

Bulldogs Play in State Tournament

By Judy Rogers

Golden Plains Seniors Maddy Walz, Kynndra Rush, and Kami Miller played their final game as Bulldogs in the state tournament in Dodge City on March 10. This was these girls, and the team's, third trip to state during their four year career at GPHS. This was their first time to play in the United Wireless Arena in Dodge City.

The 18-5 Bulldogs were ranked #5 in the tournament as they prepared to face off against the #4 Dighton Hornets with a 19-3 record. Dighton quickly put in four points, but two baskets from senior Rush tied the game up. The Hornets went on a 7 point run before the 'Dogs could score again with a bucket from Junior Gabrielle Schiltz. The Hornets held a 13-6 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The Bulldogs were only able to two baskets to fall in the second quarter—a bucket from Kami Miller and a three-pointer from Schiltz, as the Hornets pumped in 22 points to hold a 35-11 lead at the half.

The girls regrouped during the break and came back out with determination to play with Bulldog pride. They were able to step back and work together to add 12 points in the third. Schiltz and sophomore Maggi Nieman each hit a three along with two baskets from Kami Miller and one from Maddy Walz. The Hornets hit 15 to maintain their lead 50-23.

The Bulldogs never gave up and played with pride as they finished the game with 16 in the fourth. Kami Miller and Schiltz each hit a three. Nieman, Morgan Ritter, Rush, and Carmen Sepulveda each added a basket along with two free throws—the only two of the game—made by Schiltz. The Hornets added 18 to the 68-39 win over the Bulldogs.

Schiltz led the Bulldogs with 11 points along with 9 from Kami Miller. Rush added 6, Nieman-5, Walz-4, Ritter-2, Sepulveda-2. The Hornets had three girls in double figures, including Sara Cramer-19, Jordan Speer-18, and Dakota Hoffman-16. Additional points were added by Kiera Budd-7, Emily Sheppard-4, Morgan Tucker-2, and Payden Shapland-2.

The Hornets advance to the semi-final round to play the #8 Wetmore team who knocked off the #1 Norwich girls on Thursday. The Bulldogs finished with a sincere appreciation for all the support they had from their classmates, families, and fans throughout the season.