

Lady Bulldog Post 24-1 Season
By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs finished their season with a 24-1 Record and as the Sub-State Runner-Up Title at the Wakeeney Sub-State on March 7.

The girls played the semi-final game against the Weskan Lady Coyotes on March 6. The Bulldogs got off to a great start in the first with 9 points from Ashley Stoll. Additional baskets from Kassie Miller, Carli Nieman, and Morgan Wark put the Dogs up 17-7 at the end of the quarter.

The early lead helped them maintain a 23-17 lead at half time as they could only get six points to fall in the second while the Coyotes added 10. As the Dogs stepped up their defense in the third to hold the Coyotes to 4, the GP offense added 12, including 8 from Miller.

The Lady Bulldogs clinched their spot in the championship game as they added 9 more in the fourth for the 44-28 win over Weskan. Ashley Stoll finished the game with 15 points, Kassie Miller 14, Zoey Hillis 6, Carli Nieman 4, Brooke Stoll 3, and Morgan Wark 2.

The Lady Bulldogs faced off against Otis-Bison in the Championship game on Saturday. They knew the Cougars outsized them on the floor but they were prepared to give it their all. Unfortunately, they were unable to stop the Cougars beneath the basket as they allowed them to gain a 14-4 lead in the first quarter.

The girls fought their way through the second quarter to add 10 points holding the Cougars to 9. Still trailing 14-22 at the half, they started the third with a three from Brooke Stoll before allowing the Cougars to go on a 12 point run. Kassie Miller hit another three pointer at the buzzer to make the score 20-36 with 8 minutes to play.

The Lady Bulldogs never gave up as they fought to the finish throughout the fourth. They hit 7 of 8 free throws along with baskets and three point shots from both Miller and Ashley Stoll. The Cougars were determined as well as they added 15 for the win 51-37.

Ashley Stoll finished the game with 13 points along with 12 from Kassie Miller. Brooke Stoll added 8, Breanna Rath 2, and Carli Nieman 2.

The Lady Bulldogs finished the season with a 24-1 record and as Sub-State Runner-Up matching last year's accomplishment. They were the Sagebrush Tournament Champions the past four years and the Western Kansas Liberty League Tournament Champions the past three years, They were Regional Champions the past two years and the seniors finished fourth in state their freshman year.

"Working as a team helped us to accomplish these goals," said Candace Taylor. "It all starts in practice. I encourage the girls to play for each other and to work as hard in practice as they would in a game. Above all—have fun! It's all over before you know it."

"I enjoyed all four years of basketball," added Emily Stoltz. "All of the girls worked very hard. I'm proud to have been a part of the team. I wish them continued success next season."

"Our focus both in practice and in the games led us to accomplishing great things as a team," continued Zoey Hillis. "I encourage the younger girls to leave it all

on the court. Finish your career knowing you gave it your all. I will definitely miss playing the game and enjoying the camaraderie that comes along with being a member of the team.”

“Playing basketball at GPHS has taught me more than just how to play basketball,” said Taryn Fleckenstein. “We learned what it takes to be a team. It matters who is there every day to support the girls on the floor. You can’t take any of it for granted. Four years goes by so fast!”

“I am sad that the season is over,” said senior Mabel Lugo who was sidelined due to a volleyball injury. “I was sad that I couldn't play but I thank them for giving me this opportunity to still be a part of it. I am proud of my team for getting this far and competing and giving their full effort. Thank you for all four years, I wish them the best for the next season.”