

Bulldogs Finish Season at Sub-State By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldog basketball team ended their season at the Russell Sub-State Tournament on March 5 with a 40-58 loss to the Greeley County Jackrabbits from Tribune.

The Jackrabbits opened the game with an 8 point lead before Golden Plains could get on the boards. With a three from Wade Rush and a basket from Harley Weese, the Dogs were down 5-13 by the end of the first quarter.

Weese hit three shots in the second along with a bucket from Ashton Schiltz for the Dogs but the Jackrabbits controlled the quarter with 21 additional points to lead 36-13 at the half.

The Jackrabbits continued to extend their lead with 16 additional in the third while the Bulldogs spread the ball around the floor. A buzzer shot from Kole Butts put the Dogs down 23-50 going into the fourth.

The Dogs weren't quite ready to give up as they pursued the basket throughout the fourth. Senior Harley Weese put in six shots and two free throws in what would be his final game for the Bulldogs. Rush added another three giving the Dogs 17 in the fourth while the Jackrabbits put in 8 for the 58-40 win.

Weese finished the game with 22 points for Golden Plains while Rush added 8. Schiltz finished with 4, Butts 3, Jovanny Infante 2, and Jaime Infante 1.

The Bulldogs finished a roller-coaster season with a 6-19 record. They got off to a challenging start at the beginning of the season before capturing a 1-point win against Western Plains/Healy. Despite illness and injuries throughout the winter, they gained a second win over Palco in the WKLL tournament and finished the regular season with back-to-back wins over Cheylin and Rawlins County.

The boys opened the post-season with additional victories over Palco and a double-overtime win over Wheatland/Grinnell to get to the Regional Championship game. They lost to Quinter, but advanced to the Sub-State game in Russell.

"Our season record does not reflect the level of improvement among all the players," said Weese, who was the leading scorer for the Bulldogs in many of the games. "We had a lot of challenges health-wise and came together as a team to make a run at the end of the season. I'm proud of how much we all improved and supported one another."

"I'm proud to be a part of this team," said Joseph Yanez-Perez. "Through all the ups and downs, we made it to Sub-State for the first time in a long time. It was a good season and I will miss playing basketball as part of the team." "It was good how we finished the season with a regional plaque and a sub-state game," added Austin Patmon.

"I worked every day in practice to make myself and my team better," said Jaime Infante. "Although we had three different coaches throughout high school, we were all able to adjust and continue to do our best. It was a big challenge to change each year but we stuck together to finish as a team."

"Our younger kids showed a lot of development," continued Colby Lathrop. "They should continue to improve and see additional success next season. It was a good four years being a part of the team and playing with a variety of coaches and teammates at GPHS." "Although we are graduating 5 seniors, we have a lot of younger guys coming back next year," added Weese. "They will bring some valuable experience and we all wish them well."