

Boys Claim Win at Castle Rock By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Boys Basketball team claimed their first win of the season at the Castle Rock Tournament on December 13. The Bulldogs played Rawlins County for the first round game on December 10. The Buffaloes from Atwood jumped out to an early lead in the first quarter 14-5, but the Bulldogs fought back in the second adding 12 points in to make the half time score 27-17 in favor of the Buffaloes.

Both teams played evenly in the third with 9 points apiece and the Bulldogs added another 15 in the fourth. However, they sent the Buffaloes to the free throw line allowing them to hold on to their lead for the 54-41 win over the Bulldogs. Tristan Schwarz led the Bulldog offense with 18 points, including 3 three-pointers. Shane Ryburn added 9, Grant Spresser-8, Benny Martinez-3, Koi Wessel-2, and Kade Wessel-1. "This was a fun, friendly game," said Schwarz.

During the second round on Friday, the Bulldogs captured the win over the Cheylin Cougars 46-41 in a closely contested match-up. It took most of the first quarter before the Cougars scored first. Tristan Schwarz answered to tie it up for the Bulldogs and Ryburn gained the lead. The Cougars answered with a basket and a three to lead 7-6 at the end of the quarter.

Ryburn hit three in the second quarter along with buckets from Grant Spresser, Schwarz, Kade Wessel, and Zach Spresser to lead 21-13 toward the end of the second, but Cheylin sank a three at the buzzer to the 21-16 half time score.

The Cougars fought back in the third chipping away at the Bulldog lead, finally tying up the game 30-30 with 1:22 left in the quarter. Another three-point shot with .45 seconds gave the Cougars the lead at the buzzer.

The Bulldogs were determined in the fourth and 9 points from G. Spresser, some crucial free throws from Schwarz, and a final basket from Ryburn regained the Bulldog lead and the 46-41 win. "It was nice to get our first win before the break," added Schwarz.

The Bulldogs headed back to Quinter on Saturday for the final game of the tournament against the hometown Quinter Bulldogs. Quinter jumped out to a 19-7 lead at the end of the first quarter with all 7 GP points coming from Schwarz. Golden Plains only scored 8 in the second, allowing Quinter to put in 23 for a 42-15 lead at the half.

Golden Plains' seniors were determined and stepped behind the arc to sink two-three pointers each from G. Spresser and Schwarz. Ryburn added a basket for 14 points in the third. Their defense held Quinter to 7 in the third, but Quinter came back for 10 in the fourth. Seven more from GP's G. Spresser, Ryburn, and Cole Ziegelmeier ended the game with a 59-36 win for Quinter.

"We need more mental focus during the games," said Zach Spresser. Grant Spresser added, "We will continue to work on both our offense and defense as the season continues. We anticipate a good showing for the team this Friday on our home floor." The Bulldogs will play this Friday in Rexford as they host the Weskan Coyotes for their final game before the holiday break.