

Lady Dogs Win Four at League By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs went 4-2 at the WKLL/NWKL tournament in Colby on October 14. The Dogs won three on Saturday to be named Consolation Bracket Champions. "I thought we played much more as a team on Saturday than we have all season," said senior Jordan Fleckenstein. "We had a lot of highs and lows on Thursday and struggled to get out of the lows. On Saturday, we had more desire to win."

The girls played three matches in Pool Play on Thursday, October 12. Their first game was against the Weskan Lady Coyotes. The Dogs got off to a fantastic start as they quickly ran away with a 20-3 lead. The Coyotes came back to add a few points, but the Dogs won the set 25-10. The Coyotes didn't go down easy as they kept the second set close, tying it up several times throughout the set. The Dogs pulled ahead following a 20-20 tie to win the set and the match 25-21.

The second match of pool play was against the Decatur Community Red Devils. These two teams had played close earlier in the season and this day was no exception. The Dogs pulled ahead 10-4 with kills by Hayden Wark, Jordan Fleckenstein, and McKinzie Horobik. The Red Devils tried to work their way back but the Dogs stayed strong. With a 22-13 lead, the Red Devils went on a short run, but the Dogs held on for the win 25-18. The second set was simply the opposite. The Dogs opened with a 5-0 run with serves by Anais Cepeda. With kills and blocks from Kadalen Unrein, the Dogs maintained a lead throughout much of the set. Oberlin went on a roll midway through the set and pulled ahead for the win 21-25. The third set went much as the second with the Dogs leading for much of the set and the Red Devils pulling ahead at the end for the win 21-25.

The third match of pool play was against the Wheatland/Grinnell Lady Thunderhawks. The first set was all Hawks as they were on fire and claimed the win 25-5. The Lady Bulldogs gained an early lead in the second set keeping the game close for quite a while. The Dogs pulled ahead at the end for the win 25-15. The Hawks came back in the third set gaining the lead and holding on for the win 14-2.

Advancing to the Consolation Bracket, the Lady Bulldogs won all three matches on Saturday to win the Consolation Bracket Championship. Their first match of the day was against the Western Plains/Healy Bobcats. The Dogs took an early lead and, although the Bobcats kept it close, won the first set 25-21. The Bulldogs maintained a good lead throughout the second set for the win 25-13.

Their second game of the day was against the Logan/Palco Lady Trojans. The Bulldogs again controlled the game from start to finish as they won the first set 25-18 and the second 25-13. This put them into the consolation championship game against the Cheylin Lady Cougars.

The Bulldogs had faced the Cougars early this season at the Gove County Classic having lost to them in two sets. The Dogs were determined to have a better outcome at this tournament. They started off with a lead early in the first set but the Cougars pulled ahead for a slight lead. The Dogs fought back to tie it up but the Cougars again gained a small lead to win the set 22-25. The Dogs were not ready to give up the day as they came from behind in the second set and worked together for the 25-23 win. The third set was

all Bulldogs as the girls stayed strong gaining and holding a solid lead to win the set and the match 25-10.

“Winning the second game pushed us to win the third set,” added Fleckenstein. “They had beaten us at Gove, but our experience pulled us through.” The Lady Bulldogs will head to the Sub-State tournament in Grainfield on October 21. They are the 3rd seeded team and will play Thunder Ridge in the first round. “Our goal at Sub-State is to have confidence in ourselves and each other,” added Vargas. “We will give it our all!”