

## Coach Smith Achieves 100 Wins

By Judy Rogers

Golden Plains head football coach Travis Smith reached his 100<sup>th</sup> career win with the Bulldogs 59-14 Cross District win over Rolla on October 27 in Rexford.

“Congratulations to Coach Smith on achieving this milestone win,” said senior Mason Green. “I’m glad I was able to be a part of it.”

Smith, a native on Ellsworth, started his teaching and coaching career at Golden Plains in 2000. He has been the Head Football Coach for the Bulldogs ever since. When he came to GPHS, the football team was playing in 8-Man Division II. They worked and developed to enter his first playoff season in 2002 with an 8-3 record. The Bulldogs also entered 8-Man playoffs in 2008 and 2009.

In 2016, with declining numbers of players making it more challenging to compete, Smith was one of those organizing a 6-Man league in Kansas. The Bulldogs found success in 6-Man as they qualified to compete in the Wild West Bowl in 2016 placing third, placed fourth in 2017, played in the championship game in 2018 placing runner-up, and placed third in both 2019 and 2020. In 2022, the Kansas State High School Activities Association sanctioned 6-Man football creating the current playoff system.

Assistants to Coach Smith through the years include Jim Erwin, Scott Lindenmeier, Travis Betz, Heath Johnson, Devinn Ritter, Russ Aumiller, and Ed Weiner. “I appreciate the support of the school board, administration, staff, and parents throughout the years,” said Smith, “as well as the effort of the teams. We plan to continue to work hard to support successful athletic programs at GPHS.”