

Lady Bulldogs Hold on For Overtime Win

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs defeated the Triplains/Brewster Lady Titans for a closely contested overtime win on February 18 to advance their record to 14-3 for the season.

The Lady Bulldogs and Lady Titans had met twice before this season. The Lady Bulldogs won the contest in Winona in early January by three points and the Lady Titans defeated the Lady Bulldogs in the championship game by three points. “The Lady Titans have challenged us this season,” said Senior Hailee Spresser, “but this close competition helps us to be better teams as the season progresses.”

Spresser hit the first two points of the game for the Lady Bulldogs, Kami Miller added two quick layups, and they were off and running towards a 7-0 lead before the Lady Titans scored. The Lady Titans then took over and the girls were tied 9-9 at the end of the first.

Jordan Christensen regained the lead with a free throw to start off the second quarter, but the Lady Titans answered back with several buckets. Two three-pointers from Christensen tied the game back up and regained the Lady Bulldog lead. Additional baskets by Kynndra Rush and Spresser gave the Lady ‘Dogs a 20-14 point lead at the half.

The Lady Bulldogs continued to hold the lead over the Lady Titans and climbed their way to a 13 point lead 31-18 part way through the third. The Lady Titans took advantage of the Lady Bulldogs lazy defense and fought their way back to a 35-28 deficit by the end of the third.

The game was nowhere near over as the fourth quarter started with both teams determined to gain this important game on their record as they compete for sub-state ranking later in the season. The Lady Bulldogs extended their lead back up to a ten point spread before the Lady Titans dug in their heels and closed the gap to 40-35 half way through the quarter.

Christensen then hit a shot and an and-one free throw but the Lady Titans answered with a three pointer and a couple of free throws to close the gap to one point 43-42 with 2:20 remaining in the game. The pressure was on as the girls took a time out to regroup. The defense held strong with these two tough, competitive teams as they held each other away from the bucket until the clock had less than a minute to go. An intentional Lady Titans foul sent Kynndra Rush to the line. She made one of her shots to extend the spread to 44-42. A Bulldog foul sent the Lady Titans to the line with 25 seconds to play. They made their first shot, missing the second, and the game was 44-43 in favor of the Lady Bulldogs.

Another Lady Titan foul sent Kami Miller to the line, but she missed her shot. Another Lady Bulldog foul sent CJ Lewallen to the line for the Titans with 10.3 seconds for two bonus shots. She missed her first, but made the second to tie the game up at 44. Kami Miller threw the ball into Christensen for the Bulldogs. Christensen pushed the ball down the floor, but the Lady Titans knocked it loose as the buzzer sounded sending the game into overtime.

The Lady Titans won the OT tip, but missed their first shot. Spresser rebounded for the Lady Bulldogs and passed it off to Christensen who hit a three. She added another

basket to put them up by 5. Following a time out, Lewallen hit a basket followed by two shots from Shayna Rogge for the Lady Titans to give them a 1 point lead with 1:39 remaining in the overtime.

A free throw from Rush tied the game back up. Spresser stole the ball from the Lady Titans, followed with a layup, and regained the lead for the Lady 'Dogs. Brittany Plummer answered with another shot with just under a minute to play. The Lady Titans knocked the ball out of bounds to give the ball back to the Lady Bulldogs allowing Christensen to hit another 3 with 20 seconds on the clock. Plummer attempted a three to tie it back up but it missed and the Lady Bulldog defense grabbed the ball and held on for the 55-52 win making this third game the girls have played within three points.

Christensen's 8 overtime points helped her to a season high 24 points for the Lady Bulldogs. Spresser added 11 throughout the game. Additional points scored came from Kami Miller, Kynndra Rush, and MiKayla Lobato with 6 each and 2 from Rachael Ritter. The Lady Bulldogs worked together for 14 assists and 10 steals. The girls pulled down 29 rebounds to the Lady Titans 27. Christensen led with 11 along with 7 from Spresser, 5 from Maddy Walz, Miller-3, Rush-2, and Lobato-1.

The Lady Bulldogs will play their final home game of the season on Friday when they host the Lady Thunderhawks from Wheatland/Grinnell before heading on the road next week.