

Lady Bulldogs push past Healy

By Judy Rogers
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The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs won their second consecutive game on Tuesday, defeating the Healy Lady Eagles 54-42. "This is the first time in the past two seasons that we have won two games in a row," said coach Parker Christensen. The game started out with Healy

in the lead, but the Lady Bulldogs pushed hard and rebounded strong and made enough shots to gain a 19-14 lead by the end of the first quarter. In the second, the girls extended their lead before the Lady Eagles closed the gap to 28-27 at the half. As the third period came to a close, the teams were tied at 38. The Lady Bulldogs stepped up the pace in the fourth, as they pumped in 16 points and their de-

fense held Healy to 4 to help them pick up the win. Freshman Angela Ritter led the team on offense with 16 points. Also in double figures was senior Jessica Luna with 13. Senior Aisha Walter added 9, junior Jacy Moss scored 7, junior Melissa Ritter had 6 and senior Karly Miller chipped in 3. The girls shot 64 percent from the free-throw line, making 16 of 25. Melissa Ritter pulled down

11 rebounds while Moss grabbed 9. Angela Ritter had 7, Luna 6, Walter 4 and Brandy Gilbert and Miller 1 apiece. Golden Plains had 16 assists and 13 steals. This second win brings the girls' season record to 2-3 overall and 1-1 in league play. They were to play Wheatland/Grinnell last Friday before taking a two-week break. In the junior varsity game, the girls played well and won 24-7.

Eagles junior varsity boys wallop Oakley

The Colby Eagles junior varsity pounded Oakley 54-31 on Friday at Colby Elementary School. "The team keeps improving all the time," said Coach Dean Anderson. The younger boys lost a game to Garden City on Thursday in a junior varsity tournament game at Goodland. After dropping their season opener to Hays 71-31, The Eagles came back and won their next two. They beat Burlington (Colo.) 66-54

last Monday in the Goodland tournament, then crushed St. Francis 77-30 on Tuesday. The team that played Burlington comprises mostly C-team players, said Anderson. He said his team shot the ball well and played good defense. Juniors Andrew Ketchum and Kale Arnberger both had 7 points in the game against Hays. Freshman Todd Kane had 18 against Burlington and sophomore Paul Schiferl added 15.

Schiferl hit four three-pointers. Ketchum had a team-high 12 points against St. Francis and junior Spencer Tubbs added 8. Arnberger and Christian Wilson and sophomore Justin Slavens all had 7, sophomore Tate Query scored 6, sophomore Dalaan Organ added 5, freshman Zane Winger, junior Cody Crocker and sophomore Braden Sager all had 4 and sophomore Caleb Carter chipped in 2. The junior varsity will play Holcomb at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8, at the high school.

Eagles edge past Broncos despite late-game rally

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Brian Dawkins pranced, danced and flexed before the game. The Philadelphia Eagles did all the celebrating at the end. David Akers kicked a 28-yard field goal with 4 seconds remaining, lifting the playoff-bound Eagles to a 30-27 victory over the Denver Broncos and spoiling Dawkins' emotional return to Philadelphia on Sunday. Kyle Orton rallied the Broncos from a 27-10 deficit in the third quarter, but Donovan McNabb led the Eagles on a winning drive in the final minutes.

13 seasons in Philadelphia, Dawkins returned in a Broncos uniform after leaving in free agency. "It's just real, real nerve wracking," Dawkins said. "I've been in a lot of big games before. I was just trying to control my emotions. It was real tough for this game, mainly because we needed this game so bad." Orton began Denver's comeback bid with a 7-yard TD pass to Jabar Gaffney, completing a drive that started at the Philadelphia 25 after a short punt, 11-yard return and a penalty. The teams traded three-and-outs on the next five possessions until the Broncos converted on third-and-2. Orton found Gaffney for an 18-yard gain to the Eagles 30. Matt Prater then kicked a 46-yard field goal to tie it at 27 with 6:05 left.

Orton threw an 11-yard TD pass to Gaffney to trim Philadelphia's lead to 10-7 in the second. Gaffney bounced off two tacklers after catching the pass inside the 5 and scooted into the end zone. McNabb tossed a 47-yard TD pass to a wide-open Celek, giving the Eagles a 17-7 lead in the second quarter. Dawkins may have missed coverage on the play because he pointed at his head and chest after the catch. Helped by two Broncos penalties, including a 41-yard pass interference call on Champ Bailey, the Eagles went ahead 27-10 midway through the third quarter. McNabb connected with Jason Avant on a 15-yard TD pass. Safety Renaldo Hill tipped the ball and Avant made a juggling catch as he

fell backward into the end zone. A touchdown that would've given the Eagles a 7-0 lead was overturned when a replay showed that Orton's incompletion was a forward pass. Thinking Orton made a backward pass, Dimitri Patterson picked up the ball and ran it back 23 yards for a score. Dawkins committed a penalty on Philadelphia's first possession that almost proved costly. He was called for illegal contact on third-and-7, negating a sack that would've forced a punt. The Eagles then drove to the Broncos 19, but Elvis Dumervil sacked McNabb and Reid recovered it. Dumervil tied Simon Fletcher's franchise record with his 16th sack.

"When you play your big brother, you want to do whatever it takes to win," McNabb said of facing Dawkins, one of the greatest defensive players in team history. The Eagles (11-4) can clinch their sixth NFC East title this decade with a victory at Dallas (10-5) next Sunday. The winner of that game takes the division crown. Also, a victory over the Cowboys coupled with one loss by Minnesota would give Philadelphia a first-round bye in the playoffs. The Broncos (8-7) are trying to avoid a major collapse after starting 6-0. They no longer control their playoff destiny and are tied with four other teams for the final two wild-card spots in the AFC. McNabb threw for 322 yards and three TDs, tight end Brent Celek had 121 yards receiving and one TD and Philadelphia won its sixth straight game. The Eagles have set a franchise record for most points in a season, surpassing the 416 they scored last year. They have 429 points, an average of 28.6 per game. A seven-time Pro Bowl safety in

Facing a third-and-25 from their 15, the Eagles finally got a first down when McNabb scrambled 27 yards up the middle. But the offense stalled again. Sav Rocca pinned the Broncos back to their 9 with a 40-yard punt. The change in field position helped set up Philadelphia's winning drive. Brian Westbrook returned for the Eagles after missing seven of the past eight games with concussions. He hadn't played since sustaining his second concussion in a three-week span on Nov. 15 at San Diego. The former All-Pro running back had 32 yards rushing on nine carries. McNabb connected with DeSean Jackson on a 2-yard TD pass to put the Eagles ahead 7-0 in the first quarter. Dawkins missed a tackle on LeSean McCoy's 39-yard catch-and-run on the first play of the drive.

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Going for the rebound



SANDRA GALVAN/Golden Plains High School
Sisters Melissa Ritter (21) and Angela Ritter (10) prepared for a rebound at the Wheatland/Grinnell game on Dec. 18. The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs have shown marked improvement since the beginning of the season, winning two straight games for the first time in two seasons.

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