

Lady Bulldogs Finish Season as Sub-State Runner-Up

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldog volleyball team finished their season in St. Francis on October 24 as Sub-State Runner-Up. The Bulldogs posted a 30-6 season and finished in the sub-state championship game for the first time since 2016.

The girls received a first round bye as the #1 seed in the sub-state tournament. They faced Weskan in the semi-final round. This was the fourth time they were to play Weskan this season with the Bulldogs coming out on top each time. This game was no exception.

The Lady Bulldogs opened the first set with a slight lead, but the Lady Coyotes pulled ahead 9-4. They maintained their lead until the Dogs tied it up at 14. They pulled ahead but the Coyotes were determined and tied it back up at 22. The Bulldogs held on for the first set win 25-23.

The Bulldogs again jumped to an early lead in the second set only to have the Coyotes tie it up at 8. The teams traded points for a while, but the Lady Bulldogs maintained a slight lead. The Coyotes continued to fight for points, but the Bulldogs held on for the 25-21 win and a spot in the Championship game.

The Championship game was against the St. Francis Lady Indians. The two teams had met twice before at the Gove County Classic early in the season with the Indians coming out on top both times in three close sets.

The first set was another close game. The Bulldogs took a lead early in the game with an attack by junior Carli Nieman. The Dogs pulled ahead only to have the Indians tie it up. The Dogs pulled ahead again but the Indians repeatedly fought back for a tied game. With a cross court attack from junior Kassie Miller, the Dogs were up 19-17. The Indians pulled ahead, but back to back blocks from Nieman put the Dogs up by one. The Indians came back for the first set win 25-22.

The Dogs were determined to give it their all in the second set in hopes of gaining a third. The Indians began with an early lead but another hard block from Nieman tied the game up. With service errors by St. Francis, Golden Plains took a two point lead. Following a 7-7 tied game, the Indians pulled ahead 19-12. The Bulldogs fought back to narrow the lead but the Indians maintained their score for the 25-19 win and the Sub-State Championship.

The Lady Bulldogs posted a 30-6 season with losses going to Trego, Victoria, and St. Francis. They were the Healy Tournament Champs and the Gove County Classic Tournament Runner-Up. They were Runner-Up in the Ringneck Classic and were the WKLL League Quad West Side Champions as well as Sub-State Runner-Ups.

The Bulldogs will be graduating two seniors—Ashley Stoll and Brooke Stoll, but will be returning the majority of their team for next year. “I have really enjoyed the last four years of volleyball and getting to create so many memories with my teammates!” said senior Ashley Stoll. “I know the returning girls will continue the success and only build on it! I wish you all the best next season and will miss the bonds we have made! “

“We had an amazing season and it was such a fun time watching each of us improve throughout the year!” added senior Brooke Stoll. “I have had a great 4 years on the volleyball team and it has been fun to improve every year and have the success we have had! I will miss the friendships volleyball made but wish them all the best for the seasons to come!”

“I think we had a really successful season and have a great foundation to build for next year,” said junior Carli Nieman. “I am excited to see what we can get done next season and to see what all we will accomplish.” “I think we have a good amount of our team returning for next season,” said junior Kassie Miller. “I look for us to have another successful year with a great chance to get back where we left off!”