

# Lady Bulldog squad wins championship

By Judy Rogers  
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The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs won the Class 1A Division II Substate Championship March 2 after defeating Weskan and Triplains-Brewster at the Colby Community Building for the right to play in the state tournament the following week.

"Winning substate was definitely a highlight," said junior Kylie Jones. "This felt like the first time we had a challenge in quite a few weeks."

The Lady Bulldogs had been undefeated since the Castle Rock Tournament in early December and demonstrated their teamwork and skill throughout the substate competitions. They entered the tournament ranked No. 1 and received a bye for the quarterfinal round.

The Wallace County Lady Wildcats defeated Wheatland-Grinnell advancing to face the Lady Bulldogs. These two teams had not yet met up this season and had to feel each other out during the first quarter. Once they got going, the Lady Bulldogs pulled ahead only to have the Lady Wildcats tie it up with three minutes remaining in the quarter. A basket from Kami Miller and a three-point shot from Jordan Christensen gave the Lady 'Dogs a 10-5 lead going into the second.

The Lady Bulldogs took over in the second quarter and played like they wanted the win as they pumped in 16 points to the Lady Wildcats' 5 to hold a 26-10 lead at half.

The Lady Wildcats tried hard in the second half, but the Lady 'Dogs worked well together and meant business as they came to win and continued to outscore their opponents 14-8 and 14-7 in the third and fourth quarters for the 54-25 win.

Scoring for the Lady Bulldogs were Christensen 15, Hailee Spreser 13, Kylie Jones 7, Angela Ritter 6, MiKayla Lobato 6, Miller 5 and Paulita Ramirez 2. Christensen also pulled down 17 rebounds and Spreser grabbed 16, giving them each a double-double.

Additional rebounds were captured by Lobato 6, Jones 6, Ritter 2, Leea Juenemann 2, Maddy Walz 2 and 1 apiece by Ramirez, Miller and Kynndra Rush. They also had 15 assists led by Ritter with 6, Chris-

tensen 4, Miller 3, Juenemann 1 and Walz 1.

Advancing to the championship game, the Lady Bulldogs played the Triplains-Brewster Lady Titans for the third time this season. They had defeated them easily in early January, but barely squeaked by them in mid-February. The Lady Bulldogs knew the Titans had improved throughout the season and they had to bring their "A" game to this tournament game.

The girls from Golden Plains did just that as they got the tip, but lost it to the Lady Titans for the first score. Once they retrieved the ball, they ran up a 12-2 lead before the Lady Titans added a final basket just before the first-quarter buzzer.

The girls kept working the ball to Spreser under the basket in the second as she quickly ran up 6 more points against the Lady Titans. Jones took over with additional points along with Ritter to hold a 26-12 lead at half.

The Lady Titans showed their determination and resilience in the second half, giving the lagging Lady Bulldogs a run for their money with both teams putting in 13 points in the third quarter.

The Lady 'Dogs regained their energy in the fourth and lit up their defense to hold the Lady Titans to 8 points while adding 14 points - 8 from free throws - in the final eight minutes to win the championship 53-33.

"I am SOOO proud to be a Bulldog!" exclaimed senior Ritter. "I couldn't ask for a better group of girls, coaches and fans to share my senior year with!"

Jones shot 100 percent of her free throws, 7 of 7, to achieve a double-double with 15 points, 11 rebounds and 2 steals. Spreser also made 100 percent of her shots from the line for 14 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist and 1 steal. Ritter put in 9 points, grabbed 4 rebounds and distributed 7 assists while Miller scored 7 points, 8 rebounds and 3 assists. Christensen totaled 8 points, 8 rebounds, 2 assists and 2 steals. Additional rebounds came to Juenemann 3, Rush 2, Lobato 1 and Tayler Petersen 1. Lobato also had 2 steals.

"Big thanks to our cheerleader Morgan Walz, amazing student section and supportive community," added Ritter.

The Lady Bulldogs headed to the state tournament for the third time in the past eight years. They played the Hope Lady Lions in the first round.



JUDY ROGERS/Golden Plains High School  
Hailee Spreser put up a two against the Wilson Lady Dragons as she helped the Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs win a third-place trophy at the state basketball tournament.

# Oakley woman up for state crown

Ms. Wheelchair Kansas will be crowned at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka. Contestants in the ninth annual competition are Angel Shaver of WaKeeney and Jessica Soderlund of Oakley, a native of Oberlin.

The free event is open to the public. It will include platform speech presentations by the contestants, a keynote speaker, a farewell from the current titleholder and crowning of the new Ms. Wheelchair Kansas.

The program selects one wheelchair-mobile woman who will advocate, educate and empower

all people. It is not a beauty contest, but a competition to select the most articulate, accomplished women who will serve as a role model and spokesperson for people with disabilities in Kansas.

The titleholder will travel around the state, educating groups about issues important to people with disabilities through presentations, public appearances and interviews. The winner is eligible for national competition in July, where she will represent Kansas and compete for the title of Ms. Wheelchair America.

The contestants will participate

in activities from Friday to Sunday to prepare for Sunday's crowning. The contestants will be scored during four events: two personal interview sessions, a platform speech and on-stage questions.

Judges will evaluate the contestants based on their accomplishments, self-perception and communication and projection skills. The contestants have sessions on topics including disability pride, working with the press, fitness through dance and advocacy.

The Ms. Wheelchair America Program was created in 1972, and this is the 10th year that Kansas

will be represented at the national competition. The 2012 titleholder, Emily Evans of Bucklin, has traveled all over the state this year to talk about her platform. "Definitions: Empowering Youth to Define Themselves." She will say farewell and will pass her crown on to the 2013 winner.

For information, contact Carrie Greenwood, state coordinator, at (785) 267-5982 or by e-mail at ms-wheelchairkansas@yahoo.com. Information can also be found on the Ms. Wheelchair Kansas website at www.mswheelchairkansas.org.

# Broncos make deal with big-time receiver

By Pat Graham

AP Sports Writer

DENVER - The Denver Broncos gave Peyton Manning a new target - Tom Brady's favorite receiver.

Wes Welker's signing for \$12 million over two years highlighted another busy day for the Broncos on Wednesday.

In addition to bringing Welker on board, Denver also agreed to terms on a two-year deal with defensive tackle Terrance Knighton, formerly of Jacksonville, and a one-year contract with linebacker Stewart Bradley, who played with the Cardinals the past two seasons.

Broncos boss John Elway was far from done, though, adding cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie on a one-year deal later in the evening.

Once again, the Broncos are being aggressive in free agency.

It worked so well last season when they won the high-stakes contest to sign Manning, which prompted Elway to joke, "Plan B? I don't have a Plan B. We're going with Plan A."

Manning guided the Broncos to a 13-3 regular season finish, only to lose to Baltimore in double overtime during the division round of the playoffs.

Instead of sticking with the same cast, Elway is revamping the roster. Nothing too drastic, just adding some crucial pieces.

He picked up the league's most productive receiver to play in the slot where Brandon Stokley was last season. Welker's five 100-catch seasons are the most in the NFL. He has been selected to the Pro Bowl in each of his past five seasons and was an All-Pro four of the past five years.

"When you look at Wes in the middle of the field, you can't cover him," Elway said. "He

does such a tremendous job of getting open, finding seams in zones, beating man-to-man coverage..."

Welker caught 118 passes for 1,354 yards and scored six touchdowns last year, helping the Pats go 12-4 and make the AFC title game before they also fell to Baltimore. He developed quite a rapport with Brady during his six seasons with the Patriots.

The Broncos are banking the same kind of relationship can blossom between their 37-year-old future Hall of Fame quarterback and his newest target, Welker, who is 31.

That the Broncos are signing a top player away from Brady and the Patriots certainly didn't hurt, either.

Although the deal with Welker received a bulk of the attention, the Rodgers-Cromartie, Bradley and Knighton deals could also influence Denver's starting lineups.

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**Department raised \$1,400 in Pink Zones**

The Colby Recreation Department announced how much it raised from this year's Colby Pink Zone events.

"I'm happy to report that this year's Colby Pink Zone events raised \$1,465.90, in which we were able to give to the Northwest Kansas Foundation for Hope," said Director Stacy Jasper. "Thanks to everyone who bought T-shirts, donated or bought auction items, donated or bought desserts."

Jasper also thanked Colby High School and Colby Community College for allowing the Pink Zone campaign to take place once again.

In other events, the department's sixth annual Spring Fling 5K was postponed Sunday due to the weather.

It has been rescheduled for 3 p.m. Sunday, March 24. The course will begin at the Colby Aquatic Park.

A Youth Mile Run also will take place, which is for kids 12 and under, and will follow the sidewalk along Franklin to near the Walmart entrance and back. Both courses will be marked, Jasper said.

Registration for both races will begin at 2:30 p.m. March 24 in the Aquatic Park parking lot.

The mile run will begin at 3 p.m. with the 5K to start immediately following, about 3:10 p.m.

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