

Lady Bulldogs Sweep Healy Tournament By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs opened their 2021 volleyball season with a clean sweep at the Healy Tournament on August 28 to win their third straight Championship at this invitational contest.

The Lady Bulldogs played Deerfield for their first game of the year. This is one of the few times they meet the Lady Spartans. The Bulldogs easily defeated the Spartans in two sets 25-18, 25-8.

The second match was against the Greeley County Lady Jackrabbits. The 'Rabbits worked hard against the Bulldogs but the Bulldogs won the first set 25-18. The Rabbits stepped up their game in the second set and kept it close. The Dogs only held a one point lead 15-14 midway through the set. Both teams gave it their best as the Lady Bulldogs claimed the win 25-18.

The third and final set of pool play was against Syracuse—another team the Bulldogs don't meet too often. The GP Bulldogs claimed an early lead 14-8. They worked together to hold on and extend their lead 20-9 before claiming the first set 25-11. The Syracuse team regrouped between sets and came out with determination. They kept the game close with GP holding a one point lead 21-20. The GP girls held on and won the game with a kill from senior Carli Nieman 25-20.

Going undefeated in pool play, the Lady Bulldogs advanced to play Western Plains/Healy in the semi-finals. They had no trouble controlling the game as they defeated the Bobcats in two sets 25-14, 25-15.

Advancing to the championship game, the Bulldogs once again faced Greeley County across the net. The Jackrabbits played the Bulldogs closely to start the first set keeping it tied up 7-7. The Bulldogs went on a run to pull ahead 14-9 as the Robbits brought it back to within 21-17. The Bulldogs worked hard to claim the first set 25-19.

The second and final set of the championship game was a battle for the Bulldogs. Greeley County claimed an early lead 6-1. The Dogs had to fight their way back to tied the game up at 10. Greeley reclaimed a slight lead but the Dogs tied it up again at 14 and 20 before pulling ahead to claim the set and the championship 25-22.

"This tournament gives us something good to build on for the rest of the season," said senior Carli Nieman. "It was good to win all the matches in two sets. We will continue to work on our serves and our communication." The Lady Bulldogs will start their regular season on August 31 with a quad in Ness City against Ness City, Triplain/Brewster, and Logan.