

Lady 'Dogs Place Second in Hill City
By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs placed second in the Hill City Invitational Volleyball Tournament on October 12. This is the second consecutive year the Lady 'Dogs have claimed the runner-up spot at this competitive tournament against teams the girls had not yet seen this season. "This was an awesome team effort!" said Coach Orba Smith. "I am so proud of our girls!"

The girls faced off in the early morning against the Natoma Lady Tigers. This close game with two competitive teams proved challenging as the Lady Bulldogs won the first set 25-19, but the Lady Tigers came back to win the second 20-25. In the third set, it was close but the Lady 'Dogs claimed the win 25-23.

After a short break, the girls next were scheduled to play the Rawlins County team from Atwood. This was tough match as they lost 17-25 and 20-25. Their next team was the Ness City Lady Eagles. "We found our groove as the day progressed," said senior Macayla Easton. "We started to trust each other more," added Hailee Spreser. These games went quickly as the girls won easily 25-8 and 25-18.

Winning two of their three pool matches, the girls advanced to the semi-final round where they quickly downed LaCrosse 25-13 and 25-18 sending them to the championship game only to face the Rawlins County team once again.

The championship matches proved to be very exciting as the Lady Bulldogs pulled together to give the Lady Buffaloes an exciting and extremely close battle. Atwood won the first set 25-22 but the Lady 'Dogs rallied for a 25-23 win in the second. The final set kept everyone on the floor and in the stands on their toes as Rawlins County won the final point 25-23.

"We were pleased to play so well against these teams in Hill City," said Jordan Christensen. "It really helped build our confidence as we prepare for the WKLL tournament next week where we plan to place in the championship game!"