

Lady Bulldogs varsity team comes home league champ

By Hailee Spresser
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs played in the Western Kansas Liberty League tournament championship game against the No. 2 seeded Weskan Lady Coyotes.

Golden Plains had a previous win on their shoulders from earlier in the season against Weskan, so they knew Weskan would be out to avenge that loss on their record. This was the fifth time in the 19 years of Head Coach Parker Christensen's experience that the Lady Bulldogs have made it to the championship game in the league tournament.

"Not only was it being in the championship game that made that day special, but it was Coach Christensen's birthday," said junior Jordan Christensen. "He told us he wanted the win for his birthday, so we knew we needed to step up and play to our potential to bring that championship plaque home with us."

The game on Jan. 12 started off in favor of the Lady Bulldogs with a technical foul before the tip off of the game, so there was no tip off. Christensen put in both free throws. Golden Plains got the ball to start off the game with baskets to follow by Kylie Jones, Angela Ritter, Kami Miller and Hailee Spresser in the first quarter. Weskan put up 6 points to end the quarter with the Lady Bulldogs on top, 11-6.

Weskan played tough defense in the second quarter, allowing Golden Plains only to pick up 6 points, all put in by Miller. The Lady Bulldogs held Weskan to 7. Remaining a close game, the score going into halftime was Golden Plains up four, 17-13.

Ritter started out the second half with a basket, but Weskan caught up to the Lady Bulldogs, making the score 19-19 halfway into the third quarter. Weskan triple-teamed Golden Plains to tie up the ball. The Lady Bulldogs only scored 4 for this quarter, the last basket by Miller, to make the score 21-20 going into the fourth quarter.

The fourth quarter left Weskan and Golden Plains to battle it out for the win. Trading baskets, Weskan got as close as 1, and even took the lead with 2:22 left, but a shot by Jones tied it back up. The Lady Coyotes again took the lead with 1:29 left in the fourth, but a shot by Ritter tied it up. With 29 seconds remaining, a shot from Jones gave the Lady Bulldogs a 34-32 lead.

Weskan fouled Ritter with 10.2 seconds left in the fourth. Ritter made both free throws and was fouled again with 5 seconds left. Ritter made 1 of the 2. Weskan couldn't get a shot off to finish the game, so Golden Plains took home the championship win, 37-33.

Miller led the team in points with 13 followed by Ritter 11, Jones 5 and Christensen and Spresser each putting in 4.

"It felt amazing to win league!" said Jones. "We proved to ourselves and fans what we can and will accomplish this season. We couldn't have done it without each other's support and of course our fan base."

"Becoming league champs was one of the best feelings and ac-



JUDY ROGERS/Golden Plains High School

Kylie Jones jumped up for a shot over a Lady Coyote defender's hand Jan. 12 during the Western Kansas Liberty League championship game. Jones, along with Ritter and Christensen, were captains for the championship game.

complishments as a senior," Ritter added. "I felt like we all individually stepped up to do our part, and in turn, it brought us closer as a team. We couldn't have done it without our outstanding coaches, all of our encouragement coming from the bench and our awesome fans that came out to support us."

"I'm looking forward to the following games to come because, although we took first, we are not satisfied. We still have many improvements that need to be made but with hard work and dedication, I think we're well on our way to where we want to be."

According to Coach Christensen, this was the first league tournament championship win for the girls since the 1992-93 season. The 1992-93 season was also the season where both the women and men's basketball teams qualified for the state tournament.

Twenty years after the 1992-93 season, the Lady Bulldogs made their name known as the league champions again.

The Lady Bulldogs looked forward to continuing their success as they traveled to Palco to take on the Lady Roosters once again last Friday.

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League selects academic team

The Western Kansas Liberty League has selected basketball players from the league tournament held two weeks ago for the All-League Academic Team.

Area players on the team are Will Allen of Brewster and Angela Ritter and Morgan Walz of Golden Plains.

Others selected were Katie Becker and Whitney Mulder, Logan; Elizabeth Benoit and Kali Newell, Palco; Steph-

nie Busse and Kenan Reeh, Cheylin; Erika Chandler and Alex Tharman, Northern Valley; Jess Gaskill and Crystal Mays, Triplains; Brandi Goetz and Brooke Ostmeyer, Wheatland-Grinnell; Luis Hernandez, Healy; Katherine Showalter, Casey Kraus and Colton Rein, Western Plains; and Nick Smith, Jared McKinney and Samuel McKinney, Weskan.



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