

## Lady Bulldogs Take Fourth at League Volleyball By Amanda Cheney

The Golden Plains High School volleyball team competed at the WKLL tournament at Grainfield on October 12 and at Brewster on October 14. The girls went 3-3 at the tournament, earning 4<sup>th</sup> place overall. "We were going in ready to compete," said KayCee Miller. "My goal for our team was to be in the top four, which we accomplished."

The 'Dogs first game of the tournament was against Wheatland/Grinnell. The girls had taken the Thunderhawks to three sets at Dighton just two days before. GP had a slow start, allowing Wheatland to jump to a quick lead of 1-7. The Bulldogs couldn't get the fire from Tuesday started again, losing the first set 8-25. They performed better in the second set but still fell to the 'Hawks 17-25.

The girls played their second match of pool play on Thursday against Triplains/Brewster. The first set went quickly with the 'Dogs winning 25-9. The second set was a slower game for GP, ending with a loss 22-25. The final set went back and forth most of the game, resulting in the 'Dogs winning 25-19. "I'm glad we finished the day on a strong note," said KayCee Miller. "I'm glad we got a win, and I think it helped boost our confidence for day two."

The Lady Bulldogs then traveled to Brewster on Saturday to finish the tournament. The first match for the Bulldogs was against the Heartland Christian Crusaders. GP quickly took control of the first set, winning 25-7. Heartland kept the second set close, forcing a GP timeout at 14-11. The very competitive set ended with a Bulldog win 25-15.

The girls' last pool play match was against Western Plains Healy. The girls controlled the first set and won 25-12. The 'Dogs led the entirety of the last set and won 25-15.

GP exited pool play as the second seed behind Wheatland/Grinnell. Their semi-final match was against the Northern Valley Huskies. The Bulldogs kept it close throughout the first set but couldn't keep the fire going, ending with a 17-25 loss. The girls found their fire again, improving with consistent serves and attacks. GP ended the very close set with a loss 20-25.

The Lady Bulldogs' final match was against the Logan Trojans for third place. The girls had a bit of a slow start, using a timeout with the score at 8-17. The girls pulled together and continued to compete, ending the set 21-25. The Bulldogs came out with excitement and determination in the second set, pulling to an early lead of 15-5. They continued to rally and won 25-19. GP had first serve in the final set. "We knew we had to continue to work hard in this last set," said Maggi Nieman. The game was very back-and-forth, with GP taking a timeout at 14-13. The 'Dogs continued to fight through many long volleys but ended the match with a close 22-25 loss.

"I was proud that we were able to come out of pool play and set ourselves up for success," said Maggi Nieman. "It's a shame that we weren't able to get third, but we're learning from our mistakes to prepare for sub-state!" The Lady Bulldogs will travel to Sharon Springs to participate in the sub-state tournament on October 21.