

## Lady Bulldogs Post Another Successful Season by Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs posted another successful basketball season with a 15-7 record and as Sub-State Runner-Up. The girls placed fourth in the very competitive Western Kansas Liberty League behind Triplains/Brewster, Logan, and Wheatland/Grinnell. Triplains/Brewster and Logan were also Sub-State Runner-ups in their tournaments and the Wheatland/Grinnell team won the Ransom sub-state.

“I feel really good about how we improved from the start of the season to the end,” said head coach Parker Christensen. “That is what we as a coaching staff want to happen. Also, we are building the program to remain one of the top notched teams in the state and I think we are well on our way to accomplishing that.”

The girls’ success and efforts as a team throughout the season is evident in their league statistics as well. Rush led the league in assists with 83 followed by Miller with 80. Schiltz also ranked in the top 10 at sixth with 47 assists.

Miller and Schiltz were also in the top 10 stat leaders in the league in steals with Miller in 5<sup>th</sup> with 66 and Schiltz at 7<sup>th</sup> with 56. Schiltz was also 6<sup>th</sup> in the league in 3 point shooting and 7<sup>th</sup> in total points scored with 233 for a 10.6 ppg average. Rush placed 8<sup>th</sup> in the league with 180 rebounds while Walz claimed 134 and Rachael Ritter 100. Walz also placed 4<sup>th</sup> in field goals while Miller placed 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Lady Bulldogs, who placed in the state tournament the past two years, just missed a third trip this season. Their losses came to a handful of very good teams. They fell to Dighton at the Castle Rock tournament early in the season. They also lost a close game to Logan, Hill City, and Cheylin as well as Wheatland/Grinnell three times. Hill City and Wheatland/Grinnell both qualified for state while Logan and Dighton were also Sub-State Runner-Up in their divisions.

“Although we had challenges starting out strong in the first half in several games this year,” said senior Rachael Ritter, “we worked well as a team and the younger girls stepped up when needed.” “One of our teams greatest strengths is that we always worked well together as a team,” agreed junior Kynndra Rush. Ritter, along with Ana Bermudez, will be the two seniors graduating this spring. The Bulldogs will return four of their starters and a strong bench of experienced underclassmen. “One of our goals for next year is to stay strong throughout the whole game and work on our free throws,” added Gabrielle Schiltz. Ritter encouraged the younger girls to “work hard in the off season to be stronger next year.”

“I wouldn’t have wanted to play with any other group of girls this season,” added Kami Miller. “I want to thank all of the fans, coaches, and parents for all your support this year. We couldn’t have done it without you.”