

Lady Bulldogs Place Fourth at Gove County Classic By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs played a long day of volleyball at the Gove County Classic in Grinnell and Grainfield on September 9 placing fourth overall in the tournament.

The girls started off the day playing in Pool B in Grinnell. They went 2-1 in their pool to advance to bracket play. The first game of the day was against the Decatur Community Lady Red Devils. The Dogs took on the lead in the first set as both teams were fresh and determined to compete. Anais Cepeda was a force to be reckoned with behind the serve line as her serves were difficult for the Red Devils to return allowing the Dogs to extend their lead for the win 25-18. Oberlin dominated in the second set pulling ahead early and claiming the win 17-25. The third and final set was another close game between these two competitive teams as the Dogs took the lead early and with front row attacks by Jordyn Fleckenstein, held on to win 25-19.

Following a one match break, the Dogs face the Cimarron Blue Jays. This was another good game with lots of long volleys throughout the match. The Blue Jays was able to take the advantage in set to win 14-25. The Bulldogs fought back in the second set as the game was close until midway through when the Dogs took over. Some good attacks by Siena Vargas and rotation errors by Cimarron helped the Dogs claim the win 25-19. The final set continued to be close as the teams tied it up midway through. The Dogs stayed consistent to pull ahead for the win 25-21.

The final game of pool play was against the Cheylin Lady Cougars. The Dogs played a close first set but fell to the Cougars 22-25. The second set was all Cougars as they claimed the set and the win 11-25.

The Dogs advanced to the Championship Bracket to play Quinter in the semi-finals. They kept the game close but Quinter claimed the win in 2 sets 22-25, 20-25. The Dogs then faced Decatur Community for the 3rd and 4th place game. This final game of the day was another three-set match with the Red Devils claiming the win 14-25, 25-21, 15-25 to place third with the Dogs finishing fourth.

“We started the day of really well and scrambled really well in the first two matches,” said senior Jordyn Fleckenstein. “The long matches took a toll on us and we started to break down. Although we played stronger as a team than we did at the Healy tournament earlier in the season, we still need to work on communicating and find a way to bring ourselves back together when we get down.”

The girls return to regular season games as they travel to Victoria on September 12 to play the Lady Knights and the Northern Valley Lady Huskies.