

Bulldogs Show Improvement During Season

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains football team lost their final game of the season to Cheylin on October 30 to finish with a 0-9 record for the season. This is the first time in a long time the Bulldogs have posted a winless record and Coach Travis Smith's only 0-9 record in his 15 years as head of the Bulldog program at Golden Plains High School.

The team graduated a large number of seniors last year returning very little experience this fall. Domonic Luna, the only senior with four years of field experience, and Cole Ziegelmeier, junior, contributed their proficiency to the team as leaders both on and off the field. Seniors Braden Korte and Austin Kyte were playing as first year players due to previous season injuries and transfers. "Even though we haven't had a successful season on the field," added Smith, "with the leadership of these seniors, we have come to practice every day and worked hard to get better."

Despite their struggles to win a game against some tough competition, including Hoxie and Sharon Springs who advanced in district action, the boys still felt they had success on the field. This success came in the form of teamwork, dedication, commitment, and personal growth.

The Bulldogs were fortunate to not have any season ending injuries throughout their nine games. Every player that started the season finished the season with additional players joining the squad after the first few weeks. They were committed to each other, to the team, and to their school.

The Bulldogs will graduate three experienced seniors this year, but their lessons learned this season should help them show continued growth as they prepare over the summer for next fall. "The experience our younger players gained this year is going to help us out tremendously in the upcoming seasons," said Smith. We had three sophomores, two juniors and a freshman that started most of the season that hadn't played at all in the past. The experience they gained will benefit us greatly next year."

"We will turn this program around to the level where we are competitive once again," continued Smith. "The kids realized this year that the summer must get better for us to get better."