

Girls Win First Round of Castle Rock Tournament

By Judy Rogers

The Castle Rock Classic tournament in Quinter included three days of Western Kansas Basketball competition. This early tournament allows teams the opportunity to test their skills and evaluate not just their strengths, but also determine what areas they want to work on as the season progresses. "Overall, I thought we played well and stayed up with some great teams," said Jordan Christensen, GPHS senior, and co-captain of this year's team. "However, we definitely have things to work on."

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs faced off against Rawlins County for the first round of the Castle Rock Tournament in Quinter on December 10. The Lady 'Dogs jumped out to a 17-9 lead in the first quarter. The Lady Buffaloes came back to outscore the GP girls in the second, but the Lady 'Dogs led 29-22 at the half.

The Lady 'Dogs kept pace throughout the second half scoring 11 in the third and 10 in the fourth to capture the 50-39 win. Scoring included points from Maddy Walz-18, Jordan Christensen-11, Hailee Spresser-6, Kynndra Rush-6, MiKayla Lobato-4, Kami Miller-3, and Rachael Ritter-2. The girls rebounded well for a total of 46 in the game along with 11 assists and 10 steals.

"Although we didn't play the way we are capable of during this game, we were glad to get the win," said Maddy Walz, sophomore. "It is nice to know we have a chance to recover and work on the things we need to improve on, including mental toughness, before we play again on Friday."

For the second round on Friday, the girls faced the Ellis Lady Railers. This rough and tumble game started out close with the teams staying close throughout much of the first quarter, but the Lady Railers turned up the pressure in the second quarter to pull away from the Lady Bulldogs 24-13 by the half. The Lady 'Dogs fought hard but the Lady Railers continued on pushing for the 60-37 win over the Lady Bulldogs. Posting points for the Lady Bulldogs were Hailee Spresser-14, Jordan Christensen-8, Rachael Ritter-5, Kami Miller-5, Maddy Walz-3, and Kynndra Rush-2. The girls' efforts gained them 38 rebounds, 6 assists, and 7 steals during this game.

The girls then played the Dighton Lady Hornets for the Consolation Match on Saturday afternoon. The girls again worked hard and gave as good as they got, but the Lady Hornets claimed third place in the tournament with a final score of 40-33. Christensen posted up 9 points along with Miller-8, Spresser-6, MiKayla Lobato-5, Ritter-3, and Rush-2.

"These last two games were very tough," said Hailee Spresser, "We had good effort overall on Saturday; we just came up short." She added, "It is good to play these games early in the season to prepare us for the road ahead." The Lady Bulldogs now hold a 2-2 record-the same as last year at this same time. They will play their first home game against Weskan on December 20.