

## Lady Bulldogs Win Sagebrush Tournament Four Years Straight By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs won the Sagebrush Tournament in Brewster for the fourth straight year on December 14 with wins over Triplains/Brewster, Logan and St. Francis. "I enjoyed getting to start the year off with a tournament win!" said Ashley Stoll. "I think these games strengthened our team as a whole and I am excited to see how the rest of the season goes!"

The tournament began on Monday, December 9, with the top seeded Bulldogs taking on Triplains/Brewster. The Bulldogs won the tip and jumped to a 13-0 lead before the Lady Titans scored near the end of the quarter to make it 13-2. The Bulldogs stayed strong throughout the second to lead 28-5 at the half.

The Bulldogs continued to play well in the second half to lead 44-11 at the end of the third and won the game 48-20. Bulldog points came from Zoey Hillis 16, Kassie Miller 9, Ashley Stoll 9, Brooke Stoll 5, Morgan Wark 5, Amie Cheney 2, and Taryn Fleckenstein 2.

The Lady Dogs advanced to the semi finals on Friday to face the Logan Lady Trojans. The dominant Bulldogs once again pulled to an early lead 17-3 at the end of the first. With strong defense and unstoppable offense, the girls led 31-12 at half time.

The Trojans picked up their pace to add 8 in the third while holding the Dogs to 6. The Dogs regrouped in the fourth to finish the game with an additional 16 to capture the win 53-27. Scoring for GP were Kassie Miller 27, Ashley Stoll 7, Zoey Hillis 7, Brooke Stoll 6, Rayna Taylor 3, Taryn Fleckenstein 2, and Morgan Wark 1.

With two wins for the week, the Lady Bulldogs headed to the championship game for the fourth year in a row where they faced the St. Francis Lady Indians. The Lady Bulldogs got off to a difficult start against the physical aggressiveness of the Indians. Although St. Francis took an early 7-2 lead, baskets from Zoey Hillis and Ashley Stoll finally fell to give the Indians a slight 11-9 lead at the end of the first.

The Bulldogs remained flustered in the second as the Indians extended their lead to 20-9 midway through the second. A three from Brooke Stoll helped the girls as did a couple of free shots from Taryn Fleckenstein and another basket from Ashley Stoll. Still, the Indians led 24-16 at the half.

Kassie Miller, who did not score at all in the first half, began hitting shots in the third quarter as St. Francis repeatedly fouled on Golden Plains. Both teams were fighting hard as the Bulldogs gained their first lead of the game 29-28 with a three from Ashley Stoll with 2:49 remaining in the third. With a steal and a layup from Miller and additional shots from Hillis and Brooke Stoll, the Bulldogs held a 34-30 lead going into the fourth.

The Bulldogs continued to fight for position in this very physical game throughout the fourth. Miller put up repeated shots along with shots from Ashley Stoll, Carli Nieman, and Brooke Stoll to give the Lady Bulldogs the championship win 50-38.

"I am proud of how we never gave up during the championship game to come from behind and capture the win!" exclaimed Brooke Stoll. "It was a good tournament where we improved our play every single game! I am excited to see how the rest of the season goes!"

Miller finished the game with 17 points for Golden Plains along with 14 from Ashley Stoll. Brooke Stoll added 8, Zoey Hillis 6, Carli Nieman 3, and Taryn Fleckenstein 2.

The Bulldogs will continue their season as they travel to Almena to take on the Northern Valley Huskies on December 20.