. He placed fifth in high jump with a 4' 4" jump.

Loya won first in the 3200m run with a time of 13:35.37. "It felt great to be the champion in the 3200," said Loya. "I just started running it this year. I was scared to try it and it has become my favorite event. I'm pleased we were able to place at every meet this year with only four eighth grade boys competing."

He also ran the 800m in 2:53.61 for second, placed fifth in long jump with a 12' 11" jump for the first time jumping since sixth grade, and finished second place in the medley with the team's best time this season of 2:05.38 running with Jesus Monge, Fabian Cepeda, and Roberto Loya. "The medley was an exciting race," added Rolis Loya, "I passed two runners and then Roberto passed two."

Additional points were scored by Toby Korte, who finished third in the 800m run at 2:56.39, the 4 x 100m relay team of Garrett Carter, Wyatt McDonald, Ashton Schiltz, and Mason Green placed fifth at 1:11.55, and the 4 x 200m relay team run by Toby Korte, Fabian Cepeda, Wyatt McDonald, and Jesus Monge placed fifth at 2:22.53. Korte also competed in discus finishing 7th with an 85' 9" throw and in the softball throw at 123' 0".

This meet concluded the middle school season. Coach Russ Aumiller encourages all the boys to continue to compete again next year and wishes the 8th graders good competition in high school.