

Lady 'Dogs Place Fourth in League

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Volleyball team finished in fourth place in the Western Kansas Liberty League tournament. The girls entered the tournament ranked fourth and finished the two-day tournament at fourth.

The tournament started pool play in Wheatland/Grinnell on Thursday, October 15 and concluded in Brewster on Saturday, October 17. This was the first year the league held the tournament on two days.

"I was very proud of the way the girls pulled together to play competitive volleyball Saturday," said Coach Orba Smith. "Without Gabby (Gabrielle Schiltz), we had to make some line-up changes and ask people to play different positions than they have all season."

"The four top finishers in the WKLL tournament are all ranked in the top ten of the KVA 1A Division II poll," continued Smith. "I think that definitely says something about the caliber of volleyball in our league and Northwest Kansas."

The Bulldogs opened the tournament on Thursday with a close win over Western Plains. The lead bounced between the two teams before the 'Dogs pulled ahead 21-15. The Bobcats worked their way back but the 'Dogs held on for the first set win 25-22. Both teams battled throughout the second set, but again, the Bulldogs held on for the win 25-18.

The 'Dogs faced the top seeded team, Logan, for their second game of pool play. The girls gave up the first set to Logan 25-16, but worked their way to win the second set 25-20. The third set was a battle, but the Trojans came out on top 25-18.

Pool play continued on Saturday in Brewster with the GP Girls facing off with the Triplains/Brewster team on their home floor. The Titans started with the lead, with serves by KayCee Miller and attacks at the net by Kynndra Rush and Kami Miller, the Bulldogs tied it back up. The Titans pulled ahead once again as the Bulldogs dealt with miscommunication errors and adjusting to a new lineup.

The Titans pulled ahead to a six-point lead at 19-13 as they played very well. The Bulldogs called a time out and despite the Titans excellent defense, the Bulldogs attacked the net and crept back into the game for the 25-23 win. The Bulldogs found their rhythm in set 2 as they once again allowed an early Titan lead, but came back for the 25-16 win.

The final game of pool play was against the Healy Eagles. The Lady Bulldogs took control early on and sailed their way clear to a 25-14 and 15-16 win to advance to the semi-finals.

The Bulldogs faced the Pool B winner Northern Valley for the semi-final match. The Bulldogs had been unable to defeat the Huskies during the regular season and this match was no exception. The Bulldogs fell to the Huskies 25-13, 25-15.

The consolation match was between the Bulldogs and the Logan Trojans. The Trojans had been tough competitors all season, but the Bulldogs played them with intensity in the first but the Trojans came out on top 25-23 in the first set and 25-11 in the second to give the Bulldogs their fourth place in the tournament.

Northern Valley claimed the championship with a three set win over Wheatland/Grinnell.

“We worked hard all day,” said senior Kami Miller. “I couldn’t be more proud of our team for the way we adapted to the change of not having Gabrielle.”

“I thought we played well,” added senior Kynndra Rush, “especially since we were missing one of our main setters. All the girls came together to fill in and did a great job!”