

## **Bulldogs Place Second at State** **By Charlotte McCurdy**

On Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> the Golden Plains Scholars' Bowl Team traveled to Ransom for their final meet of the year, the State Scholar's Bowl Meet. This is the second consecutive year the Golden Plains Scholars' Bowl team has made it to the state competition. Last year was the first time in nine years that the team had made it to state and the 'Dogs placed fifth. This year, they finished as the state runner-up—the highest any team has ever placed in state.

The preliminaries were run in pool play with six teams in each pool. Joining Golden Plains in Pool A was Kiowa-South Barber, Wetmore, Wheatland/Grinnell, Linn, and Logan. In Pool B were Rolla, Saint Xavier-Junction City, Tescott, Beloit-St. Johns. Argonia, and Central Christian-Hutchinson.

They started in round one against the Linn Bulldogs. At the end of the last question, it was all tied up. Golden Plains finished by winning the tiebreaker resulting in a final score of 60-50. The second round was a victory over South Barber with a score of 40-20. In round three was a tough loss by only ten points 30-40 to Logan. The second loss of the day was against Wetmore in round four in a tough round 50-20. The fifth and final round of prelims was a 40-20 win over Wheatland/Grinnell.

At the end of preliminaries the record was 3 wins and 2 losses. Two other teams had the same record. Multiple tie breakers were placed but it eventually all came down to points. In order to get into finals, a team must place in the top three in their pool. Golden Plains ended up in the top three along with Linn and Wetmore. From Pool B came Rolla, Beloit-St. Johns, and St. Xavier.

Finals started with a 50-40 win against Wetmore. The second round was against Rolla with a win for GP 40-30. Round three was another win against St. Johns 35-30. The last two rounds were both losses with only a ten point difference. Round four was a close loss to against St. Xavier 20-30. The final round was against Linn. After the final question it was tied 10-10. GP challenged the last question. They won the challenge so a replacement question was needed. Linn ended up answering the question correctly resulting in a score of 10-20 with GP losing.

This also resulted in a record of 3 wins and 2 losses in the final rounds. It again came down to points to determine who was going to get second, third, and fourth. St. Xavier came in sixth, in fifth was St. Johns, fourth was Wetmore, third was Rolla, and in second place the State Runners-Up was Golden Plains. The Championship went to Linn.

This is the first time in Golden Plains High School history that the High School Scholars' Bowl team placed second in the state competition. They placed third in 2008 and fifth last year. The Western Kansas Liberty League also sent the most teams this year. Those teams were Golden Plains, Wheatland/Grinnell, and Logan. Golden Plains was the only team from the WKLL to make it to finals this year.

This year's state qualifiers are seniors Devin Carter, Jennifer Esparza, Charlotte McCurdy, and Angel Sanchez and sophomores Taryn Fleckenstein and Flint Hodge. For the seniors, this was their last high school meet ever. Each of the seniors have been members of the Scholars' Bowl team for all four years of their high school career. The cumulative rounds all year have resulted in a total of 58 rounds won and only 12 lost.

"I could not be more proud of my team," said senior Devin Carter. "Second place at State is a great way to end my high school Scholars' Bowl Career!"

“I am very proud of how our team handled the high pressure at the state tournament,” added Coach Steiner Scott. “Through the experience of our seniors and contributions from our underclassmen, we were able to put together an impressive final run of the season. The hard work that this team has put into the last few seasons has finally paid off. I am looking forward to continuing our success next season.”