

Bulldogs Win Two at League

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldogs went 2-2 in their four games played during the Western Kansas Liberty League basketball tournament in Grainfield and Colby. The Bulldogs won the play in game over Western Plains/Healy 51-35 on January 27. They then lost to eventual league champions Northern Valley 28-79 on Monday and to Weskan 43-60 on Tuesday. They finished the tournament with a 54-38 win over Palco on Friday. "I think we played ok," said Nolan Ritter. "We could have played better in the games we lost; we needed more focus."

In the first game against the Western Plains/Healy Bobcats, junior Nolan Ritter hit the first six points for the Bulldogs, while Jacob Ritter added 8 and Caleb Korte 2 to give them a 16-10 lead at the end of the first. The Bulldogs continued to spread the ball around the floor as they added 14 in the second to lead 30-18 at the half.

The 'Dogs only scored 7 to the Bobcats 8 in the third quarter but came back in the fourth to add 14 points-including a last second three pointer from freshman Kole Butts for the 51-38 win. Points were well distributed with Jacob Ritter 10, Nolan Ritter 10, Harley Weese 10, Caleb Korte 6, Dylan Spresser 4, Kole Butts 3, Wade Rush 3, Austin Patmon 3, and Jaime Infante 2. With this play-in game win, the 'Dogs advanced in the tournament for the quarter-finals on Monday.

The quarter final game on Monday was against the top-seeded Northern Valley Huskies. The Huskies took an early lead 7-0 before the 'Dogs could score a three from sophomore Harley Weese. The Huskies controlled the quarter with a 21-6 lead. The Bulldogs just couldn't get their offense going as the Huskies extended their lead to 39-11 by the half.

The second half was a continuation of the first as the Huskies pumped in 30 points to the Bulldog 12. With a running clock in the fourth, the game ended with a 79-28 win for the Huskies. Weese led the Bulldogs with 13 points along with Wade Rush 7, Nolan Ritter 3, Austin Patmon 3 and Caleb Korte 2.

The tournament moved to Colby for the semi-finals on Tuesday. The Bulldogs matched up with the Weskan Coyotes for the third time this season. The Coyotes had won the first two contests, and this game had a similar outcome.

The Coyotes took the lead 17-5 in the first. The Bulldogs fought back in the second to add 11 points, but the Coyotes added 12 to lead 29-16 at the half.

The Coyotes again controlled the third quarter but the "Dogs never gave up and outscored the Coyotes 19-14 in the fourth to finish the game with a 60-43 win for the Coyotes. Caleb Korte led the Bulldogs with 14 points along with Nolan Ritter 8, Wade Rush 8, Harley Weese 5, Dylan Spresser 5, Austin Patmon 2 and Jaime Infante 1.

For the final game of the tournament, the Bulldogs played Palco in the 7th place game. They had not played Palco yet this season and were up for the challenge. The 'Dogs got up 10-4 in the first, but the Roosters responded to give the 'Dogs a 13-11 lead by the end of the quarter.

The Bulldogs added another 12 in the second while their defense held the Roosters to 4 to extend their lead to 32-23 by the half.

The boys kept the game close in the third with the Roosters outscoring the 'Dogs 8-7, but the Bulldogs answered with 22 points in the fourth to win the game 54-38.

The Bulldogs made 10 three-pointers in this final tournament game with Harley Weese putting in 17 points and Wade Rush adding 16. Jacob Ritter and Dylan Spresser each made 5 while Caleb Korte put in 4. Austin Patmon scored a 3 as Nolan Ritter and Jaime Infante each added 2.

"Some of the games were pretty rough," said Wade Rush. "We need to work more in practice on making our shots. Now that we are getting over being sick, we should show improvement." "It was a long week," added Dylan Spresser, "but we were glad to finish with a win."

"We are getting better at controlling the ball," continued Ritter. "We are working well as a team and look to add a few more wins as the season winds down." The Bulldogs return to regular season play as they host Cheylin on February 9 in Rexford.