

## Bulldogs Finish Season at Sub-State By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldog Basketball team finished their season with a 23-73 loss to Dighton in the first round of sub-state in Dighton on February 24. The boys ended the season with 3 wins and 17 losses.

The Bulldogs could not get started in Dighton as the Hornets claimed a 32-0 first quarter lead. The Dogs finally found the basket in the second with a shot from senior Fabian Cepeda. Loya added a free throw and Cepeda a three to go to the locker room at half trailing 6-45.

The game picked up slightly in the third with freshman Dominic Stout and senior Ashton Schiltz helping Cepeda add 9. The Dogs allowed the Hornets to add 20 extending their lead to 65-15.

Cepeda put in a couple of threes in the last 8 minutes of the season along with a couple free throws from senior Ethan Shea as the Dogs fell to the Hornets 23-73. The Hornets advanced to the semi-finals in Sharon Springs only to lose to Wheatland.

Cepeda finished the sub-state game with 13 points and 6 rebounds. Schiltz added 5 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, and 1 deflection. Stout had 2 points and 3 rebounds while Shea had 2 points and 2 rebounds. Loya finished the game with 1 point, 6 rebounds, 1 assist and 1 block.

Additional rebounds were pulled down by Owen Patmon, Josh Rath, and Abe Taylor with 1 each. Taylor also had 2 assists and Patmon had 1 deflection. Will Bruggeman had 1 block.

Golden Plains will graduate six seniors including Fabian Cepeda, a four-year member of the team who played every game this season, who led the team with a total of 169 points. He had 54 rebounds, 39 assists, 35 steals, 41 deflections and 1 block.

Also graduating is Ashton Schiltz. Schiltz also played all four years and was a force underneath the basket. He contributed 99 point for the Bulldogs despite missing out of the first few games of the year. He led the team with 132 rebounds, had 11 assists, 15 deflections, 10 steals, and 4 blocks. "The season did not end like we hoped it would," said Schiltz, "but everyone left everything out on that court."

Senior Ethan Shea, another 4-year team member, added 81 points for the Dogs along with 50 rebounds, 18 assists, 11 deflections, and 21 steals. Roberto Loya, who played throughout high school, contributed 64 points, 73 rebounds, 31 assists, 37 deflections, 2 steals, and 3 blocks.

Garrett Carter, another 4 year player, posted 5 points on varsity along with 19 rebounds, 4 assists, 1 deflections, 2 steals, and 4 blocks, and was a leader on the JV.

Also graduating is senior Ethan Weiner who came off the bench and contributed 15 total points along with 18 rebounds, 7 assists, 9 deflections, and 5 steals. He also helped out on JV. Jose Mendoza joined the team playing primarily on the JV but still contributed 2 points on varsity during the Sagebrush tournament.

The Bulldogs will return 5 sophomores and 1 junior next season as they add a small group on incoming freshmen. Although they will be a young team, they each contributed to the varsity team at various points throughout the season so should have some experience to build upon. "I feel the younger guys have the potential to be better," added Schiltz. "I hope they do well next season."