

Lady Bulldogs finish season at sub-state

By Judy Rogers
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs concluded their volleyball season on their home floor as they held the Sub-State Tournament on Oct. 22.

The girls entered the six-team tournament with a record of 12-20, scheduled to play the 12-19 Cheylin Lady Cougars. These two teams had faced each other several times throughout the season with each team claiming some of the wins.

The Cougars leapt out to an early lead in the first match. The Lady Bulldogs had some good kills from Kylie Jones and Hailee Spresser, but the Cougars claimed the first win 15-25.

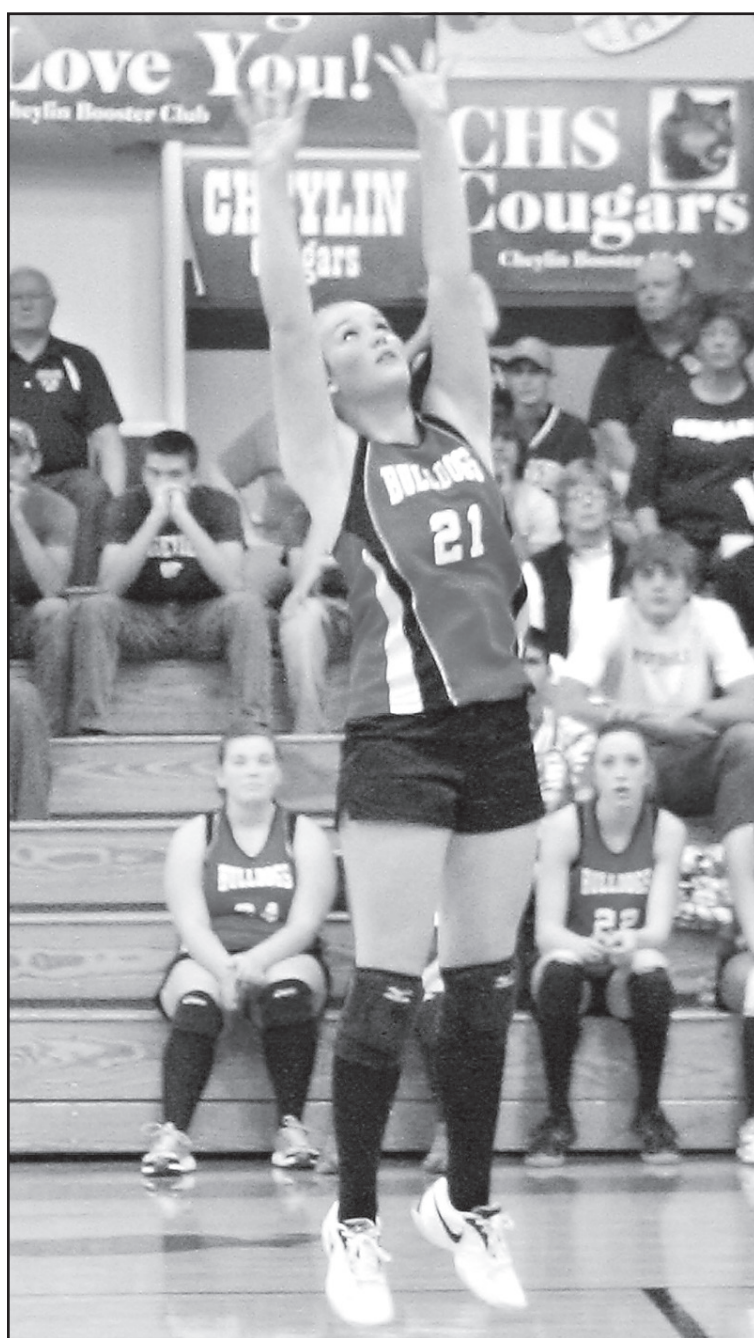
Showing more determination in the second set, both teams showed their skill as they kept the score close throughout the entire match. The Lady Bulldogs were able to pull ahead at the end to win 26-24, sending them into a third match.

In the third, the Lady Bulldogs struggled to put up points as the Cougars won 10-25, thus ending the Lady 'Dogs' season.

The girls all felt that the Healy tournament was one of their season highlights as they placed third in this early tournament. The junior girls discussed the improvements made this season.

They agreed that Morgan Walz improved on both passing and spiking, Angela Ritter improved on staying low and had some good kills, and Chantee Luna had powerful serves and improved her spikes. Sophomores Jordan Christensen and Hailee Spresser agreed that they played well against Cheylin at the Healy tournament and at other times during the season.

The Lady Bulldogs will lose two seniors, Hannah Antholz and Viridiana Beltran, and will be returning juniors Chantee Luna, Angela Ritter and Morgan Walz. Joining them for the 2012 season will be a number of freshman and sophomore girls.



JUDY ROGERS/Golden Plains High School
Sophomore Hailee Spresser set the ball in the sub-state volleyball games against Cheylin in Rexford on Oct. 22. The Golden Plains girls finished their season at the Sub-State Tournament. With two seniors graduating, Spresser will be one of several returning girls next fall.

Luna, Ritter and Walz have set a goal for next season to work on their passing and develop leadership skills to help build team unity. Hailee Spresser's goal is to

show improvement both individually and as a team. Jordan Christensen's goal is to play more consistently as a team and win more games next fall.

Players union may decertify

By Rachel Cohen
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Talk about a backdoor cut.

The announcement Thursday that negotiations to end the NBA lockout would resume was followed by news that some players are investigating the possibility of decertifying the union.

The NBA players union said it would begin negotiating with the owners again on Saturday, maintaining that the players are unified as they seek to end the lockout.

Union president Derek Fisher, executive director Billy Hunter and executive committee members said after meeting for about three hours Thursday that there was no truth to reports of a rift among them.

"We've had no problems, and that's the reality," Hunter said.

Hunter said they spent no more than 10-15 minutes total on a conference call earlier this week and during Thursday's gathering discussed the reports questioning Fisher's allegiances.

"The battle is not within our union," Bucks guard Keyon Dooling said. "Derek Fisher's the best president our union has ever seen. We'll stand as committee members — I'm the first vice president and I stand behind him."

Not every player does.

About 50 disgruntled players held a conference call with an antitrust lawyer about the possibility of dissolving their union.

A person briefed on Thursday's call told The Associated Press that small groups of players — including some of the game's biggest stars — have held informal talks about the notion of decertifying for some time. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because players on the calls agreed to keep details private.

Thirty percent of players would have to sign a petition and then a majority would have to vote in favor of decertification. But mere talk of decertification could give the players' side leverage in negotiations.

The person also confirmed that Boston's Paul Pierce, Orlando's Dwight Howard and Miami's Dwyane Wade were among those participating in Thursday's call, though the person did not provide specifics about who did the bulk of the talking and what was said.

"It's an option," the person said of players possibly choosing to decertify. "We didn't ask for this. We want to play. If this gets us there, I'm all for it, because something's got to happen."

The New York Times reported that the disgruntled players plan to push for dissolving the union if this weekend's labor talks are un-

successful or prompt what's considered an undesirable deal.

On Wednesday, the NBA had asked federal Judge Paul Gardephe to rule that the NBA's lockout will not be considered an antitrust violation if the players dissolve the union. Gardephe did not immediately rule, but appeared skeptical of the arguments made by league attorney Jeffrey Mishkin.

Owners and players haven't met since talks broke off last Friday. Hunter said federal mediator George Cohen contacted him earlier this week about possibly rejoining the negotiations. The conversation led to Hunter calling Commissioner David Stern on Wednesday about resuming talks, though it has yet to be determined whether Cohen will be involved.

Hunter said union leaders had spent the last several days cautioning players that the sides were still far apart on several system issues, so completing a deal was not as simple as a compromise on the revenue split.

They will get back at it Saturday, though neither side seems to be shifting its stance.

Trojan hunt seat team competes in Colorado

Colby Community College Hunt Seat riders competed in three shows on Oct. 22 and 23 at the University of Colorado in Boulder. The first show was a make-up show, which was canceled due to rain the previous weekend.

Individual results for the shows follow:

Novice Fences, Make-Up Show

Brittany Normand, Fort Scott, first.
William Wright, Louisburg, fifth.
Faye Miller, Topeka, sixth.

Open Flat, Make-Up Show

Chelsea Brady, Parker, Colo., sixth.

Intermediate Flat, Make-Up Show

Heather Darling, Abilene, fifth.

Novice Flat, Make-Up Show

Brittany Normand, Fort Scott, second.

Advanced Walk, Trot, Canter, Make-Up Show

Mariah Woolsoncroft, Salina, third.
Jessica Koeppe, Udall, second.
Amanda Barnum, Colby, fifth.
Brittany Normand, earned Reserve High Point Rider at this show.

Novice Fences, Show 1

Savannah Isely, Bird City, second.
William Wright, Louisburg, second.
Faye Miller, Topeka, fourth.

Open Flat, Show 1

Chelsea Brady, Parker, Colo., fifth.

Novice Flat, Show 1

Brittany Normand, Fort Scott, fifth.

Faye Miller, Topeka, third
Savannah Isely, Bird City, third.

Advanced Walk, Trot, Canter, Show 1

Mariah Woolsoncroft, Salina, fourth.
Jessica Koeppe, Udall, fifth.
Amanda Barnum, Colby, third.

Beginning Walk, Trot, Canter, Show 1

Tayla Kimball, Medicine Lodge, sixth.

Open Fences, Show 2

Chelsea Brady, Parker, Colo., third.

Novice Fences, Show 2

Brittany Normand, Fort Scott, Reserve.
Heather Darling, Abilene, fourth.
Faye Miller, Topeka, Reserve.

Open Flat, Show 2

Chelsea Brady, Parker, Colo., second.

Novice Flat, Show 2

Brittany Normand, Fort Scott, third.
Faye Miller, Topeka, third.
Theresa Bray, Alberta, Canada, fifth.

Advanced Walk, Trot, Canter, Show 2

Mariah Woolsoncroft, Salina, second.
Jessica Koeppe, Udall, sixth.
Amanda Barnum, Colby, Reserve.

Beginning Walk, Trot, Canter, Show 2

Randi Cressler, Hoxie, third.

The Colby Equestrian Team will compete Saturday and Sunday in Laramie, Wyo.

Colby kids wrestling club to hold sign-up on Tuesday

The Colby Kids Wrestling Club is holding its sign-up at 7 p.m. on Tuesday at the City Limits Convention Center.

The club fee per wrestler is \$50 and \$45 for each additional wrestler in a family. Of this money, \$35 goes to USA Wrestling for your wrestling card and \$15 goes to Colby's club to help pay for coaches, singlets, etc.

Each wrestler will need wrestling shoes and head gear, and a

singlet is provided by the wrestling club and is checked out by contract.

Wrestling practice will be twice a week for approximately 1 1/2 hours each night. The 8 and under wrestlers will practice at the high school wrestling room and 8- to 10-year-old wrestlers will practice at the grade school room.

Sign-up for tournaments are on the Monday up to two weeks before the tournament date. Tour-

namment dates can be found on the following website: www.usawks.com. Entry fees range from \$12 to \$15 per tournament.

Colby will be holding its tournament on Jan. 7, 2012.

Please bring a copy of your child's birth certificate, insurance information, and shoes, singlets, or any wrestling gear to buy, sell or trade.

For information, contact Erma Kraft at (785) 460-3548.

Bulldogs end season with a win

By Judy Rogers
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains Bulldogs finished their football season on Oct. 27 with a big win over the Logan Trojans.

Prior to the game, Coach Travis Betz motivated the team with a quote from legendary coach Vince Lombardi.

"I believe in God and I believe in human decency, but I firmly believe that in any man's finest hour is when he has worked his heart out in a good cause, like football, and lies exhausted on the field of battle — victorious," Betz said.

The boys took that belief to heart as they stepped onto the field in Logan determined to make this last game of the season one of their finest.

They quickly pulled ahead to a 20-6 lead in the first quarter, scoring on their first three possessions. They continued to dominate the Trojans as they put two more into the end zone in the second quar-

ter going into the half with a 32-6 lead.

Both teams played with heart in the third putting up one touchdown apiece, but the Bulldogs held the Trojans scoreless in the fourth as the Bulldogs added another 18 to their final winning score, 56-12.

Following the game, Coach Travis Smith commented on the season and the game.

"What a great way to end our season last night," Smith said. "Our seniors, Tyler, Cole, Kalyn, Ethan and Trey led us to victory last night. It was a great way to send them off."

The team finished the season with a final record of 4-5. They were 3-4 in the league and 3-3 in their district. Following early losses to Quinter and Dighton, they had outstanding wins against Weskan and Greeley County. Another loss to Cheylin was followed

by an easy win over Brewster-Triplains. They fell twice more to district teams Wheatland-Grinnell and Wallace County before finishing the season with this win over Logan.

Another great Lombardi quote is "Leaders aren't born; they are made. And they are made just like anything else, through hard work. And that's the price we'll have to pay to achieve that goal, or any goal."

Smith embodied that belief while talking to the team. "The work begins now for next August," Smith said. "We need to buy into the fact that the weight room is going to make us better."

He concluded with the comment that is echoed by many of the players, parents, and fans of the 2011 Golden Plains High School football team: "Thanks for the great year, boys. Go Dogs!"

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