

Bulldogs Compete at Sagebrush

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldog basketball team competed in the Sagebrush Tournament in Brewster December 9-14. The boys played well together and worked hard but were unable to capture a win as they dropped games to St. Francis, Wallace County, and Weskan.

The first game on Monday was against the St. Francis Indians. The Bulldogs won the tip and scored a quick two by Harley Weese. The Indians answered but baskets by Ashton Schiltz and Wade Rush tied the game up at 7. Baskets by Jaime Infante and two threes from Wade Rush gave the Dogs a 14-11 lead. The Indians answered with a couple more shots to hold a 16-14 lead at the end of the first.

Playing a pretty clean first half, the boys continued to trade baskets in the second with the Indians maintaining a 27-23 lead at the half. The GP offense went a little stagnant in the third with the Dogs only adding 8 while the Indians stretched their lead to 45-31.

Wade Rush took over with a quick five to start the fourth. Jovanny Infante added a couple of points as the Bulldogs finished the game with a 42-59 loss to the Indians. "We played well in the first half," said Rush. "We just need to reduce turnovers and watch our passes and make sure we get the rebounds." Rush led the Dogs with 20 points, 12 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals, and 2 deflections. Harley Weese added 8 points, 7 steals and 1 assist, 1 steal, and took 1 charge.

Jaime Infante scored 6 points and 6 rebounds while Ashton Schiltz put in 4 points and grabbed 4 rebounds and 1 assist. Jovanny Infante contributed 2 points and 3 rebounds. Fabian Cepeda had 2 points, 2 assists, and 2 deflections. Other contributions include Colby Lathrop with 2 reb, 1 asst, 1 defl.; Austin Patmon 1 asst.; Joseph Yanez-Perez 1 steal, and Alex Gonzalez with 1 rebound.

On Friday, the Bulldogs faced off against the Wallace County Wildcats. The Dogs got off to a great start putting in 13 points in the first quarter from Wade Rush, Austin Patmon, and Jaime Infante. Despite a slight lead near the end of the first, the Wildcats hit a late quarter shot to lead 14-13 at the buzzer.

The Dogs continued to play strong in the second as they added another 19 including a couple of threes from Patmon. The Cats answered each shot, including several three-pointers, to add 20 for a 34-32 half time lead.

The Dogs come out in a third quarter slump and were only able to add 8 points to the Cats 17 in the third, but rallied in the fourth to finish with an additional 16—9 from Harley Weese, 5 from Patmon, and 2 from Rush, as they held the Cats to 12 to finish the game with a 63-56 Wallace County win.

Points for Golden Plains were earned by Austin Patmon 17, Wade Rush 15, Harley Weese 13, and Jaime Infante 11. "We had 4 players in double figures," said Patmon. "Our passes were good and Coach Fellhoelter believed in us which gave us the confidence to score."

Rebounds came from Weese 13, Rush 11, Patmon 7, Infante 5, Lathrop 4, Schiltz 4, and Jovanny Infante 1. Rush had 7 assists along with Lathrop 3 and Infante 1. Rush had 2 steals and Patmon 1.

The final game of the tournament was against the Weskan Coyotes on Saturday afternoon. Weese opened the game with a three but the Coyotes quickly took over for a 10-3 lead. Rush hit some shots and free throws to bring the game back to within 1 at 9-10. A basket from Jaime Infante pulled the Dogs ahead, with a final shot from Rush giving the Dogs a 14-10

lead at the end of the first. Weskan took over in the second and scored 19 unanswered points before the Dogs made a basket with one minute left in the half to fall behind 16-29.

The Dogs regrouped at the break and come back in the third with Weese putting in 7 points along with 6 from Rush. A basket from Patmon brought the Dogs back to within 3 at 31-34. The Coyotes went on another run to finish the quarter with a 45-31 lead.

The Dogs were only able to get five points to fall in the fourth as the Coyotes pressed forward for a 55-36 win. "We played a good tournament," said senior Jaime Infante. "We worked as a team which helped us stay with the other teams. We just need to put four full quarters together."

Rush led the Bulldog offense with 17 points along with Weese 10, Infante 4, Lathrop 3, and Patmon 2. Weese and Rush each had 11 rebounds along with Lathrop 6, Kole Butts 2, and Infante 2. Assists were dished out by Weese, Rush, and Patmon as steals were grabbed by Lathrop 5, Weese 2, Patmon 1, and Infante 1.

The Bulldogs will continue their season on December 20 as they travel to Almena to play the Northern Valley Huskies. "Our goal is to keep working together to get a win for GP," added Infante.