

## Bulldogs Go 2-2 in League Tourney

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs won two and lost two games in pool play at the Western Kansas Liberty League Volleyball Tournament in Grinnell. The tournament took place on two days, October 13 and 15. The 'Dogs split games each day.

On Thursday, they played Palco first. The girls had not played each other yet this season and the Bulldogs took care of the game as they won 25-16, 25-13. "We didn't play as well as we could have," said Gabrielle Schiltz, sr, "but we still walked away with the win."

Bolstered by this first victory, the Bulldogs faced Logan for their second game of the day. They had lost a close game to Logan early in the season and knew they had to play their best against this top ranked team. The girls kept it close throughout the first set. "We played better as a team," said Schiltz. The game was tied up at 16 before the 'Dogs pulled ahead with a kill by Schiltz. The Trojans tied it back up and the game continued to go back and forth. The 'Dogs led by 3 at 22-19. However, the Trojans rallied for the win 25-23.

The second set against the Trojans was another competitive match. The girls again kept it close with the Bulldogs leading 10-5 with blocks by Morgan Ritter, sr, and kills by KayCee Miller, so. The 'Dogs pulled ahead 20-12 but the Trojans again rallied. Following a 23-17 Bulldog lead, Logan went on an 8 point run to win the set and the match 25-23.

On Saturday, the Bulldogs faced the #2 seeded Northern Valley Huskies in the morning. "It was tough losing one of our starters to injury," said KayCee Miller. "It took us a while to adjust." Freshman Mabel Lugo was out due to an ankle injury sustained on Thursday.

Junior Kaylie Schaben was very strong in her attacks as the girls struggled to keep up with the Huskies. With a cross court kill by Miller set up by Schiltz, the girls were down by 7 at 16-22. They worked consistently through the set ending with an 18-25 loss.

The 'Dogs switched sides for the second set. They had some good blocks from Maggi Nieman, jr. and Schaben at the net but couldn't keep up with the Huskies as they lost the second set 15-25.

The final game of their pool was against the Cheylin Cougars. The Cougars took the Bulldogs to three in the Gove County Classic in September so the 'Dogs were ready to up their game and claim a second tournament win. "This was our best game of the tournament," said Miller. "Everything just worked for us," added Schaben.

The 'Dogs took an early lead 8-1. The Cougars just couldn't keep up as the Bulldogs had some great serves from Malilah Green, fr, and Jennifer Esparza, jr. Schiltz and Ritter showed their senior leadership in their performances as they led the Bulldogs to a 25-14 win.

The second set was another good win for the Bulldogs. The Cougars kept the game tied up at 10. A kill by Schaben gave the 'Dogs a one point lead. The Cougars kept the game alive before a kill by Miller gave the 'Dogs a 7 point lead 21-14. The Cougars managed to score once more but Miller executed a couple of cross court kills to win the set and match 25-15.

Northern Valley advanced from their pool to win the league championship with Logan advancing as tournament runner-up. The Bulldogs will travel to Weskan on October 22 to play in Sub-State.