

Golden Plains Posts 8-2 Season By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldogs finished their season with an 8-2 record following their Runner-Up finish in the Wild West Bowl on November 10 in Dodge City. This is the highest achievement for the team in post-season play in the history of the school.

The 'Dogs also went 8-2 in 2002—the first year they made playoffs in 8-Man Division II under Coach Smith. They made district playoffs in 1984, 1988, 2002, 2009, and 2010 in 8-man and have made playoffs and played in the Wild West Bowl the past three seasons—2016, 2017, and 2018.

Coach Travis Smith has been at the helm of Bulldog Football for 19 seasons. “Thanks to Coach Aumiller for helping me with everything this year,” said Smith. Coach Aumiller is in his second year as assistant coach.

The Bulldogs will graduate six seniors this year. “I wanted so badly for these seniors to go out on top, and in my mind they did,” added Smith. “We had a good season,” said senior running back Dylan Spresser. “I’m proud of how we came together as a team. Each person knew their job and made their contribution to the team’s success.”

“It was incredible to make it to the state championship game,” added senior lineman Minguel Stevens-Monge. “It was an honor for me to be a part of this team. I will miss playing with my football family.” “This hard working group of seniors led us to a winning season,” continued senior end Nolan Ritter.

“The season was amazing,” added Josh Spresser-senior. “It was such a highlight to win over an undefeated team (Ashland) in sub-state to qualify for the championship game.”

“This was definitely the best our crowd has supported the team during the season while we have been in high school,” said head cheerleader Amanda Cheney. “The sub-state game was so much fun to cheer and the crowd did a great job.” “Thank you all for supporting us this year,” added Smith. “You’ll never understand how much it means to me.”

The Bulldogs will return 2 junior, 5 sophomore, and 3 freshman team members next season along with the 4 freshman and 1 sophomore managers. “I’ve got the best managers who work hard everyday to help us be organized at practice,” said Smith.

“Although we will miss the seniors from this year, we will step up as leaders and build a solid team to have another successful season,” said sophomore Wade Rush. “I would encourage everyone to participate all four years of high school to enjoy the team experience,” added Jacob Ritter, senior. “They need to make the most of their high school years and work hard in practices so they are ready to play when it’s their time on the field.” “Everyone on the team needs to make sure to put in their time over the summer,” added Nolan Ritter. “They need to lift in the summer and make sure to participate in the summer camp.”