

MS Girls Split Games with Grinnell  
By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Middle School girls basketball team split games with Grinnell/Wheatland in Rexford on January 27. The B-Team lost 9-14 while the A-Team came from behind for a 23-13 win.

The B-Team played first with a two-quarter game. The Bulldogs were unable to get a basket in the first quarter as the Thunderhawks took the lead 2-0. The Hawks extended their lead to 5-0 in the second quarter before sixth grader Brenlynn Rath made a free throw for the Bulldogs. The Dogs worked hard to tie the game up at 9 with two minutes left in the game, but the Hawks finished with five more for the 14-9 win.

Brenlynn Rath and Mayte Hernandez each had 4 points for the Bulldogs with Lakin Wark scoring the additional point. "We worked as a team and were doing better at shooting but needed to rebound and box out," said Mayte Hernandez-Lopez, 6<sup>th</sup> grade. "I feel like we've been improving and we worked hard. We should do well in the league tournament."

The A-Team had a difficult first half as they were unable to score in the first quarter and only made 3 free throws in the second to trail the Hawks 3-7 at the half. The girls came out in the third with determination and worked together to regain the lead 10-9 with two minutes left in the quarter. They hit some free throws to hold the lead 14-11 going into the fourth. Brenlynn Rath opened the fourth with a three-point shot extending the Bulldog lead. Braylee Knowles added a basket and two free throws while Anais Cepeda made a final basket for the Bulldogs' 23-13 win.

"We were pretty nervous in the first half," said Knowles. "We were intimidated by their height. We need to play better in the first half in our future games and we need to get our shots up on the backboard." "We worked harder in the second half," added Cepeda.

Knowles and Cepeda each finished the game with 9 points along with 5 from Rath for the Bulldogs. The girls will host Weskan in Rexford on February 3 for their final game before the league tournament.