

GP Girls Win Sagebrush Three-Peat By Amanda Cheney

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs basketball team competed in the annual Sagebrush Shootout tournament in Brewster the week of December 3. The girls defeated Wichita County on Monday, Cheylin on Friday, and St. Francis on Saturday to win the tournament for the third year in a row. "We knew we were going to have to play very hard to win the three-peat," said sophomore Brooke Stoll. "I had confidence in our team."

The Bulldogs started their games on Monday against the Wichita County Lady Indians. Both teams struggled to put shots in to start the game, but a shot from Ashley Stoll would make the score 2-0. GP got their heads into the game and ended the first quarter ahead 12-5. The girls continued to rack up points to extend their lead 22-11 at the half. The 'Dogs came out of the locker room determined to play more efficiently, and they succeeded by holding the Lady Indians to one point in the third quarter, making the score 33-12. GP would go on to win the game 45-16. Team members contributing points in this game were Brooke Stoll-11, Ashley Stoll and Kassie Miller-8 each, Zoey Hillis and Mabel Lugo-6 each, Carli Nieman-4, and Morgan Wark-2.

The 'Dogs moved into the semifinal round and faced Cheylin on Friday. The Lady Cougars are a league rival for the Lady Bulldogs. Both teams were successful on the offensive end, ending the first quarter 10-7 in favor of the Bulldogs. GP continued to hustle in the second quarter, going into halftime ahead 21-15.

GP continued to extend their lead in the third quarter by scoring double the points of Cheylin. The third quarter ended with a score of 37-23. Cheylin had a bit of a comeback in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Bulldogs 17-12. The close game ended with a 49-40 GP victory. Points in this game came from Ashley Stoll and Kassie Miller-14 each, Brooke Stoll-10, Zoey Hillis-6, and Mabel Lugo-5.

The Lady Bulldogs moved into the championship game against the St. Francis Lady Indians for the second year in a row. GP got off to an aggressive start in the game and pulled ahead 18-7 in the first quarter, including a last-second running three-point shot from Brooke Stoll. The 'Dogs kept up the intensity in the second quarter, once again outscoring the Lady Indians. The teams headed into halftime 30-13 in favor of the Bulldogs.

Both teams picked up their defenses in the third quarter, but the Bulldogs continued to lead 39-19. GP went on to win the championship for the third year in a row with a final score of 54-33. "We played really well together as a team in this game," said sophomore Ashley Stoll. "Everybody improved over the course of the tournament, and I hope we continue our winning streak as the season continues."

Sisters Ashley and Brooke Stoll were both chosen for the all-tournament team. "I was surprised to be selected for the all-tournament team," said Brooke. "It was great to represent our team in the tournament, and it was even more special to share it with my twin sister Ashley." Brooke was also the champion of the three-point contest. Golden Plains received the sportsmanship award for the second year in a row as well.

The Lady Bulldogs will look to extend their 4-0 record in their first home game of the year against Northern Valley on December 14.