

Lady Bulldogs Place 3rd at Tournament By Shania Finlay

On Thursday, February 13, the Golden Plains Middle School A-team girls traveled to Brewster to play their first game in the WKLL Tournament. In their opening round they faced the Western Plains Bobcats in what coach Travis Smith said was the most physical game he had ever coached.

The game started out with a free throw from 8th grader Kaylie Schaben and the Bulldogs went on to put in 7 more points in the first quarter. They came into the second quarter trailing the Bobcats by one point. Seventh grader KayCee Miller put 7 more points in along with another from Schaben and one from Jennifer Esparza, leaving the score at half time 17-14 with the Lady Dogs in the lead.

In the 3rd quarter 8th graders Maggi Nieman and Sierra Finlay each scored a basket and Miller also added 2 points to their score. The Bobcats did not score in the 3rd quarter. Eighth grader Jennifer Esparza added a basket to the Bulldogs' score along with 13 more points for GP and 5 for the Bobcats. The final score was 38-19, which sent the Bulldogs to the semi-final round against Grinnell/Wheatland.

In the first quarter the Bulldogs held up a very strong defense against Grinnell/Wheatland and scored 7 points to the Thunderhawks 2. They came back in the second quarter with only one basket from Miller. The score at halftime was 9-12 with the Thunderhawks in the lead. The girls held up a good defense in the second half, but couldn't hold off the Thunderhawks shots. The final score of the game was 15-22. This sent the Bulldogs to play for 3rd place against the Logan Trojans.

The beginning of the game began with 3 points from the Trojans but the Bulldogs pulled together and put 11 points on the board to the Trojans 7 points. In the next quarter of the game GP added another 8 points to their score and the Trojans had 3. The halftime score was 19-10. In the third quarter Golden Plains scored 11 points, 9 of them from Miller. The Trojans scored another 3 giving the Bulldogs a 30-13 lead going into the final quarter of the game. Schaben and Finlay each added 2 points to their score and seventh grader Noel Ritter scored a basket landing the girls 3rd place. The games' final score was 36-22.

"We were determined to make the best of our last few games of the season," said 8th grader Sierra Finlay, "I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to play with these girls the past few years!"

CAPTION – Photo by Shania Finlay

Seventh Grader KayCee Miller keeps the ball from the Western Plains Bobcats. Miller had 45 of the 89 points the Bulldogs scored the tournament.