

## Bulldogs Finish Season at Home

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains football team finished their 2013 season on their home field against Northern Valley on October 31. The five seniors gave it their all, but the Huskies claimed the win 58-12 to give the Bulldogs a 2-7 record for the season.

The Huskies started the game with two long runs in the first quarter for an early 14-0 lead. The Bulldogs were determined and Josh Barnhart returned the kick to the 35. Shane Ryburn then gained a first down for the home team. Following another carry by Barnhart, Ryburn ran the ball to within feet of the goal line before finishing the drive in the end zone. The extra point attempt fell short and the Bulldogs were on the board 6-14.

The Huskies answered with two more touchdown runs. The Bulldogs moved the ball against their opponent, but the Huskies held a 30-6 lead at the end of the first.

The Bulldogs continued to move the ball in the second and the defense held the Huskies with Tristan Schwarz running in the first score of the second quarter to bring the 'Dogs to 12. Knowing it was the last game of the year for the Bulldogs, Coach Smith encouraged his players to "Play as hard as you can—every single play!" from the sidelines. The boys gave it all they had but the Huskies continued to cross the goal line to finish the game midway through the third quarter.

The Bulldogs will graduate five seniors this year—Josh Barnhart, Shane Ryburn, Tristan Schwarz, Grant Spresser, and Zach Spresser—who all made major contributions to the football program the past four years. "I would like to thank Coach Smith for sticking with us these past four years," said Grant Spresser, "even when things got tough." "It would be nice to have one more year," said Barnhart. "It really sneaks up on you."

Although they are losing these five players, the Bulldogs will be returning a core group who gained experience and progressed in their skills this season including juniors Benny Martinez, who led the state in tackles throughout much of the season, and Domonic Luna, who showed tremendous improvement on the field. Starting guard/linebacker sophomore Cole Ziegelemeier will also be returning for the Bulldogs along with several freshmen and sophomores who stepped up and made contributions at the end of the season. "It takes total commitment from everyone both on and off the field," said Ryburn. "I would encourage these guys to get into the weight room to have a more competitive season," said Schwarz. "It would help them to prevent injuries," added Zach Spresser, "and maintaining grades will help keep them on the field."