

Lady Bulldogs Win Two at Castle Rock By Maddy Walz

The Lady Bulldogs competed at the annual Castle Rock Classic Tournament in Quinter last week. This tournament includes three full days of Western Kansas Basketball competition. This early tournament allows the teams to evaluate what they need to work on and see where they are at this point in the season. Four of the 8 teams are ranked in the state according to the Kansas Coaches Basketball Association, making this a very challenging tournament to compete in.

In the first game on Tuesday, December 9, the Bulldogs battled against the Dighton Hornets. The Bulldogs struggled offensively in the first quarter and let the Hornets get the lead, 14-4. In the second quarter, the Hornets continued to outscore the Bulldogs to hold a 27-14 lead at the half. GP came out in the third and scored 4 more baskets, going in to the 4th quarter with 22 points to the Lady Hornets 39. The Lady Bulldogs added another 8 points in the 4th, ending the game with a score of 30-54. This was the girls' first loss of the season. Scoring included points from Kami Miller- 5, Morgan Ritter- 2, Maddy Walz-10, Amber Erwin-4, Kynndra Rush-7, and Brittany Fringer-2.

For the second round on Friday, the Bulldogs defeated the Rawlins County Buffaloes. The girls jumped out to a 14-2 lead in the first quarter. The Lady 'Dogs added 12 more points in the second quarter making the half time score, 26-10. The Bulldogs kept pace throughout the second half scoring 12 in the third and 12 in the fourth to capture the 50-21 win. Posting points for the Lady Bulldogs were Kami Miller-18, Gabrielle Schiltz-11, Ana Bermudez-2, Maggi Nieman-2, Maddy Walz-6, Amber Erwin-6, and Kynndra Rush-5. The girls rebounded well for a total of 33 rebounds along with 17 assists and 15 steals.

"After the Dighton game, we figured out what we needed to work on and tried to fix it against Atwood," said returning starter Kynndra Rush, "I think that really helped us win the game."

The Lady Bulldogs headed back to Quinter on Saturday for the final game of the tournament against the rough and tough team, the Cheylin Cougars. Both teams played evenly in the first half, going back and forth but ending the second quarter with the Lady 'Dogs holding a slight lead 18-16. The Bulldogs came out hotter than ever, both offensively and defensively in the third pumping in 14 points while their strong defense held the Lady Cougars scoreless to go into the 4th with a 32-19. Then baskets by several of the girls helped the Lady 'Dogs hold on for the 52-32 win. Points came from Kami Miller-10, Gabrielle Schiltz-14, Morgan Ritter-8, Maddy Walz-2, Amber Erwin-5, and Kynndra Rush-13. The girls played very well on defense with 14 steals and 37 rebounds.

"I think we competed very well in this year's tournament. It is good to play these games early in the season to prepare us for the road ahead," said Gabrielle Schiltz. "Our effort is always strong throughout the games, there are just a few fundamental things that we still need to work

on.” The Lady Bulldogs now hold a 3-1 record. They will travel to Weskan on Friday, December 19 to play their 5th game of the season.