

Bulldogs Play in League Tournament

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldogs basketball team played three games in the Western Kansas Liberty League Tournament February 2-6. They took on Cheylin in Grainfield on Tuesday, then played Wheatland/Grinnell in Grinnell on Thursday. They finished the tournament on Friday with a game against Triplains/Brewster at the Community Building in Colby.

The first game against Cheylin was a matchup of the team they had played the previous Friday. This game got off to a rough start for the Dogs as Cheylin jumped to a 19-0 lead before the Dogs got on the board with a basket from Ashton Schiltz. They ended the quarter with a 25-2 Cougar lead.

The Bulldogs found the basket in the second quarter putting in 9 points. The Cougars kept their momentum going as they added 17 for a 42-11 half time lead. After the half, the Bulldogs continued to work hard to compete with the Cougars. With 3 three-pointers from senior Wade Rush and a basket by Schiltz, the Dogs doubled their score. The Cougars stayed strong as Andrew Schields hit his 1000th career point and the team extended their lead to 58-22.

The Bulldogs never gave up as they outscored the Cougars 14-5 in the fourth to end the game with a 63-36 win for Cheylin. "It took us a while to get everything rolling in the first half," said junior Ethan Weiner. "We got some good looks in the second half but were too far behind to catch up." Rush put in 21 points for the Bulldogs along with 8 from Schiltz, Jovanny Infante 3, Alex Gonzalez 2, and Ethan Shea 2.

The Bulldogs got off to a much better start in the second game of the tournament against Wheatland/Grinnell on Thursday. Roberto Loya opened the game with a basket and the Dogs played neck and neck with the Thunderhawks throughout the first trailing 15-16 at the end of the quarter. Defense was key in the second quarter as the teams played tight with one another. The Dogs only scored two baskets—one from Gonzalez and one from Rush as the Hawks added 9 for a 25-19 halftime lead.

The Thunderhawks stepped behind the arc in the third quarter adding 29 points—21 of which came from the three point line. The Dogs continued to work the ball inside following a three from Kole Butts as Schiltz and Rush each added a bucket.

The last quarter was again led by the Hawks as they put in a final 11. The Bulldogs hit 4 of 5 free throws along with a basket by Rush to end the game with a 65-32 win for the Thunderhawks.

"We worked well as a team in the first half," said junior Jovanny Infante. "When they started hitting their 3's in the third quarter, they were unstoppable." Rush finished the game with 13 points. Schiltz had 6, Gonzalez 5, Butts 5, and Loya 3.

The final game of the tournament was on Friday against Triplains/Brewster in Colby. This was the fourth time the Dogs had faced the Titans this season. The Titans took an early lead 15-4 as the Bulldogs scored a three by Fabian Cepeda and a basket by Roberto Loya in the first quarter.

The Bulldogs edged past the Titans 8-7 in the second quarter to bring the half time score to 22-12 in favor of the Titans. The Dogs continued to play close throughout the third quarter as they moved the ball around the floor to add 10 while the Titans maintained their lead 33-22. Both teams kept working hard in the final minutes of the

game. The Bulldogs chipped in an additional 13 points while the Titans hit the mark with 18 for the 51-35 win.

“We have a competitive league,” said senior Wade Rush. “We are improving on our defense and handling the ball, but need to make more of our shots.” Rush again led the Bulldogs with 12 points along with Schiltz for 6. Kole Butts added 4, Ethan Weiner 3, Cepeda 3, Loya 3, Gonzalez 2, and Infante 2.

The Bulldogs resume their regular season on February 9 when they host Hill City in Rexford.