

Lady Bulldogs Undefeated on Home Floor

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs played their final home game of the season on February 21 against the Lady Thunderhawks from Wheatland/Grinnell. "This was our first time to play the Lady 'Hawks this season," said Kami Miller, sophomore. "We were anxious to see how we would match up before the Sub-State tournament."

Senior Jordan Christensen got the tip for the Lady Bulldogs and with a lot of hustle went to the line for the first point of the game. Maddy Walz gave the Lady 'Dogs a 3-0 lead before the Lady Hawks scored to tie up the game. Rachael Ritter regained the lead for the home team but a three-pointer from the Lady "Hawks gave them the 7-5 lead at the end of the first.

Hailee Spresser tied it back up part way through the second following a shooting drought by both teams. Once she hit her shot, MiKayla Lobato and Kami Miller found the basket and with strong GP defense, the Lady Bulldogs held the Lady 'Hawks scoreless and led 15-7 at the half.

Following the first half imbalance, the girls played closely for the remainder of the game with the Lady 'Hawks outscoring the Lady 'Dogs 11-10 in the third. With a 7 point lead, the Lady Bulldogs continued to push and extended their lead to 9 before the Lady 'Hawks starting swishing threes and ate away at the Bulldog lead.

With less than two minutes to play, the Lady Bulldogs held a slim 4 point lead. A shot by Miller extended the lead with 1 minute on the clock. The Lady 'Hawks called a time out only to have another called a few seconds later as both coaches tired to focus the girls. The seconds to hold on, the girls stepped up their aggressiveness and Kami Miller and Jordan Christensen each suffered some pretty hard hits sending Christensen to the line where she made 3 out of 4 free shots extending the lead to 40-31.

Hailee Spresser was sent to the line with 8.7 seconds remaining and claimed a 10 point lead for the Lady Bulldogs. The Lady 'Hawks weren't giving up and hit a final three as the buzzer sounded but the Lady Bulldogs had enough of a lead to finish their season undefeated on their home floor 41-34.

Hailee Spresser led the Lady Bulldogs with 13 points, 11 rebounds, and 2 assists. Kami Miller added 10 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist and 5 steals. Jordan Christensen contributed 6 points, 11 rebounds, and 4 assists. MiKayla Lobato scored 6 points, 4 rebounds, and 2 assists. Rachael Ritter claimed 4 points, 1 rebound, and 2 assists along with Maddy Walz-2 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist, and Kynndra Rush grabbed 1 rebound.

The Lady Bulldogs now have a 15-3 record for the season and have not lost a game since the finals of the WKLL tournament in January. They have not lost a game on their home floor for the past two seasons. "We really appreciate the support of our home town crowd," said senior Hailee Spresser. "Their enthusiasm really helps motivate us on the floor and keep us going." The girls will play on the road this week at Northern Valley and Cheylin as they prepare for the Sub-State Tournament next week.