

Bulldogs Play in Sagebrush By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldog basketball team played two games in the Sagebrush tournament in Brewster on December 7 and 10. They lost both games to Triplains/Brewster 33-65 and to Cheylin/St. Francis 23-44. With a 7 team bracket, they received an bye and did not play on Saturday.

The first game of the tournament was against the Triplains/Brewster Titans on December 7. Senior Jose Mendoza tipped the ball for the Bulldogs. The Titans jumped up to a 4-0 lead but two quick threes from senior Fabian Cepeda gave the Dogs a slight lead early in the game. The Titans regained a lead only to have the Dogs tie it back up at 8 with a basket by Mendoza. The Titans took over to end the first quarter with a 14-8 lead.

The Dogs worked hard in the second quarter as baskets were added by Cepeda, Ethan Shea, and Abe Taylor, but the Titans pulled ahead 36-21 by half. The Dogs added 8 more in the third quarter with baskets by Cepeda, Shea, and Roberto Loya but the Titans were unstoppable pumping in 19 to hold a 55-29 lead going into the fourth. Cepeda put in the only four Bulldog points in the fourth as the Titans won the game 65-33.

Cepeda finished the game with a career-high 21 points while Taylor added 5, Shea 3, Mendoza 2, and Loya 2.

The consolation semi-final game was against Cheylin/St. Francis wearing Cougar blue. The Dogs again worked hard but were unable to ever gain a lead on the Cougars after the first shot of the game by Loya. Cepeda added another six in the first as the Cougars gained a 12-8 lead.

The Dogs added another 9 in the second with senior [Alex Gonzalez](#) putting in his first seven of the game along with another bucket by Cepeda but the Cougars extended their lead to 28-17 by the half. The Dogs stepped up defense in the second half holding the Cougars to five while added four of their own. The Dogs only managed one basket from Cepeda in the fourth as the Cougars picked their pace to finish the game with a 44-23 win.

Cepeda finished the game with 10 points along with 9 from Gonzalez. Loya and Taylor each added 2. "Our defense did get better during the tournament," said Cepeda. "We need to post up more and take more charges. We can compete—we just need to put four full quarters together." The Dogs will continue their season on December 17 as they travel to Ransom to play the Western Plains/Healy Bobcats.