

## Lady Bulldogs Place Third at State By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs concluded a 24-1 season as they placed third in the state tournament in Great Bend on March 11. The Bulldogs finished their season with a hard fought 39-50 loss to the six-time (2014-2019) defending state champion Central Plains Oilers.

The semi-final game opened with a three from senior Brooke Stoll. The Oilers hit a couple of shots to take the lead only to have Brooke hit another outside shot. The Oilers tied it up and took a lead but a final first quarter shot from senior Ashley Stoll gave the teams an 8-8 score at the end of the first.

The Stoll girls continued to hit for the Bulldogs in the second with Ashley making another basket early in the quarter. The Oilers pulled ahead 17-10 before Brooke Stoll hit two back-to-back threes to enter the half with a 19-16 Oiler lead.

The Lady Bulldogs continued to work hard in the third quarter as junior Morgan Wark brought the Bulldogs to within one point at the beginning of the second half. Two three's from sophomore Breanna Rath kept the game close. With two free throws from junior Carli Nieman, the Dogs were still within two 26-28. The Oilers then went on a ten point run before Ashley Stoll finished the quarter with a bucket and two free shots to end the quarter with the Bulldogs trailing 30-41.

Both teams worked hard throughout the final quarter as Kassie Miller stepped to the line repeatedly for free shots for the Bulldogs. Ashley Stoll added two more baskets as Brooke Stoll finished the Bulldog scoring and the game 39-50.

Because of the structure of the state tournament, the Bulldogs were awarded third place with out advancing to the consolation finals on Saturday. The Oilers will play Cunningham in the Championship game on Saturday.

Brooke Stoll finished the game with 14 points for the Lady Bulldogs including four three-pointers in the first half. Ashley Stoll added 12 points as she scored consistently throughout the game. Breanna Rath added 6, Kassie Miller 3, Carli Nieman 2, and Morgan Wark 2.

The Lady Bulldogs finished their season as Sagebrush Tournament Champions, WKLL League Tournament Champions, Sub-State Champions, and third in State. "I think we had a really great season," said Carli Nieman. "I'm so proud of all my teammates. This will be a season I'll never forget and I'm so excited to see how far we'll go next year."

"It was an amazing experience," added Rayna Taylor. "We all got better as the season went on. I can't wait to play with these girls next year!" "We all can be proud of what we accomplished throughout this season," said Kassie Miller. "It takes everyone showing up every day. I couldn't be more proud to be a part of this team."

"I am so proud of the accomplishments we made this season," said Breanna Rath. "I am truly thankful that I got to play this such a great team!" "The accomplishments we made this season were amazing and we had a great team," added Sidney Taylor. "I can't wait to get back there next year!"

The Bulldogs will graduate two seniors—Brooke and Ashley Stoll. During their four years at Golden Plains, they have been won the Sagebrush Tournament all

four years, the WKLL Tournament the past three years, finished as Sub-State Runner ups two years, and Sub-State Champions this year, as well as placing third in state this year. Their record for all four years is 87-6 with a 70-3 record the past three seasons.

“It seems weird that it is all over,” said Brooke Stoll. “We have a lot to be proud of. The trip to state this year was such a highlight of our four years of basketball. We appreciate all the support from everyone—especially our parents for the pep rallies and support throughout the playoffs.”

“I enjoyed the last four year of basketball,” added Ashley Stoll. “It has been lots of fun. I’ll miss the friendships we’ve developed over the years. I would like to thank the coaches for their dedication to our team. We appreciate so much the pep band and all those that made the trip to state to support us!”

The Lady Bulldogs will return a large class of seniors for next season. “Our team will do well again next year,” said junior Lauren Patmon. “We will be led by a large senior group and should be a threat again.” “I am so proud of everyone on the team!” added Morgan Wark. “We had so much fun this season and I cannot wait to see what my senior season has in store for us.” “Although this year didn’t end quite how we wanted, we had a good season,” continued junior Amie Cheney. “I look forward to continuing to improve and working hard to get back to the state tournament.”