

Lady Bulldogs Advance to Final Four By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs advanced to the final four of the state tournament with a 57-45 win over the Dighton Lady Hornets in Rexford on March 8. The Bulldogs, who remain undefeated at 24-0 advance to play the Central Plains Lady Oilers in Great Bend for the semi-finals on March 11 at 3:00 p.m.

The Lady Bulldogs opened the quarterfinal game against Dighton with an 8-0 run with baskets from Breanna Rath, Ashley Stoll, and Kassie Miller before the Hornets scored a three. The Hornets added another long shot to bring the game within 2. Shots by Rayna Taylor and Rath helped the Bulldogs to an 11-8 first quarter lead.

The Hornets tied the game up at 11 to start the second quarter. The Bulldogs answered with 9 straight points before the Hornets could strike again. The Dogs went on to pull ahead for a 33-19 half time lead.

The pace slowed in the third as each team only put in 7. "We focused on defense in the third quarter," said Breanna Rath, "but continued to play our game to the finish." The Bulldogs were determined to finish with a win as they added another 17 in the fourth. They shot 20 free throws in the fourth quarter, making 7 of them.

Three point shots from Brooke Stoll and Ashley Stoll along with baskets by Morgan Wark and A. Stoll added 17 to the Bulldogs final score. The Hornets were just as determined as they added 19 in the fourth, but they fell short as the Bulldogs claimed the win 57-45 to advance to the final four.

"It was great to win the first round of the state tournament on our home floor," said junior Rayna Taylor. Senior Ashley Stoll had 20 points for the Lady Bulldogs along with 17 from junior Kassie Miller. Brooke Stoll added 11, Breanna Rath 5, Rayna Taylor 2, and Morgan Wark 2.

This is the Lady Bulldogs 7th trip to the final four of the state tournament. They placed fourth in 2006 and 2017, third in 1981 and 2013, and were state runner up in 1974 and 2014. They made an 8th appearance in the state tournament in 2007.