

## Bulldogs Kick Off to a G.R.E.A.T Season

By Sidney Taylor

The Golden Plains High School Football team has been preparing for their upcoming football season. They have adopted the motto G.R.E.A.T. for this year—Greatness Requires Effort Attitude, Teamwork. The team had a three-day camp in late July along with their traditional summer schedule. As allowed by the Kansas State High School Activities Association, the team practiced up until the August 15th deadline.

”It was hard to adjust to social distancing, and we were worried if we would get a football season or not,” said senior Rojelio Loya. The Bulldogs first official football practice started August 17 to prepare for their 5th year of six-man football.

The Bulldogs are led by Travis Smith in his 21st year as head coach, and assistant coach Russ Aumiller. “We are excited that we are able to have any type of season at this point,” said Smith. “We are doing everything in our power to make sure we are keeping everyone healthy.” Coach Smith said that the team social distances during drills and during water breaks and will follow all KSHSAA protocols for Covid-19 for this season.

The Bulldogs are beginning the season with 18 team members, four of them being returning seniors, including All- State players Wade Rush and Rojelio Loya. Other seniors are Austin Durham and Toby Korte. “We look forward to head back to the Wild West Bowl to play for the championship,” said Loya. “As a team we have grown and matured,” added Rush. “The seniors have shown a tremendous amount of leadership this summer and into the early stages of the season,” added Coach Smith. “We are going to rely on them heavily both on and off the field as well.” Coach Smith also said that for the team to be successful this season, they are going to need some of the returners from last year to step into spots left vacant by last year's seniors.

The Bulldogs went 7-4 in their previous season and are looking to have another successful season. They ended the 2019 season placing third in state and they are working to head back to Dodge City for their 5th consecutive year.

The Dogs will open their season on September 4 against the Cheylin Cougars in Rexford starting at 7:00pm. We truly believe the Bulldogs will be G.R.E.A.T this season.