

# Bulldogs improve at Quinter tourney

By Judy Rogers  
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains High School boys showed improvement during the Castle Rock Classic Basketball Tournament held in Quinter from Dec. 8 to 10. The boys played a challenging game against Hoxie for the first round on Thursday. They fell behind 14-21 by the end of the first quarter. Frustration reigned in the second quarter as they had a hard time controlling the ball and couldn't get their baskets to fall, allowing Hoxie to extend the lead to 20-33 by halftime. Their challenges continued during the third as they only put in two points from senior Kalyn Weber as Hoxie pumped in 25. Hoxie backed off a bit in the fourth and added 7 to their total as the Bulldogs added four to end the game with a final score of 26-65. Weber led the team with 10 points along with Cole Christensen, who had 7, Trey Schwarz finished the game with 2 points, Ethan Walter scored 2, Andrew Luna had 2, Tristan Schwarz had 2 and Jose Bermudez had 1. Christensen grabbed 11 rebounds and Tristan Schwarz pulled down 7. Weber had 3, Camron Spresser had 2, Chance Hoeting had 1 and Walter had 1. "The team members were pretty low after the Hoxie game but we just couldn't make anything in the second half," Christensen said. In the second round on Friday, the Golden Plains Bulldogs played against the Quinter Bulldogs. Golden Plains led 12-9 at the end of the first 8 minutes of play. Quinter found the basket in the second quarter putting in 24 to Golden Plains' 9. Trailing 21-33 to start the third, the Bulldogs only dropped 7 in the third and 14 in the fourth while Quinter pulled further ahead for the 42-58 win.

"We decided as a team that we needed to work together to score more but still couldn't get the baskets to fall in the second half against Quinter," Christensen continued. Weber once again led the scoring with 15 points along with Christensen with 13. Also contributing to the 42-point total were Tristan Schwarz with 5, Bermudez with 4, Grant Spresser with 3, and Trey Schwarz with 2. For the final game of the tournament early Saturday afternoon, the boys faced the team from Wheatland-Grinnell. This game gave the boys the opportunity to show the skills they had gained from their previous action. After falling short in the first quarter 9-23, the boys put in 16 to the Thunderhawks' 11 in the second. Outscoring the 'Hawks 16-9 in the third, the Bulldogs pulled to within two points by the end of the third with a score of 41-43. The 'Hawks were determined as they stepped up with 12 in the fourth to give the 'Dogs their fourth loss of the season with a final score of 48-55. Christensen and Weber led the offensive drive with 21 and 15 points, respectively. Several other team members added to the Bulldogs highest scoring game of the season including Camron Spresser with 4 points and Walter, Luna, Bermudez, and Trey Schwarz with 2 each. "Although we got down early, we played well in the second half," Christensen commented. "Although we did not completely recover from the 17-point deficit, we did get it down to within 4. We need to start making more of our outside shots." The Bulldogs game against Healy scheduled for Tuesday was postponed due to the icy weather to Monday, Feb. 20, but they faced Wheatland-Grinnell again on Saturday in Grainfield.



JUDY ROGERS/Golden Plains High School  
Senior Cole Christensen went up for two against Quinter in the second round of the Castle Rock Tournament on Dec. 9. Christensen put in 13 points and grabbed 5 rebounds during this game.

# K-State wallops No. 23 Alabama

By Dave Skretta  
AP Sports Writer  
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Jordan Henriquez and Angel Rodriguez checked into the game when Kansas State was scuffling, the ball clanking off the rim every time it went up and Alabama slowly pulling away. The duo provided the spark the Wildcats needed. Henriquez scored a career-high 17 points, Rodriguez added a career-best 13 and Kansas State rallied from a slow start to beat the No. 23 Crimson Tide 71-58 on Saturday night.

It wasn't just the scoring, though, but how they did it. Rodriguez, the freshman guard, kept finding his 7-foot center inside for easy baskets, racking up six of his seven assists by halftime. Jamar Samuels added 14 points for the Wildcats (7-1), who used a 19-6 run midway through the second half to avoid going to overtime for the third consecutive game. Kansas State lost to West Virginia in two extra sessions last week and needed overtime to beat North Florida last Sunday. JaMychal Green scored 20 points for Alabama (8-3), which has lost three of four. Trevor Releford, who grew up in suburban Kansas City and attended Bishop Miege High School, added 14 points for the Crimson Tide in a homecoming that would have been much more memorable had they been as stingy over the final 30 minutes as they were over the first 10. The Wildcats started 2 of 18 from the field, struggling against Alabama's tenacious, trapping half-court defense. They only

trailed by seven, though, when they finally figured out how to get open shots along the baseline, and that opened up holes. Kansas State was still clinging to a 38-37 lead with just more than 13 minutes left when Samuels hit a 3-pointer off a feed from Rodriguez, one of his career-best seven assists. Shane Southwell scored moments later, Samuels added a pair of free throws and Rodriguez scored after a nifty behind-the-back move that got him open in the lane to make it 49-39 with less than 10 minutes to play. The lead swelled to 61-45 when Henriquez scored back-to-back baskets and Thomas Gipson added a tough bucket in the paint. The Crimson Tide never got close the rest of the way. Alabama, one of the nation's best defensive teams, held the Wildcats to two field goals over the first 10 minutes, slowly building a meager lead. Tony Mitchell's first basket with 9:08 left in the half made it 15-8, the Crimson Tide's biggest lead of the game. The Wildcats still trailed 17-12 with less than 5 minutes left when Martavious Irving scored and Rodriguez fed Henriquez for an easy dunk, starting a 14-7 run to end the half. Henriquez's bucket with 18 seconds remaining allowed Kansas State to take a 26-24 lead into the break. The game was being played at a pace that favored Grant's Crimson Tide, who came in allowing an average of just more than 55 points per game — 11th-best in the nation. But the Wildcats heated up in the second half, blowing past that number with 7 1/2 minutes left.

# Chiefs end Green Bay Packers' perfect season with 19-14 win

By Dave Skretta  
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Romeo Crennel stood dripping wet on the sideline, a water cooler having been dumped over his head. Kyle Orton's jersey was covered in grass stains as he took one last snap from center. The Kansas City Chiefs had a new coach on Sunday. They had a new quarterback, too. They looked like a whole new team. Orton threw for 299 yards to outduel Aaron Rodgers, and the Chiefs rallied behind Crennel for a shocking 19-14 victory over Green Bay on Sunday that ended the Packers' 19-game winning streak and bid for a perfect season. It was the Packers' first loss since Dec. 19, 2010, and kept them from securing home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. Green Bay can still wrap it up in its final two games against Detroit and Chicago, but no longer with the pressure of the NFL's second-longest winning streak and the chance to become the second team in NFL history to win a Super Bowl with a perfect record. Rodgers was 17 of 35 for 235 yards and a touchdown, and he also scampered 8 yards for another score with 2:12 left in the game. But the Packers (13-1) were unable to recover the onside kick, and Kansas City picked up a couple of first downs to secure the victory. "The Chiefs had a good plan to-

day," said Rodgers, who quickly brushed aside the ending to the Packers' remarkable win streak. "The next step is the No. 1 seed in the playoffs." Ryan Succop kicked four field goals for Kansas City (6-8), which had lost five of its last six games and fired coach Todd Haley last Monday. Jackie Battle added a short touchdown plunge with 4:53 left in the game, points that came in handy when Rodgers led one last scoring drive. "That's about as much fun as I've ever had on a football field," said Orton, who was claimed off waivers from Denver a few weeks ago but had only played one snap before hurting the index finger on his throwing hand. Orton was finally healthy enough to make the start in place of Tyler Palko, who had started the last four games after Matt Cassel went down with a season-ending injury. Neither team seemed as if it wanted to win in the first half. Packers wide receiver Jordy Nelson was hit twice with offensive pass interference, Rodgers was harassed by the Chiefs' weak pass rush, and Green Bay wound up making five first downs. One of them came when Kansas City's Jeremy Horne ran into Packers punter Tim Masthay, giving them 15 free yards. The Chiefs tried to give Green Bay another gift later on the drive when Mason Crosby missed a 59-yard field goal attempt but Kansas City had 12 men on the field. With another chance from 54 yards, the normally reliable Cros-

by still pushed the kick right. Rodgers finished the half 6 of 17 for 59 yards, with a handful of drops between wide receiver Donald Driver and tight end Jeremihae Finley. In fact, things were going so badly for Green Bay that at one point it ran out of the wildcat despite having one of the best quarterbacks in the game. The Chiefs were still clinging to a 6-0 lead when Rodgers finally hit down field, finding Finley over the coverage for a 41-yard gain. Three plays later, the Packers' star quarterback hit Driver in the corner of the end zone for a 7-6 lead with 8:04 left in the third quarter. Kansas City answered when Orton hit his own tight end, Leonard Pope, for a career-long 38-yard catch. Jon Baldwin added a 17-yard grab to set up Succop's 46-yard, go-ahead field goal. The Packers moved into field-goal range on their ensuing drive, but rather than have Crosby attempt a 56-yard kick in the same direction he had already missed, coach Mike McCarthy elected to go for it on fourth-and-9. Rodgers' pass fell incomplete and the Chiefs took over. They needed seven plays to cover 59 yards, but had to settle for another field goal and a 12-7 lead. It was the third time the Chiefs drove inside the 5 and had six total points to show for it. They got seven on their next trip, though. With first-and-goal at the 5,

Thomas Jones managed to gain a yard and Le'Ron McClain bulled ahead for three more, setting up third down from just outside the goal line. Battle took the carry over the right side and powered into the end zone, giving the Kansas City offense its highest-scoring game since the Chiefs beat San Diego in overtime in late October. The Packers marched down field in the closing minutes, and Rodgers showed his moxie by scampering around the end for a touchdown that made it 19-14. But the onside kick ended up in the Chiefs' hands, and they were able to pound out a couple first downs to secure the upset victory. Green Bay came into the game averaging nearly 36 points, but was held to its lowest total since beating the Chicago Bears 10-3 in Week 17 last year. The Packers needed to win that game to make the playoffs, and wound up riding the momentum to a Super Bowl victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers. All that momentum finally came to an end in the most unlikely of scenarios. "We set the tone on both sides of the ball," Chiefs linebacker Derrick Johnson said. "This is the great thing about football. You can't always look at the records, because you've got grown men out there who are all getting paid. You don't have to be better on paper. "If you're better on that given Sunday, you'll get the win."

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