

Bulldogs Place Fourth at Gove County Classic By Breanna Rath

The Golden Plains High School Volleyball team traveled to Grinnell on Saturday, September 10 to compete in the Gove County Classic. The Bulldogs played 5 tough matches and brought home 4th place going 2-3 at the tournament. "I was proud of how hard we worked throughout the day," said senior Sidney Taylor. "We showed that we can be a really strong team."

To start the morning, Golden Plains faced the Quinter Lady Bulldogs for the first time this season in pool play. GP did many things well that led them to a first set 25-18 victory. With great energy, GP was determined to finish the game in two, but several delays to the game caused by Quinter's substitutional errors brought the intensity level down and gave Quinter the opening they needed to take over the second set 28-30. The GP Bulldogs started the third set strong with a kill by senior Breanna Rath right off the bat. Quinter came alive and played the net tough causing GP to not get their attacks to the other side of the floor. GP fell to Quinter 17-25 and took their first loss of the day.

The second game of pool play was against the Wilson Lady Dragons. Never losing the lead, the Lady Bulldogs secured the first set with a 25-19 win. The Dogs started the second set with a nice lead and an attack kill from Anette Hernandez-Lopez got the Bulldogs fired up. GP picked up their serving as the Lady Dragons struggled to receive the ball. Golden Plains ended the game 25-17 with an ACE serve from sophomore Siena Vargas.

The final game of the pool play was against the Cimarron Lady Bluejays. The Lady Bluejays had not yet lost a game in pool play, and the Bulldogs were determined to change that. Beginning the first set with an attacking-mindset, the Lady Bulldogs took a 17-9 lead. Great hustle plays led to a Bulldog 25-16 win in the first set. The second set stayed close, but the Bulldogs never faltered the lead. Kills from Sidney Taylor and Breanna Rath wrapped up the second set 25-22.

With this win, the Lady Bulldogs advanced to the final 4 and took on their greatest rivals, the Wheatland/Grinnell Thunderhawks. Tired from a long morning, the Bulldogs gave up the first set to the Hawks 20-25. Unfortunately, the Lady Bulldogs continued to struggle and lost the second set 18-25.

Playing for third and fourth, the Bulldogs faced the Cimarron Lady Bluejays for the second time. Still worn out from their previous matches, the Bulldogs could not find the energy needed to win the set and fell to the Bluejays 18-25. The final set of the match went to the Bluejays as the Bulldogs took the 22-25 loss for fourth place. "Even though the day didn't end how we wanted it to, we still played some really good volleyball," stated Jordyn Fleckenstein, the only Junior on the team. "I know that we can do great things, and today proved that."

The Bulldogs hold an 11-4 record after this tournament. They return to their season on September 13 to play the Victoria Knights and the Northern Valley Huskies in Rexford.