

Bulldogs Advance in Sub-State By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldogs won their first round game of the Sub-State Tournament on February 26 to advance to the Semi-Finals in Sharon Springs. The 'Dogs entered the tournament as the #4 seed with a 7-14 record and faced off with the Cheylin Cougars to see who would advance. The 'Dogs had defeated the Cougars three times already this season with close games each time so they knew they were going to have to play as a team to get the win.

The Cougars struck early in the first only to be answered with two quick baskets from junior Caleb Korte. Sophomore Harley Weese got on the board to extend the lead with a final basket by Jaime Infante to give the 'Dogs a 16-5 lead by the end of the quarter.

The Cougars worked the ball into the basket to add 8 in the second, but the Bulldogs did not back down as they added 13 to lead 29-13 at half time. The third continued to be a battle as the 'Dogs only added 7 to their score with the Bulldogs having three starters on the bench due to fouls. The Cougars took advantage and increased their score by 10 to narrow the gap to 36-23 going into the fourth.

The fourth quarter was all about the score as each team played to the finish. The Cougars added 22 points and managed to close the spread only to have the Bulldogs answer with 25 for the 62-45 win and the opportunity to continue their season.

Korte finished the game with 18 points. Harley Weese added 12 and Wade Rush 11. Jacob Ritter scored 7, Jaime Infante 6, Nolan Ritter 5, and Dylan Spresser 2. The 'Dogs will play Wheatland/Grinnell in the semi-finals on Thursday, March 1.

In the Semi-Final game, the Bulldogs gained the lead early with a 3 from Harley Weese, but the Thunderhawks quickly took control and worked their way to a 13-3 lead. Two baskets by Wade Rush late in the quarter kept the 'Dogs in the game, but trailing 7-13 at the buzzer.

The teams put up their defenses and the 'Dogs held the 'Hawks to 9 in the second. Late in the quarter, Caleb Korte was fouled on a shot and made the and one. A final basket by Nolan Ritter put the 'Dogs behind 12-22 at the half.

The Bulldogs continued to struggle offensively in the third allowing the 'Hawks to add another 13 while only adding 7 of their own. Trailing 19-35, the Bulldogs stepped up on offense and distributed the ball with Jacob Ritter, Nolan Ritter, and Austin Patmon each hitting a three along with baskets by Weese, Rush, and Korte to outscore the 'Hawks 16-13. It wasn't quite enough as the 'Hawks won the game 46-35 ending the Bulldogs season. Nolan Ritter and Rush each finished the game with 8 points each as Weese and Korte each added 5, Jacob Ritter, Patmon, and Jaime Infante each scored 3.

The Bulldogs finished the season with 8 wins and 15 losses—twice as many wins as last season. With no seniors on the team, they will be returning six juniors along with a strong sophomore lineup and some promising freshmen. "With all the returning players, we should be able to build on what we accomplished this year," said Jacob Ritter-junior.

“It was a fun year,” said junior Dylan Spresser. “We got better as the season went on.” “We aren’t losing any players for next year,” added junior Nolan Ritter. “I expect that we will continue to improve and have more wins.”

“It was a fun year for my first time playing high school basketball,” said junior Miguel Monge. “We worked on our shooting a lot more toward the end of the season,” continued junior Caleb Korte. “If we keep working over the summer and get everyone in the weight room, we should have a great senior season.” “I am looking forward to next year,” concluded Josh Spresser-junior.