

B-Team Boys Play in Championship Game By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Middle School B-Team boys basketball team played in the Championship game of the Western Kansas Liberty League Tournament in Brewster on February 9. The Bulldogs defeated Cheylin in the semi-final game 30-16 but lost to Northern Valley 16-46 in the championship game to place as League Runner-Up.

With only six players on the tournament roster including sixth graders Abe Taylor, Josh Rath, Owen Patmon, and Maddix Green and seventh graders Blake Durham and Leighton Bush, the Bulldogs knew they would have to work hard. They tied the Cougars 7-7 in the first quarter, but Rath put in 13 points in the second along with 2 from Green to pull ahead 22-9 by half time.

The Bulldogs outscored the Cougars 4-2 in the third but the Cougars put in 5 to the Bulldog 4 in the fourth. The Bulldogs won the game 30-16 earning a spot in the championship game. Rath had 17 points along with Patmon 4, Munk 3, Taylor 2, Green 2, and Durham 2. "We played pretty good," said Owen Patmon, sixth grade. "Cheylin gave us our best game of the tournament."

The boys played Northern Valley in the championship game later in the day. The Huskies outnumbered the Bulldogs and had a height advantage, but that didn't stop the Dogs from working hard throughout the game.

The Huskies opened the game with a 3 and never slowed down as they pulled ahead 21-4 by the end of the first. The Bulldogs added another 4 in the second as the Huskies extended their lead to 32-8 at the half.

Never giving up, the Bulldogs pushed hard in the third to outscore the Huskies 7-6, but were only able to make a single free throw in the fourth as the Huskies won 46-16.

Rath again led the Bulldogs with 7 points. Taylor, Patmon, Green, and Bush each added 2 while Durham made the fourth quarter free throw. "We got tired in the Northern Valley game," said Patmon. We worked hard in the Cheylin game. We had lost to Northern Valley earlier in the season and were trying to prove ourselves."

The B-Team finished their season with 4 win and 4 losses. "We played good as a team," said Abe Taylor, sixth grade. "We got better at shooting." "We also got better at dribbling and passing," added Leighton Bush, 7th grade. Wyatt Amlong, 6th grade, added that they also got better at making layups.

The boys are looking forward to next year. "We will keep up our shooting over the summer and try to go to some camps," said Maddix Green, 6th grade. "We will try to add more wins next year."

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