

## Back to Back League Champs!

By Maggi Nieman

On October 20 the Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs won the Western Kansas Liberty League Volleyball Championship for the second in a row. The third seeded Bulldogs overcame the odds to take home the plaque.

The Lady Bulldogs opened with a win against the Palco Roosters in their pool. There was a lot of anticipation for this game because they lost to the Roosters earlier in the year. The match went into three close sets, with scores of 23-25, 27-25, and 25-20. "We had great energy and excitement throughout the game," said eighth-grader, Ashley Stoll.

The next game was against the Cheylin Cougars. The Bulldogs started off a little flat, but still were able to clinch the win. The scores for that game were 25-20 and 25-16. "We had fun, and pulled away with the win," said eighth grader Brooke Stoll.

The final game of pool play was against the Northern Valley Huskies. The Bulldogs handled the Huskies well, claiming the win 25-11 and 25-23. "Everyone wanted to win our pool, so we could make it into the semi-finals," said seventh- grader, Morgan Wark.

The Lady Bulldogs won their pool, and were ready to face off with the Logan Trojans in the semi-final game. The Lady 'Dogs were determined to get to the championship game. The girls pushed hard to secure the win on the first set with a score of 25-18. Using the momentum from the first set, they pushed forward to punch their ticket to the championship game 25-14. "We were excited to get back in the championship game, so we could have the chance to get the championship," said seventh-grader Carli Nieman.

The Lady Bulldogs met a familiar opponent from earlier in the day for the final game, the Palco Roosters. The girls were ready to go, and excited to be in the championship game again, for two straight years. The girls came out ready to fight and win the tournament. They crushed the competition in the first set, closing 25-10. The Roosters put up a little fight, but not enough to match the Lady Bulldogs' energy. The Lady 'Dogs ended the match 25-17. "It was great to beat Palco twice in one day," said Kassie Miller, seventh grade. "I was on the edge of my seat watching the last set of the game," added Alisha Brantley, seventh grade.

The Bulldogs rounded out the day with an undefeated record in the tournament and a season record of 13-2. "We are looking forward to playing in high school, but we will definitely miss the younger girls," said the eighth grade girls. " We hope that they continue the tradition."