

Bulldogs Finish Season at Sub-State By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldogs finished their basketball season in the semi-final round of the Sub-State tournament in Ransom on March 6. The Bulldogs, who entered the tournament as a #3 seed with a 5-16 record, received a bye for the first round. They lost to the #2 Western Plains Bobcats 44-46 in a hard fought battle.

"I couldn't be more proud of my boys tonight," said Coach Travis Smith. "We raced out to grab a 15 point lead in the first quarter, but just couldn't hang on for the win." "Western Plains beat us by 21 in the first game of the year and only beat us by two tonight," added Smith. "We have improved so much."

The Bulldogs hit the floor ready to play, got the tip, and quickly took control working their way to a 17-2 lead before the Bobcats rallied on their own court. The 'Dogs couldn't quite match their intensity in the second quarter only putting in 6 points. The Bobcats took advantage and scored 17, but the Bulldogs held a slight 25-24 lead at the half. "We ran a diamond and one to try and take care of their best player," said Smith. "We were able to limit his teammates, but still had trouble with him."

The third quarter was similar to the second as the 'Dogs scored 9 to the Bobcat 14. The Bobcats had taken the lead by four 38-34, but the game was far from over. Halfway through the fourth, a shot from Kade Wessel and two free throws from Koi Wessel gave the Bulldogs their first lead since the half. The Bobcats also went to the free throw line and tied it up at 40.

Kade hit a basket to regain the lead for the Bulldogs only to have the Bobcats tie it up once again with two minutes remaining. The 'Cats then pulled ahead and the Bulldogs ran out of time to catch back up, losing the game and ending their season 44-46.

"We played a phenomenal first quarter," said Junior Cole Ziegelmeier. "We played to win. We spent the rest of the game playing not to lose." "This was our best game of the season," added senior Braden Korte. "Although it didn't end the way we wanted, we went out and did our best. That's all you can ask for."

Points in the sub-state game came from Kade Wessel-18, Koi Wessel-12, Dawson Spresser-3, Domonic Luna-6, and Brett Gerbitz-5. Braden Korte, Cole Ziegelmeier, Devin Carter, and Jesus Aragon also contributed to the game on both offense and defense.

Additional stats include: Korte-2 reb, 2 stl; Spresser-4 reb, 2 asst; Ziegelmeier-1 reb; Aragon-4 stl; Kade Wessel-7 reb, 2 stl; Koi Wessel-9 reb, 2 asst; Carter-1 reb; Luna-5 reb, 4 ast, 1 stl; Gerbitz-3 reb, 2 ast, 2 stl.