

MS Girls Runner-Up at League  
By KayCee Miller

The Golden Plains Middle School Volleyball team ended their season strong as runner's-up in the WKLL tournament at Wheatland on October 19. The 'Dogs came out of pool play 3-0 and finished the day 4-1. The team had a total of 10 eighth graders, 7 seventh graders, and 5 sixth graders. The Lady Bulldogs worked hard to regain their championship title but came up just a little short.

The girls started the day in pool play against the Palco Roosters. They won the first set 25-11. The second set was a little closer but the girls managed to hold them off winning the set 25-23. The Lady Bulldogs then moved on to play Western Plains/Healy. The 'Dogs beat them in the first set 25-7 with 8<sup>th</sup> grader Morgan Wark serving 12 serves in a row to start the set. In the second set the girls went on another 5 serve run with 8<sup>th</sup> grader Kassie Miller to end the set 25-14.

The next pool play game was against Logan. Logan had beat the Lady Bulldogs in regular season, so the girls were fired up and ready to go. They won the first set 25-23 and were able to hold off the Trojans in the second set to win 25-19. This gave the 'Dogs the first seed coming out of pool play. "I was glad we got the win against Logan," said 8<sup>th</sup> grader, Morgan Wark. "We never gave up!"

The Lady Bulldogs competed against the Northern Valley Huskies in the semifinals game. The 'Dogs had a close first match with the Huskies winning it 25-23. They then came back in the second set and beat the Huskies 25-5. Miller again served 15 in a row. This win gave the Bulldogs a spot in the championship match against the Wheatland-Grinnell Thunderhawks.

The Bulldogs knew that this game would be tough since the Thunderhawks had beaten them in regular season. They started off just a little slow but kept fighting. Coach Fleckenstein called her second timeout when the score was 16-23. The 'Dogs lost the first set 17-25 but were determined to come back and beat the Thunderhawks. The second set was close the whole set and the Lady Bulldogs won 27-25. This gave the girls another opportunity to defend their championship title. The Lady 'Dogs fought the close-played set to the end but fell a little short 25-22.

"We have improved so much over the season," said eighth grader, Kassie Miller, "we worked hard all day but just fell a little short in the championship game." "We didn't get quite get what we were going for," added head coach, Mindy Fleckenstein, "but the girls played and worked very hard all day."

The Lady Bulldogs ended their season WKLL Runner's-up with a record of 11-4. "We thought our Middle School Volleyball season went very well," concluded the eighth grade girls. "We are excited to compete at the high school level next year."