

## Bulldogs Take Third at Gove County Classic

By Amanda Cheney

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs travelled to Grainfield to compete in the Gove County Classic Volleyball tournament on September 9. The tournament was set up with two pools, with the Bulldogs competing in Pool A with Cheylin, Decatur County, and Wheatland-Grinnell. "It was a great day overall," said Senior Maggi Nieman. "We had good transition most of the day, and we hustled and worked together really well." The girls went 3-2 on the day, earning them third place overall.

The girls started the day with a lot of energy against the Cheylin Cougars. The girls kept it a close game up until a 10-straight serving run by Amanda Cheney, pushing the girls into a 15-8 lead. The girls kept the enthusiasm to win the first set 25-10. The second set started a little slower for the 'Dogs, keeping it within a couple points with the Cougars. With a serving run by Jennifer Esparza and several kills from KayCee Miller, the 'Dogs forced Cheylin to take a timeout. The girls kept fighting, but fell short on the second set 23-25. The 'Dogs came into the third set to start the day with a win, and worked for it with several aces and kills. GP won the final set 25-16.

After a game to sit out, the girls took on Decatur County. The girls stepped on the court fired up from their last match, ready to work hard for a win. The first set was another close set with the teams staying within a couple points the entire game. The 'Dogs won the first set 25-21. GP would go on to win 25-19 against the Red Devils.

The Lady Bulldog's last pool play match was against Wheatland-Grinnell. The 'Dogs couldn't get the fire started again in the first set, losing to the Thunderhawks 9-25. As tiredness set in, the girls struggled through the second set, losing 6-25.

GP placed second in their pool, moving them onto the championship bracket with St. Francis, Quinter, and Wheatland-Grinnell. The Bulldogs took on St. Francis in their first match. They couldn't seem to get a rally going, losing 14-25. The 'Dogs kept it close in the second, but lost 22-25. Immediately after, GP took on Quinter for third place. The girls fired up for one more match, despite the long day, and won both sets 25-20, 25-20.

"Gove County was a good learning experience for everyone on our team," added Nieman. "There was really good competition from all the teams, and I'm very happy with how we played." The Lady Bulldogs went 3-2 on the day, making their overall record 5-4. The girls will travel to Victoria on September 12 to take on Northern Valley and Victoria in two varsity matches.