

Lady Bulldogs Sweep at Sagebrush By Amanda Cheney

The GPHS Lady Bulldogs competed in the Sagebrush Shootout tournament in Brewster the week of December 4. The girls defeated Wray, Colorado's JV team on Monday, Logan on Friday, and St. Francis on Saturday, earning the girls a back-to-back championship win. "We played together as a team for the entirety of the tournament," said junior Noel Ritter. "I'm proud of how everyone played and did their part to contribute."

The girls played Wray first on Monday. The Bulldogs won the tip and jumped to a quick lead of 10-2. They would continue their lead with a shot at the buzzer from Noel Ritter, making the score 20-2 at the end of the quarter. The Dogs continued to play great defense and get shots to fall into halftime 32-11. The girls kept their fire going to end the third quarter 47-15 and finally win the game 54-19. Girls contributing points in the first game included KayCee Miller-10, Maggi Nieman-9, Noel Ritter-8, Ashley Stoll-8, Mabel Lugo-7, Kaylie Schaben-5, Taryn Fleckenstein-4, and Brooke Stoll-3.

The girls moved on in the tournament to play Logan in the semifinals on Friday. They once again won the tip and quickly scored the first points of the game. The 'Dogs continued to score, ending the first quarter 13-5. The girls kept up the hustle in the second quarter with good ball movement and great rebounds from Kaylie Schaben. The girls would head into halftime with a lead of 23-10.

The Lady Bulldogs came into the third quarter hot on their 3 point shots. The girls rallied in the third and kept great defense, making the score 40-15. They kept the intensity in the fourth, ending the game with a win 48-22. Points in this game came from Miller-18, Nieman-12, Lugo-8, Schaben-4, Stoll-4, and Ritter-2.

The 'Dogs competed in the championship game against St. Francis on Saturday. "I was very confident going into the championship game," said KayCee Miller. "We were very excited to redeem our championship win." It started out close in the first, but the Bulldogs pulled ahead 12-8 in the first quarter. The girls continued to outscore the Indians, heading into halftime with a lead of 24-11.

The Dogs continued to draw fouls and put away free throws in the third quarter, making the score 38-21. Great offensive possessions and defensive stops led the Lady Bulldogs to win the game 51-29. Team members contributing points in the final game included Noel Ritter-17, KayCee Miller-16, Kaylie Schaben 6, Maggi Nieman-5, Amanda Cheney-2, Ashley Stoll-2, Brooke Stoll-2, and Mabel Lugo-1.

"I think we played exceptionally well, and our defense was impressive in every game," added Miller, who scored a total of 42 points in the tournament and made the all-tournament team. "We need to practice control heading into the rest of the season," added Ritter. The Bulldogs will play next at Stockton on Tuesday December 19 before Christmas break.