

GPMS Takes League

By Brianna Stoll

On Thursday, October 22, the Golden Plains Middle School Volleyball team traveled to Grinnell to compete in the WKLL Tournament. They were the 4th seed and through hard work and a determination to meet their goals, they claimed the league championship. “We finished third last year,” said Coach Mindy Fleckenstein. “Our goal was to finish higher this year. The girls worked hard all day finally defeating Grinnell/Wheatland in the championship game.”

The Bulldog’s first game of pool play was against the Weskan Lady Coyotes. The Bulldogs came out on fire the first set, defeating the Coyotes 25-11. Fired up from their first set, the Bulldogs kept up their intensity, winning the second set 25-11.

The second game of the day was against Logan. The Bulldogs started the match off strong, getting a 14-9 lead before Logan called their first time-out. Eighth grader Karri Schaben served 10 in a row, contributing to the Bulldogs’ winning the first set 25-16. Logan picked up their game in the second set, keeping up with Golden Plains the whole set, but the Bulldogs pulled through at the end winning 25-22.

Golden Plains’ third game was against Grinnell/Wheatland. The Bulldogs fought hard against the Thunderhawks, barely falling short 21-25. Grinnell kept up their momentum, defeating the Bulldogs 25-16.

Making it out of pool play, Golden Plains faced off against Western Plains for the semi-finals. Determined, the Bulldogs pushed hard winning the first set 25-22. Focused on making it into the finals, the Bulldogs came out ready to go in the second set. The Bobcats made the Bulldogs work really hard, but it paid off with Golden Plains winning 25-21. They were ready for the finals.

After making it into the finals, Golden Plains faced off against the Thunderhawks again. The Bulldogs were more determined than ever. They had not won over the ‘Hawks during their middle school career at league, and the girls knew they had to give it all they had to win the game. The first set was really close the whole time, but the Bulldogs defeated the Thunderhawks 26-24. Giving it everything they had, Golden Plains left everything on the court in the second match, defeating Grinnell/ Wheatland 25-18.

The Bulldogs ended their season on a very high note with 12 wins and 5 losses along with the league championship. “We worked really hard together as team!” exclaimed eighth grader Malilah Green. “It was so exciting to end the season as champions, we all worked really hard to make sure we accomplished our goal. I’m really proud of us.”

“It was awesome!” added eighth grader Karri Schaben. “I couldn’t have asked for a better way to end my last season of middle school volleyball. I’m excited for next year, it’ll be a big change from middle school, but I can’t wait. The Middle School team will do great again next year, I can already tell!”