

Bulldogs Play Close with Titans

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldogs played a close game against the Triplains/Brewster Titans in Brewster on January 22. With the game being tied throughout much of the night, the Titans pulled ahead at the end for the win 54-50. This was the closest game the Bulldogs had played in their three contests with the Titans so far this season.

The Titans opened the game with an 8-0 lead until [Alex Gonzalez](#) scored the first basket for the Bulldogs. Once the Dogs got started, they kept the shots falling as they distributed the ball around the floor. A three point play by [Fabian Cepeda](#) gave Golden Plains their first lead of the game 17-16 at the end of the quarter.

The Titans pulled back ahead with an early 2nd quarter shot. Ethan Weiner tied it back up with a free throw for GP. The teams traded baskets for much of the second until the Titans went on a short run to end the half with a 30-23 lead.

The Bulldogs came out in the third fired up and ready to go. They put in four three-pointers to start the quarter. The Titans answered with a couple of their own long shots to keep the game close. A final shot by junior Ashton Schiltz tied the game up a 41 at the end of the third.

Both teams were ready to fight to the finish in the fourth. Senior Kole Butts made a free throw to start the final minutes of play. The Titans answered only to have Cepeda hit another three shot--he made four in the game--to tie the game back up at 45. The Titans extended their lead but Gonzalez tied it up once more. The Titans added another 6 but a final three from Cepeda closed the spread. A final Titan free throw ended the game with the Titan win 54-50.

Cepeda put in a career-high 15 points while claiming 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 deflections, and 1 steal. Senior Wade Rush added 11 points, 5 rebounds, 3 deflections, 4 steals, and 2 blocks, while senior Kole Butts contributed 8 points, 5 rebounds, 3 steals, 1 assist, and 1 deflection. "It felt pretty good to play," said Butts. "We played tough, we actually played as a team. We could have played harder. If our shots would have fallen, we probably would have come out better."

Roberto Loya contributed 7 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, and 2 steals along with Alex Gonzalez's 4 points, 6 rebounds, 7 assists, and 2 deflections. Ethan Weiner put in 3 points along with 1 assist and 2 deflections and Ashton Schiltz had 2 points and 3 rebounds.

"We played more as a team," said Cepeda. "We hustled more on defense. We had worked on our press break this week and it helped." The Golden Plains Bulldogs will continue their season on January 26 as they travel to Quinter to take on the Quinter Bulldogs. "We will continue to work as a team," added Cepeda.