

Lady 'Dogs Place Third at GCC

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs competed in the Gove County Classic on September 8 in Grainfield and Quinter. The girls won their pool in Quinter placing third overall in the tournament. "It was a very long day," said Mabel Lugo, junior. "We had some lapses, but we kept each other focused to recover and worked very hard throughout the day."

The first game of their pool was against the Decatur County Red Devils from Oberlin. Oberlin took an early lead but the Bulldogs fought back. With Ashley Stoll leading the front row, the girls worked their way to a 17-15 lead. Oberlin didn't give in and the set remained tied at 24 before an Oberlin serve went deep giving the Bulldogs the lead allowing for the win 26-24.

Set two was another hard fought close game. Oberlin was hitting on all cylinders and maintained the lead throughout the very tight match. They finished with the win 25-23 sending the game to a third set. On a roll, the Oberlin girls gave the Bulldogs another close set keeping it within single digits as the Red Devils finished with the set and the match with the 25-22 win.

The Lady Bulldogs did not let this early loss get them down as they faced Quinter for the second game of pool play. The first set was another close game as the Golden Plains girls won 25-21. Set 2 was still a challenge as Golden Plains won 25-18.

The third game of pool play was against Cheylin. The Cougars gave the Bulldogs a run but some great serving helped Golden Plains to the 25-17 win in Set 1. The Cougars weren't ready to give them the game as they fought back in Set 2. Some decisive kills by KayCee Miller and Mabel Lugo along with ACE serves from Amanda Cheney late in the game gave the Bulldogs the close win 25-23.

At the end of pool play, Golden Plains, Oberlin, and Cheylin were all 2-1. Looking at wins and scores, Golden Plains claimed the first place spot with Cheylin in second. They advanced to Grainfield for the semi-final matches.

The Bulldogs competed with the Wheatland/Grinnell Thunderhawks for the semi-final game. The first set remained close and was tied up at 19. The 'Hawks took over and finished with the win 25-19. Golden Plains recharged for the second set and again were tied up at 19. KayCee Miller went to serve and the Bulldogs pulled ahead 22-20. Cheney gained a few more points with Lugo serving the final point for the Bulldog win 25-21 sending the match to a third set. These two quality teams gave their fans another exciting set as they battled back and forth but the Thunderhawks claimed the spot in the championship match with the 25-21 win.

For the third place title, Golden Plains faced off with Cheylin for the second time of the day. The Bulldogs and the Cougars had a feel for what the other could do from their pool play match, but both teams were wearing down from the long day of competitive play. The Lady Bulldogs come out on top in the first set 25-20 but fell to the Cougars in the second set 19-25.

The girls dug deep with determination, helped each other focus, and worked together to win the third set 25-17 and place third in the tournament.

The Lady Bulldogs move to an 11-4 record after placing third at Gove. They continued with regular season play on Tuesday, September 11, as they traveled to Almena to meet up with Northern Valley and Victoria.