

Bulldogs Finish Third at Hill City By Brianna Stoll

The Lady Bulldogs traveled to Hill City to compete in the annual Hill City Tournament on October 10. They played the second game of the morning against the Atwood Lady Buffalos to start off their day. The Bulldogs won the first set against Atwood 25-21. Keeping up their intensity, the Bulldogs won their second set 25-22.

Their second game of the day was against Hill City. Hill City came out on fire the first set, getting a big lead off. Golden Plains fought back hard just barely losing 26-24. The Bulldogs gave it their all, but still fell to the Lady Ringnecks 25-22.

Western Plains was the Bulldogs' third game of their pool. Determined to make it out of pool play, the Bulldogs made it their goal to beat the Lady Bobcats. They pushed themselves to keep a lead the whole game, winning 25-12. Not letting up, the Bulldogs worked just as hard and won the second set 25-13. There was a 3-way tie between Atwood, Hill City, and Golden Plains, but because of scoring, Golden Plains came out the first seed, and Atwood was the second seed. The Bulldogs were on to the Semifinals.

Trego was the Bulldogs' semifinal match. Golden Plains had sat out for around an hour waiting for the match in the Elementary School to be over, so they were a little stiff going into the first match. Trego, on the other hand, was ready to go from the beginning. They defeated the Bulldogs in the first set 25-20. Getting back into the groove of things, the Bulldogs came back beating the Lady Eagles 25-23. It was a hard fought match, but Golden Plains fell short to Trego 22-25.

After losing to Trego, the Lady Bulldogs traveled to the elementary gym to once again face off against Atwood. This was a close game all around. The Bulldogs came out the first match ready from their previous game, and won 25-20. Not ready to back down, the Lady Buffalos kept their heads up and picked up their intensity, winning the second set 27-25, sending it to a third set. Not willing to give up this win, the Bulldogs pushed from the beginning of the set and never stopped. They defeated the Lady Buffalos 24-14.

"I truly believe Ashely Stevenson-Arnberger and I are the luckiest coaches ever!" Exclaimed Head Coach Orba Smith. "We finished third at a tough Hill City Tournament with three wins and two losses! Our Lady Bulldogs played with so much heart and desire.... They are amazing! I'm so proud of each and every one of them!"

"I also want to give a big shout out to the great cheering section we had today... Great parents and some high school boys that did an awesome job supporting us!! I'm so proud to be a Bulldog!" added Smith. "I'm so, so, so proud of this group of young ladies and all of their hard work! Plus, I might be a little biased, but they are just wonderful girls! I enjoy it every day!" added Assistant Coach Ashely Stevenson-Arnberger.

The Lady Bulldogs will host their first, and only, home volleyball matches on Tuesday, October 13. They will compete against Dighton, Trego, and Wheatland/Grinell.