

Bulldogs Place Runner-Up at First Ever WKLL/NWKL Tournament

By Breanna Rath

The 2022 League Tournament looked a little different this year for the WKLL and the NWKL. The two leagues formed one big 16-team league tournament on October 15th at the Colby Event Center. The WKLL represented well, as they took over the top side of the bracket. The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs brought home runner-up with a 4-1 record on the day. Senior Breanna Rath and Junior Jordyn Fleckenstein also received individual credit, as they were selected to the All League Tournament Team.

To start the morning, the Lady Bulldogs faced the Cheylin Lady Cougars. The Bulldogs easily won the first set 25-11. The second set took a little more effort from the Bulldogs, as Cheylin stayed close throughout the set, but the Bulldogs managed a 25-23 set win. "It was a good start to the day," said Siena Vargas. "Starting off with a win is always great."

The second match of the day for the Bulldogs was against the Oberlin Lady Red Devils. The Bulldogs fought hard, but fell short to the Devils 17-25. Coming out with more energy, the Lady Dogs played well together and captured the 25-23 victory, sending the match into the third set. The Bulldogs took hold of the Devils and shut them down as they finished the third set 25-11. "We played a good game against a good team," said McHaley Carter. "As long as we keep our energy up, we will do well the rest of the day."

After having a one-game break, the Lady Bulldogs were ready to take on the Quinter Lady Bulldogs. GP and Quinter played earlier in the season at the Gove County Classic and in Saint Francis, where Quinter beat GP both times. Determined to finally beat Quinter, the GP Lady Bulldogs came out with fire. Long volleys kept the game close, but Quinter pulled ahead to beat GP 20-25 in the first set. Ready to take action, the GP Bulldogs attacked the ball hard, leaving Quinter defenseless. GP won the second set 25-21. The third and final set was a nail-biter, down to the very last points. Several great things done by all GP players on the floor led to a GP Bulldog 25-23 victory. "We knew we could beat Quinter, we just had to prove it to ourselves," said Sidney Taylor. "And we played really hard against them. It was good to see that our hard work paid off."

Going into bracket play as the number one team, the Lady Bulldogs next competition was the Northern Valley Lady Huskies. This was the third match to go into three sets, after the Bulldogs gave up the first set 23-25. Playing harder in the second set, the Bulldogs stomped on the Huskies and took the 25-14 second set win. Keeping up their energy, the Bulldogs finished the third set 25-12 sending them into the championship game against their rivals, Wheatland/Grinnell.

The championship game was an exciting one. The Lady Bulldogs covered the floor extremely well and attacked the ball hard at the Lady Thunderhawks. Great energy and excitement lead to a 25-18 Bulldog set victory. Going into the second set, early penalty calls on the Lady Bulldogs gave Wheatland the advantage they needed to steal the second set 17-25. The third and final set of the night went back and forth between the Bulldogs and Thunderhawks. Unfortunately, the Bulldogs fell to the Hawks 20-25. "We really wanted to beat them, but we still have one more chance at Sub-state," said Anette Hernandez. "Sub-state is where it counts, and we will be ready for them then."

The Lady Bulldogs went 4-1 on the day and received Runners-up at the first ever WKLL/NWKL League Tournament. Golden Plains will host Sub-state on October 22nd in Rexford. The first match will begin at 1:00 pm.