

Bulldogs Win One at Sagebrush

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldogs gained their first win of the season at the Sagebrush Tournament in Brewster last week. The Bulldogs lost to Logan, the eventual tournament champions, in the first round and defeated Cheylin in the second game on Friday. They played a close game with Weskan on Saturday but eventually lost to them at the end.

The opening game on Monday was against the Logan Trojans. The Trojans had the #2 seed in this early tournament. They opened the game with a 7 point lead before senior Bulldog Devin Carter and junior Dylan Spresser each put in a basket. A three from Jacob Ritter rounded out the scoring in the first as the Trojans gained an 18-7 lead.

The Bulldogs still struggled to score in the second with baskets coming from Wade Rush and Dylan Spresser as the defense held the Trojans to 9 for a halftime 27-12 Logan lead.

The Bulldogs had their best quarter in the third as they outscored the Trojans 16-13 with 8 points each from Caleb Korte and Harley Weese. The Bulldogs added another 7 in the fourth to end the game with a 35-56 loss to the Trojans.

Harley Weese led the Bulldogs with 13 points along with Caleb Korte 8, Dylan Spresser 5, Jacob Ritter 3, and 2 each from Devin Carter, Wade Rush, and Jaime Infante.

The Bulldogs advanced to play the Cheylin Cougars on Friday, December 8. The Bulldogs started out on fire with a 10 point lead before the Cougars could score to finish the quarter with a 13-7 Bulldog lead. The 'Dogs continued to push the ball hard as they maintained a 22-15 lead at the half.

The Cougars came back in the third hitting repeated shots to bring the game within two midway through the quarter. The Bulldogs answered to maintain a three point lead 28-25 going into the fourth.

The game was far from over as both teams worked hard to finish the game. The Bulldogs missed some free throws and the Cougars tied the game up at 28 with just over 4 minutes to play. The Cougars regained the lead, but two free shots from Wade Rush tied it back up at 30 at the two minute mark. Additional free throws from Nolan Ritter and Caleb Korte extended the Bulldog lead by two. With 17 seconds on the clock, Cheylin had the ball following a time out but turned it over. With 7 seconds to play, Harley Weese stepped to the free throw line and made a final shot for the 33-30 win for the Bulldogs.

Caleb Korte finished the game with 10 points along with 9 from Wade Rush. Harley Weese added 7, Nolan Ritter 3, Dylan Spresser 2, and Devin Carter 2. "It was good to get our first win over Cheylin," said Weese. "We played well as a team and shut down the people that needed to be stopped on defense."

With the second round win, the Bulldogs played Weskan on Saturday. This was another close, exciting game for the Bulldogs. The 'Dogs again started with an early lead, helped out by 6 points from Nolan Ritter in the first leading the Bulldogs to a 15-11 lead by the end of the quarter.

The Coyotes came back in the second to tie the game up. They would pull ahead but the Bulldogs answered to tie it back up several times keeping a 28 point tie on the board with 17 seconds until half. The Coyotes made a final free throw to lead 29-28 at the buzzer.

The Coyotes pulled ahead again in the third only to have the Bulldogs regain the lead midway through the quarter. Hitting five of six free throws, the Bulldogs led 42-37 going into the final 8 minutes of the tournament.

The Bulldogs hustled throughout the tournament and didn't let up as they battled it out during this last game. The Coyotes tied the game up early in the fourth pulling ahead slightly. Harley Weese hit a three with 4 minutes on the clock to regain a one point lead but the Coyotes answered. The last few minutes were spent on the free throw line with the Coyotes pulling ahead for the win 55-48.

Weese and Rush finished the game with 13 points each along with Korte 7, Nolan Ritter 6, Dylan Spresser 3, and Jacob Ritter, Devin Carter, and Jeron Schutte with 2 each.

"We had a pretty good tournament," said Nolan Ritter, "We are playing better as a team as we get to know each other's strengths." "I'm proud of our team, but we still need to work on offense," added Weese, "especially our free throws, transitions, and fast breaks. We will continue to improve as the season progresses."

The Bulldogs will continue their season in Stockton on December 19 for their final game before the Christmas break.