

Lady 'Dogs are Sub-State Runner-Up By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs finished their season as the Runner-Up in Sub-State on March 7 in Ransom. The Lady 'Dogs entered the tournament as a #2 seed with a 14-6 record. They received a bye in the first round, easily defeated Palco 49-21 in the semi-finals, but fell to Wheatland/Grinnell 37-49 in a very physical championship game.

The Lady Bulldogs had claimed two wins over Palco earlier in the season, but knew they had to bring their best to the sub-state game. The girls put together a 15-0 run before the Lady Roosters scored near the end of the first half of the game. Once they found the basket, they hit a few shots, but the Bulldogs led 21-6 at halftime.

The Lady Roosters put together a solid third quarter with 11 points, but 15 from Golden Plains maintained their lead 36-17. The Lady 'Dogs finished the game with a 49-21 win and a spot in the championship game. "We enjoy playing the Palco girls," said Maddy Walz. "They are all very nice both on and off the court."

Senior Rachel Ritter led the Bulldog scores with 13 points. Additional points came from Madison Walz-9, Kami Miller-7, Kaylie Scaben-7, Gabrielle Schiltz-6, Kynndra Rush-5, and Amber Erwin-2.

Additional stats include: Miller-5 ast, 2 stl; Schiltz-2 reb, 4 ast, 2 stl; Sierra Finlay-1 reb; Maggi Nieman-3 reb; Morgan Ritter-3 reb; Rachael Ritter-10 reb; 4 ast; 4 stl; Walz-2 reb, 3 stl; Erwin-2 reb, 1 stl; Rush 11 reb, 2 ast; Schaben-4 reb, 1 ast, 1 stl.

The girls faced the Wheatland/Grinnell Lady Thunderhawks for the championship game. They had lost close games to the Lady 'Hawks in the finals of the League Tournament and in overtime during regular season play, but the girls were determined to do their best in this game.

After a first score by Kynndra Rush, the Lady 'Hawks tied the game up and pulled ahead 11-5 by the end of the first. The Lady 'Dogs took a beating on the court and were unable to regain the lead in the second as the 'Hawks extended the score to 19-9 at the end of the first half.

The tide turned for the Lady 'Dogs in the third quarter as they fought back and held their ground. They added 15 points in the quarter, gaining their first lead since the start of the game with a basket from junior Maddy Walz half way through the third. The Lady 'Hawks regained the lead and held on for a 31-24 third quarter finish.

Both teams fought hard throughout the fourth quarter and the Lady 'Dogs suffered several bumps and bruises as they held their ground. They continued to add points but were unable to stop the Lady 'Hawks as the game ground to the 49-37 finish to end the season for the Lady Bulldogs and send the Lady Thunderhawks to the state tournament.

"They are a very physical team," said Kynndra Rush. "We had problems with consistency and let their aggressiveness get in our heads." "I know our season didn't end the way we wanted it to," said junior Kami Miller, "but we fought with everything we had. We never gave up."

Maddy Walz led the Lady 'Dogs in their final game of the season with 12 points. Senior Rachael Ritter finished her Golden Plains High School career with 7 points along with 7 from sophomore Gabrielle Schiltz. Junior Kami Miller added 6, junior Kynndra Rush had 4 with the last point from sophomore Amber Erwin.

Rebounds were grabbed by Walz-9, Rush-7, R. Ritter-7, Miller-5, Schiltz-5, Erwin-1, and Kaylie Schaben-1. Assists were dished out by Miller-5, Rush-2, R. Ritter-1, and Erwin-1. Steals were captured by Rush-2, Walz-2, Miller-1, Schiltz-1, Morgan Ritter-1, and R. Ritter-1.