

## Lady Bulldogs Play in Sub-State By Judy Rogers

The Lady Bulldogs concluded their season at the Sub-State tournament in Almena on October 25. The Golden Plains team entered the tournament with a 14-17 to play the Triplains/Brewster Lady Titans for the fourth time this year.

These two teams have played every game close and this tournament was no exception. The Lady Titans claimed the lead early in the first set and, despite a tied score early on, kept the lead throughout the first set. The Lady 'Dogs fought hard and had the score to within two but the Lady Titans finished with a 25-19 win.

The second set started with the Lady Bulldogs in the lead, which they were able to maintain for much of the game. The Lady Titans tied it up at 17 before pulling ahead. Big blocks from the front row, including juniors Kami Miller and Kynndra Rush, kept the Lady 'Dogs in the match and brought the game to a 23 point tie. Everyone on the court and in the stands felt the intensity as the girls focused on the game. The Lady Titans were able to claim the last two points and a 25-23 win over the Bulldogs.

This ended the season for the Golden Plains team. The Lady Titans advanced to play the Lady Trojans who defeated them and claimed the Sub-State championship.

"We improved a lot," said Miller of their season. "Our serves this year were overall good. Our passes improved greatly."

"We were really good at working together," added Brianna Stoll. "Our strength this season was that we were very close on and off the court," continued Morgan Ritter, "which allowed us to play to our fullest potential with the help and support from other teammates."

"I look back and I truly enjoyed this volleyball season," commented Assistant Coach Ashley Arnberger. "We weren't as successful in wins and losses as we had hoped, but this group worked extremely hard and gained a lot of valuable experience."

This experience will continue to assist the team as they prepare for next season. All but one team member will be returning for 2015. Some of the skills the girls feel they need to improve on for next year include serve receive, covering the floor more consistently, and better communication on the court.

Coach Orba Smith wrapped up the season with the following comments. "A quote by Winston Churchill pretty much sums up the 2014 Volleyball season.....'Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference'. "We began our season on August 18th with young, excited, inexperienced girls and ended our season on October 25th with still young, still excited, but much more experienced volleyball players," continued Smith. "There were many changes, ups and downs, in those two and a half months of volleyball. However, something that never waived was the positive, supportive attitudes exhibited by a great group of girls. Because of our inexperience and confidence level we struggled occasionally with consistency in our fundamentals, and we didn't win as many matches as we would have liked to. Even so, I am extremely proud of this group of girls. They remained united, as a team, and took advantage of every opportunity to become better volleyball players. With the experience these girls gained and the progress they made, I'm looking forward to a great 2015 season."