

## Bulldogs Open Season at Home

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldogs opened their basketball season at home on December 5 against the Western Plains Bobcats. The Bulldogs have been practicing hard for several weeks in preparation of what promises to be an exciting season. They graduated a large number of seniors last year so are hitting the court with players eager to gain experience.

Another change for the Bulldogs this season was in the head coaching title. Travis Smith returns as head of the high school boys basketball team after several years away from the high school court. He brings to the team his experience as a 15-year multiple sport coach at GPHS including three years as head high school boys' basketball coach from 2003-2005, assistant in 2008, and a trip to the state tournament. He also coaches middle school girls for his 8th consecutive year. Laura Rush returns for her third year as assistant boys coach.

"The boys played a fantastic first half," said Coach Smith, of the first game of the season. Their shots fell, as did the Bobcats, to hold a 20-20 score at the end of the first quarter. The 'Dogs hit another 9 in the second as the 'Cats pulled ahead 32-29 at the half.

The Bobcats extended their lead in the third quarter as the game escalated and fouls mounted. The Bulldogs did put in 10 points during the third along with 7 in the fourth, but the Bobcats claimed the win 67-46. "Things didn't fall our way in the second," continued Smith, but I saw a lot of positive things tonight." "We played a close game," added junior Cole Ziegelmeier, "but the score didn't show it. The fouls in the first half played a factor in the second."

Among the positives was the scoring of the Wessel twins from their post positions for the Bulldogs. Koi Wessel put in 19 points along with 14 from brother Kade. Sophomore Brett Gerbitz added two 3-pointers from the bench. Domonic Luna put in four, Ziegelmeier-2, and Braden Korte-1. The boys rebounded well with Koi Wessel claiming 12, Kade Wessel-8, Ziegelmeier-7, Luna-6, Korte-4, Nick Brown-2, and Jesus Aragon-1. The Bulldogs will play Quinter for the first round of the Castle Rock Tournament this week.