

Bulldogs Win One at Castle Rock

By Judy Rogers

The Bulldogs from Golden Plains won one of their three games at the Castle Rock Tournament last week in Quinter. They lost to Quinter and Cheylin in the first two games, but finished with a one-point win over Atwood on Saturday.

In the first game on Tuesday, the Bulldogs were matched against the host Quinter Bulldogs. The Quinter team took control of the game early and held on throughout the first quarter to lead 25-8. The GP team struggled to score in the second and finally got baskets from freshman Devin Carter and junior Koi Wessel shortly before the half to trail 42-12.

The GP 'Dogs found the basket in the second half and doubled their score in the third to give Quinter a 60-24 lead going into the fourth. GP added another six in the fourth while holding Quinter scoreless during 8 minutes of continuous clock to give Quinter the win 60-30. "They were very fast. We were apprehensive—we knew Quinter was going to be good," said senior Braden Korte. "How we played is not who we are. The score did not reflect what we are capable of doing." Kade Wessel led the Bulldogs with 13. Other points came from Cole Ziegelmeier-4, Koi Wessel-4, Nick Brown-4, Brett Gerbitz-3, and Devin Carter-2.

Playing on in the back side of the bracket, the Bulldogs faced league school Cheylin. Both teams played competitively throughout the game with the score staying even during the first three quarters. The Bulldogs led 13-10 at the end of the first with a three-point buzzer shot from Koi Wessel. Cheylin added a basket at the beginning of the second, but the Bulldogs answered. But with another buzzer shot, Cheylin went into the half leading 17-16.

The Bulldogs were determined, but both teams had trouble taking care of the ball under a full court press. The Bulldogs stayed behind for much of the third before tying up the score at 27 by the end of the quarter. Koi hit another shot to regain the lead to start the fourth, but the Cougars tied it up once again. With five minutes left to play the Cougars pulled ahead and extended their lead for the 40-33 win. Koi Wessel put in 20 points for the Bulldogs along with Braden Korte-4, Ziegelmeier-3, Carter-2, Kade Wessel-2, and Jesus Aragon-2.

For the final game of the tournament, the Bulldogs played the Rawlins County Buffaloes on Saturday afternoon. Kade Wessel opened the first quarter with a bucket and the Bulldogs were on their way to a 14-9 lead by the end of the first with Kade and brother Koi posting up all but two of the Bulldog points. The Buffaloes came back in the second and pulled ahead of the Bulldogs, but a three from senior Braden Korte tied it back up at 17. A free throw from Koi gave the Bulldogs a one-point lead at the half 18-17.

The boys battled it out in the third but the Buffaloes were able to gain a 4 point lead by the buzzer. Trailing 28-32 to start the fourth, it looked like the Bulldogs were facing another loss on their record. However, Koi Wessel increased his offensive threat by putting up ten straight points for the 'Dogs. Still trailing by three, Domonic Luna hit a couple of free throws closing the gap. The Buffaloes scored again for returning to a three point lead. Sophomore Brett Gerbitz arced a three and tied the game up with 1:06 to play.

It was still tied with 9.1 seconds on the clock and it looked like there would be an overtime to play. The Bulldogs got the ball on the Buffalos end of the floor and pushed it down the court. Koi Wessel went in for a layup and got fouled. He went to the free throw line with 2.8 seconds on the clock to shoot for two. He missed the first shot. Atwood called a time out giving him a chance to catch his breath. He stepped back on the floor, made the second shot for a 44-43 win for the Bulldogs. "We have been working hard in practice," said Koi Wessel. "This was a complete team effort to get a win."

Koi finished the game with 17 points while Kade had 11. Korte had 7, Luna had 6, and Gerbitz had 3. This gives the Bulldogs their first win of the season. "We need to come to practice and work on the things that were exposed this week," continued Koi. "One big thing is rebounding. We need to continue to improve." The Bulldogs will play one more game in Weskan on Friday before the semester break.