

## Lady Bulldogs Place Second in Sub-State By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs finished their season as the Sub-State Runner-Up in Sharon Springs on October 26. The Lady Bulldogs concluded their season with a final record of 29-9 and claimed the titles of Runner-Up in the Hill City Tournament, the Western Kansas Liberty League Tournament, and Sub-State.

The Lady Bulldogs entered the tournament as a #2 seed behind the Wallace County Lady Wildcats. The girls knew this would be a challenging day of volleyball action as four state-ranked teams were playing in the tournament including Weskan and Wheatland/Grinnell along with the Golden Plains and Wallace County teams.

Because of their seeding, the girls received a bye in the first round. The Triplains/Brewster Lady Titans defeated the Weskan girls in the quarterfinals to face Golden Plains in the semi-finals. The Lady Bulldogs handled the Lady Titans easily winning in two sets with both scores 25-10. "The girls played aggressively, with confidence and poise against Brewster/Triplains in the Semi-Finals and didn't ever allow the Lady Titans into the match," said Coach Orba Smith

Wallace County, who held the #1 seed, knocked off the Lady Thunderhawks from Wheatland/Grinnell for a shot at the championship game. As the #1 and #2 teams met on the court, it was anybody's game. Both teams brought their A-game to the first set and kept it tied throughout most of the match. Despite some awesome hits by Hailee Spresser and some deep digs by Kami Miller, the Lady Bulldogs couldn't quite gain a lead and the Lady Wildcats won 25-21.

The Lady Bulldogs regrouped and switched sides for the second game. They allowed the Lady Wildcats an early lead, but teamwork and strong blocks from Kylie Jones and Kynndra Rush on the front row tied it up. The Lady Wildcats regained their lead, but Jordan Christensen killed the ball to tie things up again. Multiple serves from Macayla Easton helped them gain a slight lead. Following a timeout to discuss strategies, the Lady Bulldogs pulled ahead again with Leea Juenemann behind the serving line.

The Lady Wildcats weren't giving up and the Lady Bulldogs gave it all they had, but the Lady Wildcats finished the game with a 25-22 win over Golden Plains to earn a trip to the state tournament "We started the Wallace County match with great intensity and confidence as well," commented Smith. "I felt some big plays by Kuhlman from Wallace County, and a couple of mistakes on our side of the net caused some self-doubt, which affected our passing and aggressiveness at the net."

Golden Plains will graduate five senior players. "As I continue to come to terms with the fact that volleyball season is actually over and that this group of seniors has played their last matches, I can't help but feel incredibly blessed for having been allowed the opportunity to coach these girls for the past six years," said Coach Ashley Arnberger. "They truly are talented, intelligent, beautiful young ladies."

Smith added, "Even though I was disappointed that we didn't earn a trip to the State Tournament, I'm so very proud of this awesome group of girls. Their dedication, teamwork, and strong work ethic allowed them to finish the season as one of the most successful volleyball teams in Golden Plains history."