

## A-Team Girls Win Sixth Straight Title

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Middle School A-Team girls basketball team won their sixth straight league championship on February 13 in Rexford. The girls posted an 11-2 season on their way to the title.

The tournament started on Tuesday, February 8, as the Lady Bulldogs defeated Heartland Christian 40-8 in Rexford. The Bulldogs jumped to a 10-0 lead in the first quarter. They kept their pace as they led 24-2 at the half. The Crusaders put in 4 in the third quarter and 2 in the fourth as the Bulldogs posted 13 in the third and finished with 3 in the fourth for the 40-8 W. Points were scored by Hayden Wark 18, Anette Hernandez 14, McKinzie Horobik 6, and Mariah Barnett 2.

The Bulldogs advanced to the semi-final game on Thursday against Weskan. They again jumped to a first quarter lead of 8-0. Adding 10 in the second quarter, the Dogs held an 18-2 lead at the half. Weskan made a three point shot in the third quarter as the Bulldogs pushed forward for 12 more. The Coyotes played hard and added another 6 in the fourth but the Dogs added 9 for the 39-11 win and a shot at the Championship. Scoring for Golden Plains was Wark 15, Hernandez-14, Horobik-6, Madi Green-2, and Braylee Kowles-2.

The Championship game was held on Saturday afternoon against Grinnell/Wheatland. It was a challenging game for the Lady Bulldogs as both teams worked hard. The Lady Bulldogs put in four points in the first as did the Thunderhawks to be tied up at the end of the quarter. The Dogs added another 6 in the second holding the Hawks to 4 for a slight 10-8 lead at the half.

The intensity stayed high in the second half as both teams kept up the defensive pressure. The Bulldogs managed to outscore the Hawks 5-2 in the third to maintain their lead. Both teams played with determination to the very end as the Bulldogs won their sixth straight league championship 22-18.

"It was our goal to win the league championship," said Anette Hernandez. "We won it all three years of middle school." "I felt like we played very well in the tournament," said Jaqueline Manriquez. "I'm happy with how our girls played in the tournament," said Emma Carter. "We stayed united as a team and won the whole thing," said McKinzie Horobik.

The A-Team girls finished their season with an 11-2 record. "We had to work on ball control," continued Hernandez. "We hustled and got better throughout the season." "We moved the ball well in the tournament," added Hayden Wark. "We stayed united as a team and won the whole thing," continued Horobik.

The girls faced some challenges this season. "The girls didn't get along all the time," said Hernandez. "We talked to each other about working on teamwork. We all had to learn what our role was as a member of the team." "We had to work on getting over ourselves and being more of a whole team," added Madilyn Green. "We had to learn to stick together as a team," continued Wark. "Our greatest challenge was mentally preparing ourselves before our games and having the mind-set that we were going to do good," added Vargas.

Most of the girls plan to continue playing basketball in high school next year. They plan to work in the off-season, stay in shape, and stay healthy. They feel they need

to work on dribbling and their shots. “We need to know that we will have to hustle on everything we do and will have to work hard,” added Hernandez.

“The coaches really helped us a lot,” said Herndandez. “They made it fun for us.” “I would like to thank all the families, the coaches, and all my friends for their support throughout the season,” said Horobik. “I can’t wait for high school and even more success.”