

Last Minute Loss for the Lady Bulldogs  
By Maddy Walz

Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs hosted home games against the Cheylin Cougars on January 19. The Lady 'Dogs stepped on the floor with two of their starters out due to illness. "The younger girls stepped in and contributed very well," senior Kynndra Rush commented. "This game helped them gain experience for the games ahead."

Cheylin's fire caught the Bulldogs off guard quickly gaining them a 0-3 lead. Kynndra Rush responded with a basket making the score 2-3. The Cougars fired back with another 3, but the Bulldogs weren't laying down easy. The two teams played tight the whole first quarter, but the Bulldogs came out on top ending the first quarter 13-10.

A pass from Kami Miller to Kynndra Rush and 2 free throws by Maddy Walz contributed to the quick 17-10 lead for the Bulldogs in the second quarter. They continued to pick up their pace until finally the Cougars fired back. Maddy Walz, Kynndra Rush, and Sierra Finlay added in a few more baskets to end the first half with a score of 28-20.

The game increased its intensity in the third as both teams fought for a victory. The Lady 'Dogs led the whole quarter, but the Cougars outscored the Bulldogs in the 3<sup>rd</sup> 8-15. It was 36-35 going into the fourth.

The Bulldogs scored to extend their lead at the beginning of the fourth, but the Cougars answered with another basket to close the gap. Kami Miller added another two points, but they couldn't quite stop Cheylin from scoring, and the game was tied 39-39 with under 6 minutes to play. The Cougars got their first lead in the second half, but another basket by GP held the score at 41. The girls fought hard for a 47-43 lead, but the Cougars once again battled back to tie the game. With just under a minute left to play and trailing by 2 points, coach Parker Christensen took a timeout. Coming right out of the timeout, the Bulldogs scored a basket and hit a free throw to have a one point lead with 27 seconds left. Another timeout was called and Kaylie Schaben was sent to the line. She made one free throw and the score was 51-49. Cheylin took a timeout with 3.4 seconds left to play. Right at the buzzer, the Cougars hit a 3 to win the game 51-52.

"It might not have ended the way we wanted it to, but I am proud of the leadership that all of the seniors showed when they knew they had to," senior Kynndra Rush added. Kami Miller scored 10 in the game along with 2 from Sierra Finlay. Walz had 13 and Kynndra Rush 23. 3 from Kaylie Schaben rounded out the scoring for the Bulldogs. The Bulldogs traveled to Almena on Friday to challenge the Huskies.