

## Lady Bulldogs Place Third at Sagebrush By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs placed third in the Sagebrush Tournament in Brewster on December 9. The girls defeated St. Francis 44-28 in the opening round on December 5. They lost to Wichita County, the eventual tournament champions, 41-63 in the semi-finals on December 8, and defeated Triplains/Brewster 40-22 on Saturday to claim third place.

“It was a successful tournament to start the season,” said Hayden Wark. “It showed us where we are at skill wise and what we need to work on to improve.”

The Bulldogs opened the first game against St. Francis with an 8-5 lead in the first quarter. All of the St. Francis points came from free throws while 6 of the 9 Bulldog points came from behind the line. The Dogs worked hard in the second quarter to extend their lead to 19-12 with shots from Jordyn Fleckenstein, Hayden Wark, and Anais Cepeda. The Bulldogs stayed strong in the third quarter as Fleckenstein, Emma Weiner, and Kadalen Unrein hit shots allowing the Dogs to remain in the lead 30-20. Weiner and Cepeda extended the Dogs lead early in the fourth before Wark hit six in a row at the end of the fourth quarter to give the Dogs the win 44-28.

Emma Weiner finished the game with 15 points for the Bulldogs. Wark added 11, Fleckenstein 8, Cepeda 6, Kailee Wessel 2, and Kadalen Unrein 2. Fleckenstein had 15 rebounds, 4 assists, and 3 steals. Wessel had 12 rebounds and Cepeda had 10 rebounds, 4 assists, and 1 steal. Weiner added 7 rebounds, 4 assists, and 1 steal, and Unrein had 6 rebounds and 1 steal. Wark had 3 rebounds, 1 assist, and 1 steal.

The Bulldogs faced the Wichita County Lady Indians in the semi-finals. The Indians controlled the first quarter putting in 20 and holding the Bulldogs to 8. The Dogs improved to 12 in the second, but the Indians still outscored them with 18 to lead 36-20 at the half. The Dogs were determined and outscored the Indians 12-10 in the third but the Indians stayed strong to push in 17 in the fourth holding the Dogs to 9 for the 63-41 win.

Bulldog points came from Wark 15, Weiner 10, Fleckenstein 9, Cepeda 5, and Wessel 2. Cepeda and Fleckenstein each had 5 rebounds, Wark 4, Weiner 3, Wessel 2, and Unrein 2. Wark had 3 assists and 3 steals, Weiner had 3 assists and 2 steals, Cepeda had 1 assist and 2 steals, and Fleckenstein had 1 assist and 1 steal.

The final game of the tournament for the Lady Bulldogs was the third place game against the Triplains/Brewster Lady Titans. The Dogs took the lead 8-4 early in the first, and never let it go. Their strong defense held the Titans to 2 in the second while increasing their lead to 17-6 at the half.

The Titans fought back in the third to increase their score by 9 while the Dogs added 10. The Dogs held on with an additional 13 in the fourth holding the Titans to 7, to claim the win and third placed in the tournament.

Fleckenstein led the Bulldogs with 12 points along with 11 from Wark and 10 from Cepeda. Unrein added 5 and Wessel 2. Wessel pulled down 8 rebounds, Unrein 6, Fleckenstein 6, Cepeda 4, Siena Vargas 2, and Wark 2. Wark dished out 5 assists, Cepeda 3, Fleckenstein 2, Vargas 1, and Unrein 1. Cepeda, Wark, and Unrein each snatched 2 steals.

“Some games were better than others,” said Anais Cepeda. “We are off to a good start. I’m excited to see what the rest of the season brings.” The Bulldogs return to regular season action as they travel to Healy on December 15 to play the Western Plains/Healy Bobcats.