

A-Team Girls Win League Championship By Siena Vargas

The Golden Plains Middle School A-Team girls basketball team won the WKLL league championship on February 10 at Brewster. They defeated Triplains/Brewster on Thursday advancing to claim wins over Western Plains/Healy and Cheylin on Saturday. "We had a good start at league and came back on Saturday and played strong," said Madison Focke.

The girls posted a 12-2 season on their way to the title. "We started off the season saying it was our year and we pulled through the season and tournament and got first place," said Brenlynn Rath. "It was a good season and I am glad I got to play my last season with my best friends," added Evelyn Ortiz. "It was great having a coach who pushed me to work my hardest." "We grew as a team and matured together," continued Adilyn Meier. "Our coach believed in us and pushed us to be the best we can be."

The tournament started on Thursday, February 8, as the Lady Bulldogs defeated Triplains/Brewster 23-13 in Colby. The Bulldogs started close with the Titans, 4-2 in the first quarter. The girls gained more confidence and led 14-4 at the half. The Titans put up 7 of their own in the third quarter and 2 in the fourth as the Bulldogs added 5 in the third and finished with 4 in the fourth for the 23-13 win. Points were scored by Brenlynn Rath 8, Elizabeth Weiner 6, Adilyn Meier 4, Kaylee Kier 3, and Evelyn Ortiz 2.

The Bulldogs advanced to the semi-final game on Saturday against Western Plains/Healy. The girls jumped to a first quarter lead of 11-0. Adding 7 in the second quarter, the Dogs held an 18-6 lead at the half. Western Plains/Healy made a two point basket in the third quarter as the Bulldogs pushed forward 9. They finished with 6 in the fourth holding the Bobcats to 0 for the 33-8 win and a shot at the Championship. Scoring points for the Bulldogs were Rath 16, Meier 14, and Weiner 3.

The Championship game was held later on Saturday against Cheylin. It was a challenging first quarter for the Lady Bulldogs as they trailed behind the Cougars 6-7. The Dogs gained more intensity and put up 12 in the second quarter and only let the Cougars add 1 for an 18-8 lead going into the half.

The girls struggled coming into the third letting the Cougars score 7 and were only able to add 2 of their own. The Dogs worked hard together through the fourth quarter putting up 10 points to the Cougars 3 to win the championship 30-18. Rath again led the Bulldogs with 13, Weiner 7, Meier 4, Evelyn Ortiz 2, Lakin Wark 2, and Briella Knowles 1.

"At the beginning of the year, our goal was to win league in volleyball and basketball, and we succeeded in both," said Briella Knowles. "It was nice having a coach who pushed us to our best and I am excited to play in high school."

"We had a few setbacks along the way but I am pumped that we won," added Elizabeth Weiner. "It was great to play with the girls, I am excited for the next step in basketball." "I was proud of how well we all played," continued Shayna Altman. "I really enjoyed the season and playing with the girls because they were all so supportive," added Kaylee Kier. "I am looking forward to playing in high school."