

Bulldogs Finish Season at Sub-State By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldogs played their last game of the season on March 3 in the quarterfinals of the Wheatland Sub-State. With a 28-34 loss to the host team, four seniors ended their basketball career as Bulldogs. "It's hard to believe that after four years, by basketball career is over," said senior Koi Wessel. Kade Wessel was also sad that his four year career was complete.

The Bulldogs received a bye for the first round of sub-state and played the Wheatland/Grinnell Thunderhawk in the quarterfinals. The boys had lost twice this season to the 'Hawks in some pretty close games, so where ready to challenge themselves one more time.

Brett Gerbitz opened the game with a basket following the tip. Another basket put the 'Dogs up 4-0. The 'Hawks sank a three then pulled ahead 8-4. Kade hit one from the line followed by a basket from AJ Camacho. The 'Hawks answered to lead 10-7 in the first.

The 'Dogs stepped up their defense in the second quarter holding the 'Hawks to a single free throw in the entire quarter. On the offensive side, they moved the ball to Camacho and Kade Wessel to sink 10 points and lead 17-11 at the half.

The 'Hawks were not about to give in as they came back with another 10 in the third quarter and held the 'Dogs to two Kade Wessel baskets and tied the game at 21 by the end of the quarter.

With such a close game and a chance to advance on the line, the boys played aggressively until the very end. The Bulldogs were sent to the line multiple times sinking 7 free throws, but no baskets. The 'Hawks added 13 points to win the game 34-28.

Kade Wessel ended his career with 12 points. AJ Camacho added 8, Koi Wessel-3, Dawson Spresser-2, Brett Gerbitz-2, and Jeron Schutte-1. "This was a tough loss for my guys tonight," said Coach Travis Smith. "We now have led Wheatland for 9 of the 12 quarters we have played them. Just not the right 3! Wheatland's a great team and that should tell our boys what they can become." "Thanks to the community for supporting us this year," added Koi Wessel, "and to the GP girls basketball team for cheering us on tonight."

"It might not have ended how we wanted," added Kade Wessel, "but we did finish with a 10-12 record and third place in the league tournament." "Thanks to Coaches Mikey Doll, Travis Smith, and Laura Rush for the past four years," added Koi.

Golden Plains will graduate four seniors—Kade Wessel, Koi Wessel, and Cole Ziegelmeier who have played all four seasons at GP, and Vertis Jones who was new to the team this year. "I want to thank my seniors for all they have done for me and this program over the past two year. We doubled our win total from last season. I'm super proud of these guys." "We improved from last year," added Cole Ziegelmeier. "We appreciate the support of our coaches, families, fans, and community. We wish next year's team continued improvement."