

Football season ends for Rexford squad

By Judy Rogers
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The Golden Plains High School football team finished its season on the road in Alma on Oct. 25, facing the Northern Valley Huskies in a nondistrict game.

This was the last time the four seniors – Jose Bermudez, Jesus Garcia, Andrew Luna and Camron Spresser – would play football in a Golden Plains uniform.

The boys entered this game with a 2-6 overall record, knowing they were out of postseason contention, but that did not deter them, as they stepped on the field with their pride on the line. They played an exciting game in the bitter cold, but still fell short as they lost 50-36 after leading for much of the four quarters.

The game started off with the Bulldogs kicking off to the Huskies. Benny Martinez and Camron Spresser pushed the Huskies back. A penalty for a chop block pushed them back even farther. Bermudez and Tristan Schwarz each had stops before Bermudez blocked the Huskies' punt. Chance Hoeting grabbed the ball on the Northern Valley 20-yard line. He then gained 13 yards for a first down, putting the 'Dogs on the 7-yard line.

The Bulldogs continued to play with intensity. Grant Spresser passed to Luna in the end zone for the first touchdown of the game. After a false start flag on the extra-point attempt, a successful pass from Spresser to Schwarz gave the Bulldogs an 8-0 lead.

Schwarz recovered the kick to the Huskies to put the Bulldogs back on offense, but following some tough downs, they had to punt back to the Huskies. The Huskies marched the ball into the end zone, made their extra points and tied the game at 8.

The first quarter continued to see a lot of action as Luna broke through and ran untouched for a 60-yard touchdown. A pass to Hoeting connected and he ran through a pack of Huskies for the extra points and a 16-8 Bulldog lead with over six minutes remaining in the first quarter.

A fumble recovery put the Bulldogs back in the driver's seat and Bermudez ran in a 23-yard touchdown on the first play for his first rushing touchdown of the season and a 22-8 Bulldog lead. Northern Valley broke up the extra-point pass and the Huskies took possession.

Following punts from the Huskies and the Bulldogs, the Huskies took over with good field position. They ran to the 2-yard line before

being pushed out of bounds by Schwarz, but pushed through for the touchdown and made their extra points to narrow the Bulldogs' lead to 22-16.

With 47 seconds until the buzzer, the Bulldogs took over and Luna made a power play, running 68 yards to the end zone. He then ran in the two-point conversion and extended the Bulldog lead to 30-16 to end the quarter.

The Huskies took over in the second quarter as the quarterback ran in a touchdown to start the clock. Following a Bulldog punt, the Huskies quickly punched in a 47-yard touchdown. A successful two-point conversion tied the game up at 30 with six minutes until the half.

The Bulldogs stepped on the field in the third ready to play, as Bermudez promptly ran in a 20-yard touchdown and regained the lead 36-30. Northern Valley answered by pushing the ball toward their goal only to have the Bulldogs chase them down and push them back.

On fourth and 13, a Husky pass connected but the ball hit the dirt as the receiver caught it and the Bulldogs took over on their own 31-yard line. Following the punt back to Northern Valley, the Huskies started clicking on offense and tied the game up at 36 with another touchdown. With a successful two-point conversion, the Huskies gained their first lead of the game, 38-36, as the third quarter clock wound down.

The Bulldogs continued to fight in the fourth as Camron Spresser ran down a Husky runner, bringing him down as he approached the end zone. However, the Huskies ran in the next play for a 44-

36 lead with just under one minute clicked off the clock.

Bermudez showed a lot of toughness for the Bulldogs with a good catch that he held on to for a long gain. Luna then gained 14 yards and Schwarz carried the ball inside the 10. Following a carry by Grant Spresser, Northern Valley took over only to be stopped repeatedly by Jesus Garcia.

The Bulldogs were not giving up as a double handoff to Luna gained 5 yards. Luna then fought through three defenders for a first-down drive. The Bulldogs continued to march down the field before turning over the ball as the Huskies intercepted a pass.

Josh Barnhart brought down the Huskies, but the quarterback kept the next ball and ran in a 10-yard touchdown. Braden Korte stopped the extra-point attempt and the Huskies led with the final score of 50-36.

Senior Luna played his last game for the Bulldogs by rushing for 217 yards, received for 11 yards and scored 3 touchdowns and a conversion. He also had 8 tackles. Bermudez concluded his senior season with 43 rushing yards, 37 receiving yards, 15 tackles, a blocked punt and 2 touchdowns.

Seniors Camron Spresser and Jesus Garcia each had 11 tackles in their final Bulldog game. Junior Grant Spresser threw for 54 yards as quarterback and rushed for 12. Junior Schwarz rushed for 24 yards and received for 6 including a two-point conversion, while junior Hoeting rounded out the teams' 319 rushing yards with 23 and scored a conversion.

Neither team will advance to district play.



MICHELE MILLER

A Heartland Crusader defender blocked a Fellowship Baptist player Oct. 25 during the Heartland Christian football game in Colby on the field behind the school. This was the Crusaders' last game of the season and they finished the year with a perfect record of 7-0.

Heartland boys team caps off perfect season

The Heartland Crusaders football team finished its season at home Oct. 25 with a perfect record of 7-0 after defeating Fellowship Baptist of Liberal 57-24.

Coach Steve Ziegelmeier said the team is an outstanding and talented group of kids.

"They work well together and never give up," he said. "When behind at times this year, they rallied together to remain undefeated. The theme for the year was 'Believe,' and the team focused on verses from 1 John 5:11-16.

"The goal is to play excellent football and build faith and character. The boys exemplified this theme throughout the year."

Blaine Wertz rushed for touchdowns of 21 and 56 yards and also kicked a 23-yard field goal. Brent Wilson rushed for three touchdowns of 3, 17 and 58 yards and Brennan Ziegelmeier ran for a 40-yard touchdown. Corey Wertz had a 1-yard touchdown reception and Caleb Morris ran for 3 two-point conversions.

On defense, Brook Ziegelmeier and Blaine Wertz each picked off a Fellowship pass and Brent Wilson pounced on a fumble.

Coach Ziegelmeier said the Crusaders will lose one senior, guard Cody Schmeiser, to graduation this spring.

"His leadership will be missed," the coach said.

Middle school volleyball ends

By Hailee Spresser
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains A-team Middle School volleyball team played in the final tourney of their season in Grinnell for the Western Kansas Liberty League on Oct. 23.

Golden Plains played three hard fought matches against Grinnell, Logan and Weskan in its pool play. The Lady Bulldogs went into this tournament with a record of 5-4 and seeded No. 5.

Golden Plains' first game of the day was against the Grinnell-Wheatland Lady Thunderhawks. The Lady Bulldogs pushed Grinnell-Wheatland to their limits in the closely contested set, losing 27-25. Golden Plains couldn't pull

off the win in the second, falling to the Lady Thunderhawks, 25-10.

Next, the Lady Bulldogs took on Logan. In the first set, the Lady Bulldogs couldn't keep up with Logan, losing the match, 25-14. Golden Plains fought tough to gain control back in the second set, but couldn't quite grip the game, 25-21.

For the Lady Bulldogs' last game of the day, they took on the Weskan Lady Coyotes. Golden Plains came out ready to get the win in the first match, and that is just what happened; they triumphed over Weskan 25-14. The Lady Bulldogs fell short in their last two sets of the season, 25-9 and 25-10. Even though this marked the end of the season, the Lady Bulldogs

were still very proud of the way their season went.

Head Coach Mindy Fleckenstein reflected about the season.

"It was a good and fun season," she said. "Even though we were kind of inconsistent at times, the girls showed a lot of improvement from the beginning of the season to the end. They came in every day and worked hard for the time that they were there. I am very proud of the girls and everything they accomplished this season."



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