

R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Golden Plains' Leea Juenemann did not hesitate to hit the Colby Community Center floor while making this volleyball in play during a varsity match against Weskan Tuesday night. Also pictured for Great Plains are Kami Miller (3) and Jordan Christensen (25). The Bulldogs lost a three-set battle but won two quad matches.

Busy Bulldogs score two wins

Golden Plains can begin a new winning streak after taking two of three in Tuesday's Heartland Quadrangular at the Colby Community Center.

The Bulldogs owned 11 consecutive wins before venturing into Cambridge, Neb., to finish a long Homecoming week Saturday afternoon. The first games were

against Northern Valley, who won a marathon in their 25-19, 22-25, 30-28 triumph.

The Bulldogs turned right around to play host Cambridge. Golden Plains won the first set 25-21, but perhaps fatigue played a role in Cambridge's pair of 25-19 victories.

The finish was better Tuesday

evening at Colby as Golden Plains took a terrific three-set match from nearby rival Heartland Christian.

The Bulldogs also swept Healy 25-5, 25-10 before dropping another three-set skirmish with Weskan. Golden Plains won the middle set 25-16 only to see Weskan score 25-20 and 25-21 wins taht decided this championship.



JUDY ROGERS/Golden Plains High School

Senior Grant Spreser (8) started a Weskan Coyote's downward descent while Bulldogs Dawson Spreser (21), Benny Martinez (21) and Cole Ziegelmeier (20) were ready to make sure he didn't regain his footing Friday night at Rexford.

Coyotes control Golden Plains

By Judy Rogers

Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains Bulldogs battled the Weskan Coyotes for their Homecoming game Friday night and fell short, 52-6, in their first round of district play at Rexford.

Junior Benny Martinez's 15 tackles and a 21-yard touchdown run from senior Grant Spreser were Bulldog highlights.

The Bulldogs (1-3 record) received the ball to start the game but ended their series punting back to Weskan. Golden Plains' defense stopped the Coyotes' advance multiple times, but the Coyotes were first on the boards with a touchdown and extra point to lead 8-0 early in the first quarter.

With the Bulldog offense unable to get going, the gave the ball back to the Coyotes, but their defense was able to stop them to end the quarter.

Golden Plains struggled to run the ball so took to the air in an effort to gain some yardage only to have the Coyotes intercept a pass and return it to the 14 yard line.

Senior Grant Spreser stopped them in the back field and Zach Spreser, senior, deflected a Coyote pass to the end zone to allow the Bulldogs to take over on the seven-yard line.

The Coyotes received the ball to start the second half. Golden Plains defense got the ball back with good stops by Martinez, junior Domic Luna and Barnhart.

Grant Spreser broke through to run in the Bulldogs only score of the game with 8:33 left in the

third.

Besides Martinez's 15 tackles, Grant Spreser and Tristan Schwarz each had 11 along with Shane Ryburn's six, Zach Spreser's five, Cole Ziegelmeier's five, Barnhart's four, Luna's three

and and Felciano Bermudez with two.

The Bulldogs are now 1-3 on the season and 1-1 in league action. They will travel to 1-3 Cheylin Friday night (7 p.m. start) for another district game.

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Crusaders battle tough quad

By R.B. Headley

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Nobody can accuse Heartland Christian of scheduling cream-puffs or softies for their home volleyball quads at the Colby Community Center.

Both Weskan and Golden Plains brought talented teams who eventually played to decide this quad championship.

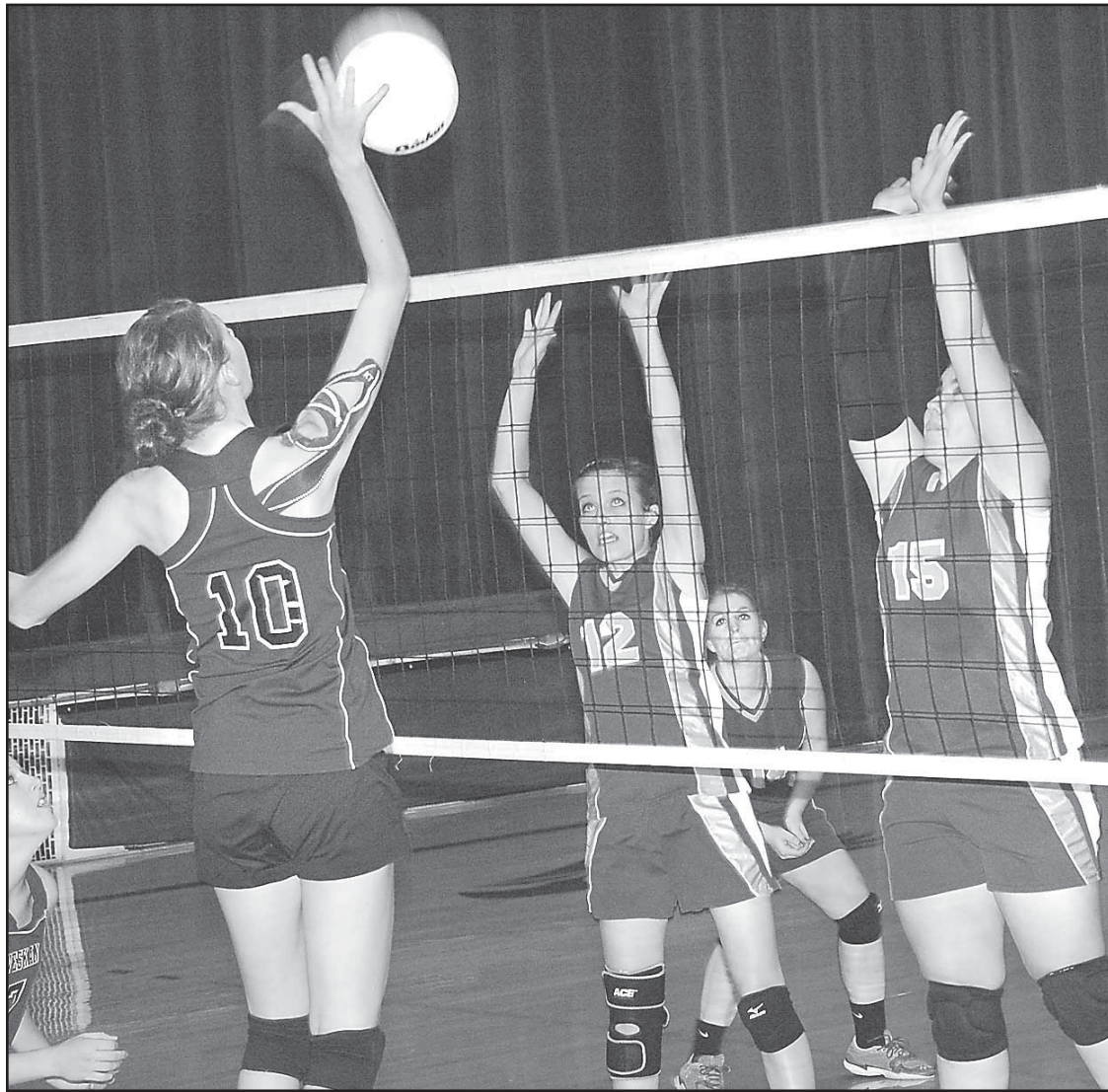
Yet the Crusaders put up good fights against both teams, pushing Golden Plains to three sets in Tuesday's late finale.

Weskan went through the quad without a defeat but needed strong finishes in both sets to top Heartland Christian. The visitors eventually prevailed 25-15, 25-17 and finished 3-0 at this quad.

Heartland Christian pulled together for a 25-14, 25-16 victory over Healy.

The Crusaders will need even stronger efforts as this season's home stretch is not far away.

Their next matches will be on Monday at the Russell Triangular (5 p.m. start).



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Heartland Christian's Brittany Bear (12) and Savanna Sullivant (15) went for another block against Weskan during their home quad at the Colby Community Center on Tuesday.

Pirates celebrate playoff victory

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Pirates went 21 years between playoff games. The wait will be significantly shorter this time around.

Russell Martin homered twice, Francisco Liriano was dominant for seven innings and the Pirates roared past the Cincinnati Reds for a 6-2 victory in the National League wild-card game Tuesday night.

In front of a black-clad crowd savoring the team's first post-

season game since 1992, Marlon Byrd also homered and Andrew McCutchen had two hits and reached base four times for Pittsburgh.

"We're for real," McCutchen said. "We're definitely for real."

Liriano scattered four hits for the Pirates, who will face the St. Louis Cardinals in Game 1 of the NL Division Series on Thursday. Liriano struck out five and walked one to win the first playoff game of his career.

World Series pick

Now that *Free Press* sports editor R.B. Headley's beloved Cincinnati Reds are history, he can make an unbiased forecast on who will rule October.

Division series Braves over Dodgers in five, Cardinals over Pirates in five; Red Sox over Indians in four, Tigers top A's in four.

League championship series: Cards over Braves in six; Red Sox over Tigers in six. World Series: Cardinals over Red Sox in seven.

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