

Lady Bulldogs Play in Gove County Classic By Judy Rogers

The Lady Bulldogs played in the first annual Gove County Classic Volleyball tournament on September 13 in Grinnell. The girls entered the tournament following three wins on Tuesday. "This was the first year for the GCC tournament," said Coach Orba Smith, "and the girls competed very well."

Starting off the tournament in pool play, the Lady Bulldogs played the Decatur County Lady Red Devils. They started off with a small lead with Kynndra Rush serving only to have the Lady Devils catch up and pull ahead to a ten-point lead. With Morgan Ritter on the front row, the Lady 'Dogs narrowed the gap to five. A good athletic block by Gabrielle Schiltz and Kaylie Schaben closed it to three but the Lady Devils pulled ahead for the 25-18 win. In the second game, the Lady Devils took the early lead and held on for the same score win at 25-18 to claim the match.

For the second game of pool play, the Lady Bulldogs competed with the Weskan Lady Coyotes. The Lady 'Dogs took the lead early in the first match but the Lady Coyotes battled their way back in to tie it up at 21. Golden Plains regained the serve and a middle attack by Schiltz put them ahead by two. Weskan fought back and claimed the first game 25-23.

In the second game, the Lady Bulldogs picked up their game and kept it close throughout the match. The girls tied it up once again at 20 then again at 21 before the Lady Bulldogs tossed in some cross court kills and a big stuff at the net by Ritter and Morgan Walz to pull ahead 25-22 sending them into the third game.

In Game 3, the Lady Bulldogs took a strong lead and started to pull away with a 21-10 lead with some really good serving. The Lady Coyotes did not give up easily and worked their way back in to a final score of 25-21 with the Lady Bulldogs claiming the final victory.

The third game of pool play was against the Greeley County Lady Jackrabbits. The first game was 25-18 and the Lady Bulldogs finished them off with a 25-4 win. With Decatur County, Weskan, and Golden Plains each sitting with two wins each in their pool, the Lady 'Dogs advanced to bracket play in the Grinnell gym.

The semi-final game against the Quinter Lady Bulldogs went to three games with the Lady Bulldogs losing the first game 25-21, but they worked their way back in with 25-14 and 25-23 wins in the next two.

For the last game of the day, Golden Plains' girls were showing their fatigue from the long day of playing and waiting between games. They held a lead for much of the first game against the Cheylin Lady Cougars but the Cougars pulled ahead midway through the match to win the game 25-19. For the final game against the Lady Cougars, the junior girls continued their leadership on the court but nothing would go their way. Despite some admirable effort by the freshman and tremendous support from the sophomores, the Lady Bulldogs fell behind following an early lead and lost the game 25-16.

"Overall, I am very proud of the way the girls played on Saturday," added Coach Smith. "We finished the day 3-2 against some good teams. The girls played hard and demonstrated teamwork throughout the day."

The Lady Bulldogs now have a 6-4 record as the host their first home games this week when the host Healy, Heartland Christian, and Greeley County on Tuesday in Rexford.