

Five Bulldogs Named to All-League Volleyball

By Judy Rogers

Five Golden Plains Volleyball Team members were recognized by the Western Kansas Liberty League for their efforts when they were named to the All-League Volleyball team. "I was very pleased with our all-league representation," said Head Coach Ashley Arnberger. "I feel that all of these girls were very deserving of this recognition. We had the highest winning percentage in the league this season and the largest number of players represented on the all-league teams."

The Lady Bulldogs finished the season with a 30-6 record, and with five team members named all-league, claimed the largest number of all-league members in Golden Plains history.

Two girls named to the first team were junior Kassie Miller and senior Brooke Stoll. This was Stoll's second year to be selected—she was named to the second team as a junior. Brooke had a 96% serving percentage with 25 aces. She had 315 digs and a 1.84 serve receive rating on 489 attempts. "Brooke played libero for us this season," said Arnberger. "Her vocal leadership, her speed, and her competitiveness made her a standout this season on our team and in the league."

"I am very proud of everyone who got recognized for their dedication all year!" said Brooke. "It demonstrates what working hard can do! It shows that it takes a whole team to be successful!"

Miller was named to the all-league team for the third consecutive year. She received Honorable Mention as a freshman and was a first-team member as a sophomore. Kassie led the team in kills with 237 and a .152 hitting percentage. She also led the team in serves with 70 aces. She had a 93.7% serving percentage, 271 assists, and 10 blocks. "Kassie was a 6-rotation player this season playing outside hitter and setting for two rotations," said Coach Arnberger. "Kassie was our floor leader and coach. The other girls really look to her for leadership. She was a stand out player and someone the team relied on to come up with big plays."

"I am honored to be recognized for my hard work," said Miller. "We had a great year and I am looking forward to my senior season!"

Senior Ashley Stoll and junior Carli Nieman were both named to the all-league second team. Ashley received Honorable Mention as a junior while Nieman was named all-league for the first time. Ashley had 115 kills with a .129 hitting percentage. She was a 94.2% server with 29 aces. She had 24 blocks and a 1.74 serve receive rating on 253 attempts. "Ashley was also a 6-rotation player this season," said Arnberger. "She played outside and middle on the front and was asked to serve receive in five rotations. Her consistency, work ethic, and willingness to work toward improvement made her one of our most valuable players." "It was an honor to get recognized for my hard work," said Ashley, "and I am glad my other teammates were recognized as well!"

Carli had 173 kills with a .140 hitting percentage. She had 32 blocks, and an 88.6% serve rating with 35 aces. "Carli was a presence at the net for us this season leading the team in blocks and second in kills." said Arnberger, "Carli played the front row—outside and then middle for two rotations."

“I thought we had a really great season and was proud of how we all improved throughout the year,” said Nieman. “It didn’t end how we wanted it to but I am so excited to see how far we can go next year and I think we will be really successful. I will definitely miss our seniors but we have a great group of girls coming back.”

Junior Morgan Wark received Honorable Mention from the league. She had 100 kills with a .146 hitting percentage. She had 10 blocks and a 97.5 % serving percentage with 16 aces. “Morgan worked incredibly hard to overcome adversity this season,” said Arnberger. “I was so proud of her hard work and her contributions to the team. All of the girls and to be role players this season, and I was very pleased with Morgan’s response when her role changed. She found ways to make an impact with the time she was given on the floor.” “It was a great year and I am so proud of the effort that everyone put out this season,” said Wark. “I am looking forward to what next season has to offer.”