

## B-Team Girls Claim League Championship

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Middle School B-Team girls claimed the Western Kansas Liberty League Championship at the league tournament in Brewster on February 12. The girls played two round-robin games winning 20-14 over Northern Valley and 23-18 over Cheylin for the title. "I think we came really far from the beginning of the year," said Elizabeth Weiner, 6<sup>th</sup> grade. "We couldn't have done it without each other and the coaches support. We really enjoyed improving through the year."

The girls, made up mostly of sixth graders and a few seventh graders, opened the first game of the day with 6 points holding Northern Valley to 2. The Huskies came back to outscore the Bulldogs 5-3 in the second but the GP girls held a 9-7 lead at the half.

Following a break, the Bulldogs hit for 8 in the third as the defense held the Huskies scoreless. The Huskies again came back in the fourth outshooting the Bulldogs 7-3 but the Dogs held on for the 20-14 win. Lakin Wark led the Bulldogs with 13 points, including 3 three-point shots, along with Mayte Hernandez 4, Adilyn Meier 2, and Elizabeth Weiner 1.

The second game of the day was against the Cheylin Cougars. Golden Plains again opened the first with 6 points holding the Cougars to 4. Both teams posted up 2 points in the second as the Bulldogs held an 8-6 lead at the half.

The Dogs added another 7 in the third as the Cougars put in 4. Both teams worked hard to finish the game and the season with each team posting up 8 points in the fourth. The Bulldogs were able to stay on top with the win 23-18.

Lakin Wark again led the Bulldogs with 10 points. Elizabeth Weiner added 6, Adilyn Meier 4, Marisol Perez 2, and Mayte Hernandez 1.

The B-team girls finished their season with 6 wins, 4 losses and 1 tie. "At first, it was kinda rough," said Lakin Wark, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, "but I feel I played better at the tournament than I did all season. I worked at home as well as in practice to improve. I think Coach Smith did an awesome job coaching, getting us in shape, and pushing us to get better and better day after day. I miss having him coach us in track and hope he will continue coaching us throughout middle school."

"I got closer to the girls this season and I really liked how we all supported each other," continued Mayte Hernandez-Lopez. "We learned a lot about how the game is played and appreciate the coaches' patience with helping us learn. Even though Mr. Smith would yell at us, he did it in a nice way most of the time. I can't wait for next year." "I miss basketball with all of my heart," added Wark. "I'm ready for next year!"