

A-Team Girls Place Third at League

By Siena Vargas

The Golden Plains Middle School A-team girls basketball team placed third at the WKLL league tournament on February 11 in Brewster. The girls finished their season with a 9-6 record.

The tournament began on Thursday, February 9, as the Lady Bulldogs took on Western Plains/Healy at the Colby Event Center. The Bulldogs had a strong first half as they went into halftime with a big lead of 22-6. Continuing their energy in the second half, the Dogs kept fighting hard to add 7 points as the Bobcats added 4. Going into the final quarter with a 29-10 lead, the Bulldogs finished the job by scoring 4 more points and allowing the Bobcats 11. The Bulldogs claimed the 33- 21 win to advance to the semi-finals held in Brewster on Saturday, February 11. "We started a strong first half but slowed down the second half," said Katie Carter, 8th grade. "It was a good way to start the tournament." Points were scored by Brenlynn Rath 14, Kadalen Unrein 8, Evelyn Ortiz 3, Adilyn Meier 2, and Lakin Wark 2.

The Lady Bulldogs took on the Cheylin Cougars in the semi-final round of the tournament on Saturday, February 11. With a tough battle between the two teams, the Bulldogs fell behind 18-28. The Bulldogs started strong in the first quarter with a lead of 8 without letting the Cougars score. The Dogs let the Cougars score 12 points in the second while they only scored 2. Going into halftime the score was 10-12 with the Dogs trailing. The Bulldogs lost some of their strength in the second half only scoring 8 while the Cougars added 16. Although they fought hard, they lost to the Cougars 18-28. "We worked really hard and we put out a lot of effort," said Kailee Wessel, 8th grade. "We worked well as a team as the season progressed." Points were scored by Rath 6, Kailee Wessel 5, Unrein 4, and Mayte Hernandez 3.

The third-place game was played in Brewster later on Saturday. The Bulldogs competed against the Northern Valley Huskies, whom they had defeated 23-9 earlier in the season. The girls finished their season with a 19-10 win for third place in the tournament.

Coming out slow in the first quarter, the Bulldogs let the Huskies score 2 points while the Dogs couldn't get a shot to fall. The Bulldogs stepped it up in the second quarter and played tough defense while making 9 points only letting the Huskies score 2 to lead 9-4 at the half.

The Dogs kept their strength and energy up in the second half. They held their lead and continued to put up points adding 10, only allowing the Huskies to add 6 to place third at league. Points were scored by Unrein 6, Wessel 6, Ortiz 3, Hernandez 2, and Wark 2.

"Even though I didn't get to play much due to injury," said Addy Wessel, 8th grade, "I enjoyed cheering the girls on." They will graduate five 8th graders. "Overall the season went pretty well," said Kadalen Unrein, 8th grade. "I can't wait to see how next year goes for us."