

Lady Bulldogs Named Sub-State Runner Up By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs finished their season on October 23 as the Sub-State Runner Up at the Grainfield Sub-State. As the 30-6 top seed team in the tournament, the Lady Bulldogs received a first round bye, defeated Wallace County in two sets in the semi-finals, and lost to home team Wheatland/Grinnell in the championship game.

“State volleyball was a goal that I never was able to achieve in my four years of high school,” said Kassie Miller, senior. “Even though it is disappointing, I am extremely proud of every teammate that showed up every day to better the team. I really enjoy playing the game of volleyball even though it is full of ups and downs. It has taught me many life lessons that will stick with me throughout my life. Thank you to all the fans, family, and coaches that pushed me the past four years.”

“We had a great season,” added Rayna Taylor-Senior, “even if it didn't end how we had hoped. I can't believe I played my last high school volleyball game. I will miss playing with such a great team.

The Lady Bulldogs opened the tournament in the semi-finals against the Lady Wildcats from Wallace County/Sharon Springs. Both teams kept it close throughout much of the first set before the Bulldogs took over and claimed the victory 25-15. The Wildcats took an early lead in the second set but the Dogs answered to tie it up at 5, 6, and 7. The Wildcats then gained a three point lead before the Dogs came back to tie it up again at 12 with an ACE serve from junior Breanna Rath. The Wildcats tied it once again, but the Dogs took over once more for the win 25-15.

The Wheatland/Grinnell Lady Thunderhawks defeated Triplains/Brewster in the quarter-finals and Logan/Palco in the semi-finals to face the Lady Bulldogs in the championship game. The Hawks took an early lead in the first set before the Bulldogs claimed the ball with a kill from Carli Nieman. The Bulldogs worked hard but were unable to catch up with the Hawks as they lost 15-25.

The Hawks kept up their momentum in the second set as they pulled ahead of the Dogs and maintained their lead for the second set win 11-25 and the Sub-State Championship.

The Lady Bulldogs finished their season with a 32-7 record as Sub-State Runner-Up for the second consecutive year. They won the Healy Tournament Championship, the Gove County Classic Championship, were WKLL League Runner-Up, and Sub-State Runner-Up. Their only losses went to Ness City-whom they later defeated at the Ringneck Classic and who were named Sub-State Runner-Up, Victoria-who won their sub-state tournament for a trip to state, Trego, Thunder Ridge-a sub-state runner-up team, Dighton-a sub-state champion and state qualifier, and Wheatland/Grinnell-whom they had defeated three times early in the season.

“It is unreal to think my high school volleyball career is over,” added senior Carli Nieman. “I can't believe how far I've come from my freshman year until now. I think everyone has improved tremendously throughout the season and I am so proud of all of my teammates. I am really grateful for all the lessons of hard work and teamwork volleyball has taught me and for my coaches, fans, and teammates for supporting me the last four years.”

“It was great having a winning record the past few years,” said Lauren Patmon, senior. “Volleyball is my favorite sport to play. Looking back, I realize how much volleyball helped me become a team player and develop leadership skills.”

“It has truly been an honor to be a part of the Golden Plains volleyball team for the last four years,” added Morgan Wark-senior. “I am so proud of each and every one of my teammates and have enjoyed watching them develop as volleyball players. Even though the season didn't end exactly how we had hoped, I couldn't have asked for a better senior season.”

“We brought a lot of excitement to every game,” said Amie Cheney, senior. “It was a good four years of forming friendships with teammates each year. We appreciate all those that supported us at each game. I will miss playing the game with my classmates and friends.”

“Although we had a good season, I was disappointed in how it ended,” said Junior Breanna Rath. Breanna is one of three juniors returning to next year's team along with one sophomore and three freshmen. “Several freshmen played on varsity towards the end of the season,” continued Rath. “This helped bring them along so they can contribute to the team more next year.”