

## Bulldogs Rock the Gym!

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldogs hosted the Quinter Bulldogs on January 28 in an exciting game. The Golden Plains boys got off to a rocky start allowing Quinter to jump to an 8-0 lead before a basket sank by Tristan Schwarz. Quinter hit a couple of three's along with several additional baskets, all coming from B. Crist and C. Corwin to extend their lead to 24-10 by the end of the first quarter.

The Bulldogs from Golden Plains did not give up and continued to play their game, work together, putting in an additional 8 points in the second. Quinter slowed down their offense only adding 7 in the second to hold a 31-18 lead at half time.

Those who left following the little girls dance camp performance during the break regretted their decision as the action and momentum completely changed in the second half. The Golden Plains boys came out of the locker room fired up and hit the floor with strong defense and picked up the pace to stun the Quinter team into only scoring 4 points in the third quarter. The GP offense also stepped up their game and made multiple steals followed by exciting layups to tie the game up at 35 at the end of the third.

The last 8 minutes of the game kept both sides of the gym on their feet cheering for their team. Quinter recaptured their lead to start the quarter, but a steal and layup by senior Shane Ryburn tied it back up. Quinter scored again, but sent Ryburn to the free throw line for two more. Kade Wessel was then sent to the line and the Golden Plains team was back in the lead with 4:20 remaining in the game.

The boys continued to work together as a team as both sides of the gym struggled to maintain a lead. The GP boys were down by one with just over a minute remaining in the game when Quinter hit a basket to extend their lead to three. Golden Plains had fouls to give and sent Quinter to the line multiple times in an effort to capture a rebound, which they did very well. They attempted a three to tie the game up as the clock ticked off the seconds, but it wouldn't fall.

Coach Mike Doll called a time out with 14.5 seconds remaining. Koi Wessel administered his fifth foul to send Quinter to the line one more time. Quinter missed the free throw, but a teammate grabbed the rebound and held on to the ball until the buzzer sounded giving them the win 47-44. "It was a disappointing loss," said Coach Doll. "but we are proud of the boys for their effort and never giving in." "We tried real hard," added senior Grant Spresser. "It was a new game at half when we finally got our shots to fall."

The senior players did a great job leading the team throughout the game and it showed in the scoring. Tristan Schwarz led the Bulldogs offense with 18 points, including 3 three-pointers in the third quarter and four in the game. Shane Ryburn added 11, making three of his four free throws in the fourth quarter. Grant Spresser scored 8 points, again shooting well from the charity stripe. Senior Zach Spresser contributed consistently on defense. Also scoring for the Bulldogs were Koi Wessel with 4 and Kade Wessel-3. The Bulldogs, who fell to 6-7, will travel to Northern Valley on January 30 with every intention of getting back on the winning track they have held since the first of the new year.