

Middle School Boys Look Back on Season By Judy Rogers

Golden Plains' Middle School boys' basketball teams finished their season in the first round of the league tournament in mid-February. The boys played some close games with the A-team and B-team each winning 4 games, defeating Brewster/Triplains, Cheylin, Healy, and Weskan.

The boys were asked what they enjoyed about the season and most enjoyed playing the games. "I enjoyed the competition aspect," said Devin Carter, 8th grade, "and the fact that we had to put up a fight to earn our victories." Coach Russ Aumiller said he "enjoyed getting to work with our youth on fundamentals and watching them develop their skills as the season progressed."

"Our team's greatest strength in most cases was perseverance," added Carter. "There were many games we pushed through and caught up after we were behind." AJ Camacho, 7th grade, felt they played well on defense "because we stole the ball to make easy layups," while Jeron Schutte, 8th grade, enjoyed rebounding. Coach Aumiller said their strength came from "being able to put points on the board in most of our games." He added that "being able to score points helped with our confidence from game to game."

The boys did face multiple challenges throughout the season that they worked to improve. Many of these challenges had to do with themselves. "We had to overcome ourselves to get to know each other," said Jeron Schutte. Bryce Ter Haar added, "We had to get along to become a work-together team in the end." "We also had to learn our plays," said Dylan Spresser, while Nolan Ritter felt they all got better at shooting over the course of the season. "The biggest challenge was trying to maintain an even record on the win/loss column," felt Coach Aumiller. "Although we came up a bit short, it was a challenge worth trying to get.

Jeron Schutte and Devin Carter will be moving up to high school next year and both look forward to getting better at shooting and handling the ball in order to earn playing time. The younger kids all look forward to improving both their skills and their record next year. Coach Aumiller's goal is for them all to continue to work in becoming more fundamentally sound. Schutte summarized the season by saying, "We did pretty good working as a team. Our record doesn't matter as long as you try your heart out."