

## Defense Key to One-Point Win By Judy Rogers

The Lady Bulldogs have worked hard all season long and have accumulated an 11-2 record with commitment and perseverance. Their dedication and their defense helped them slip past the Lady Ringnecks from Hill City for a one-point win on February 11. "This was an extra competitive game," said Sophomore Maddy Walz. "We had to play our best defense since our shots weren't falling."

The Lady Ringnecks scored first in a 5-7 quarter to open the game. Golden Plains senior Hailee Spresser tied the game up to start the second, but the Lady Ringnecks scored and Spresser hit another shot to tie it back up at 9. The Lady Bulldogs continued to hit and pulled ahead 17-13 by the half.

With both teams holding their ground, very few shots fell in the third and with a basket and two free throws from sophomore Kami Miller, the game was tied up at 21 going into the fourth.

Rachael Ritter hit an early fourth quarter shot to give the Lady Bulldogs the lead once again at the beginning of the final quarter only to have the Lady Ringnecks answer with one of their own. Senior Jordan Christensen hit a bucket with just over half the quarter remaining. Again, the Lady Ringnecks answered. With just over two minutes to play, the Lady Ringnecks pulled ahead 30-29 with an and one bucket.

As the clock hit 1:20 and the Lady Ringnecks still leading, a time out was called giving both coaches a chance to settle the girls. At 40.5 seconds, a jump ball was called and Hill City claimed a time out and the inbounds ball. Junior Rachael Ritter forced the ball out of bounds on the inbounds play and the ball went back to Golden Plains.

Jordan Christensen put down one more shot with 26 seconds on the clock to put the Lady Bulldogs up by one 31-30. Hill City called a time out with 16.2 seconds to play and Golden Plains took their final time out with 5.5 seconds on the clock. Hill City threw their inbounds ball, but Kynndra Rush from GP tipped the ball out of bounds to give Hill City one more chance with just a few seconds remaining.

As the Lady Ringnecks put up one final shot, Christensen jumped up to block it and it tipped off her fingertips to bound out of bounds as the final buzzer sounded giving the Lady Bulldogs the 31-30 win and a 12-3 record. "It was a good experience to play such a close scoring game," added Walz. "It really tested us as a team and helped us to see our potential"

Scoring for the Lady Bulldogs were Jordan Christensen-11, Kami Miller-6, Hailee Spresser-4, Rachael Ritter-4, Maddy Walz-4, and MiKayla Lobato-2. Spresser pulled down 10 rebounds along with 9 from Christensen. Others were grabbed by Miller-5, Lobato-4, Walz-3, Ritter-1, and Rush-1. The Lady Bulldogs will travel to Healy on February 14 and will be back in Rexford for their final two home games on February 18 and 21.