

# At the Game



**FOOTBALL OPEN HOUSE** – Every member of the Indian football squad had the opportunity to perform Friday night on the high school field. Dylan Wolaver (33) freshman, is making some headway as he carries the ball. *Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick*

## Players anxious to begin competition

By Betty Jean Winston  
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“The guys have been working hard at practice hitting each other and now they want to hit on someone else,” said Nathan Smith, new Indian coach.

Friday night, the Indians will open the season in Colby and they will get the opportunity to fulfill this wish.

Returning senior letter winners are expected to step up and pace the Indian football team as the new campaign begins. Seniors Matt Raile, Drew Zwegardt, Trent Raile, Alex Long, Terrence Lamb, Grady Brunk, Ben Neitzel and Freddy Pacheco will be among those carrying the St. Francis banner early in the season as the younger players gain additional experience.

Other returning letter winners include Brooks Hobrock, Adam Guthmiller, Garrett Figgins, Cody Sherlock, Cody Killingsworth and Braden Schmid. Receiving provisional letters at the end of the 2008 season were Darris Keller, Tyler Lauer and Jeff Meyer.

Coach Smith feels that for the most part the players took advantage of the summer weight program and came to opening practices in good condition.

“Of course, you always wish more had used the opportunity throughout the summer, but the week before practice many worked on getting in shape including doing some running.

“We have good leadership. This year the team voted on captains and M. Raile, T. Raile, Sherlock and Guthmiller were elected.

“These guys took off running with ideas. They really stepped up, going so far as to offer rides to practice.”

Besides the captains, there are other seniors/letter winners showing leadership, he said.

He also said that the skill level is good. They will be using many of the same things as before although some of the terminology is a little different. The players are figuring it out.

“Our execution is so important and is one of the keys of the season. We need to take care of the ball so there are no turnovers

and we want to use the clock wisely.

“We want to have ball control, chew up the clock and have ball security. It is important to keep the ball when we have it.”

Brooks Hobrock is a returning starting linemen. He received Northwest Kansas League honorable mention on the offensive line following last season.

The Indian offensive backfield is experienced. T. Raile was an unanimous league pick as a running back while M. Raile received league honorable mention as quarterback. Sherlock also has experience.

St. Francis will mainly be using the running game.

“Defensively there is not a lot of change. We are going to have an attacking defensive. Coach (Steve) Jenkins is good and he is going to be putting in some new stuff.

“We need to take care of people (opponents) on defense.”

Guthmiller is one of the Indians who received league honorable mention defensively as a linebacker.

Coach Jenkins is the defensive coordinator. He also works on the linebackers and offensive line.

Coach Hoagie Carmichael has been working on both the offensive and defensive line and Coach Devin Dinkel works with running backs and defensive backs. Both of these coaches will also be working with the junior varsity program.

### Colby is first game

Concerning the game with Colby on Friday night, Coach Smith said that Eagles program is on the rise.

“They now have some stability in their coaching so they should be a good team this year.

All the other football programs (collage, pro) across the county are beginning and the St. Francis coach and players are ready.

“It is time for us to play,” Coach Smith said. “I’m excited to get started.”

The Indians continued their winning ways last year, finishing the season with a 9-2 record. They were the District 15 champions, the bi-district champions and advanced to the regional

game with LaCrosse.

Besides Northwest Kansas League opponents they played Norton and Phillipsburg from the Mid-Continent League and Syracuse and Wichita County/Leoti as part of district play. Their losses came from Norton in regular season play and LaCrosse at regionals.

Coach Smith has three years of experience as an assistant coach with Smith Center, where he also played high school football.

This summer he worked with the St. Francis high school weight program and was able to acquaint himself with potential Indian players.

The opening home game will take place on Friday, Sept. 11, when Phillipsburg comes to town.

Other home games on the schedule include Oakley, Norton and district opponent, Syracuse.

The St. Francis players, coaches and managers will be recognized when *The Saint Francis Herald* features them in the Fall Sports Special Section, sponsored by local businesses and fans.

### Roster

A total of 44 players will be taking part in the Indian program this year.

Seniors: Drew Zwegardt, Darris Keller, Matt Raile, Alex Long, Freddy Pacheco, Terrence Lamb, Trent Raile, Grady Brunk, Ben Neitzel, Jeff Meyer.

Juniors: Brett Lampe, Cody Killingsworth, Cody Sherlock, Garrett Figgins, Trevor Reed, Braden Schmid, Tyler Lauer, Adam Guthmiller, Alex Draper, Brooks Hobrock, Robbie Herman, Ryan Owens, Tye Gilliland.

Sophomores: Ty Zwegardt, Martin Hnizdil, Nathan Lamb, Sam Reed, Jonathan Butler, Gavin Cooper, David Palencia.

Freshmen: Casey Keller, Keevan Sherlock, Zach Gienger, Dylan Wolaver, Thomas Douthit, Michael Leibbrandt, Dylan Peter, Dillion Straub, Lucas Carmichael, Gus Jardine, Tony Meyer, Kaleb Zwick, Joey McCormick, Foster Grant.

Managers: Brandon Keeker, who is returning, and Erick Estrada and Michael Adams.

## Football, volleyball set for junior high athletes

By Betty Jean Winston  
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Decatur Community/Oberlin will be the opponent for the opening action of the season for the St. Francis junior high teams. The volleyball girls will be playing at 4:30 p.m. today (Thursday) in the high school gym and the football boys will hear the opening whistle at 5:30 p.m.

Jeff Beims and David Morrow will again be leading the football squad and Tina Elliott the volleyball squad.

The volleyball program will be playing A-team and B-team ball as they did last year. The teams play the following Northwest Kansas League squads, Decatur Community, Oakley, Rawlins County, Hoxie and Colby, along with Dundy County, Neb. End-of-the-season tournaments take place for the A-team in Colby and the B-team in St. Francis.

The football team has seven games on the schedule. They play the same league opponents as the volleyball team, Decatur Community, Oakley, Rawlins County, Hoxie, and Colby except for the addition of Goodland. Dundy County is the seventh opponent.

### Football roster

Eighth grade: Jacob Butler, Mason Schiltz, Wyatt Landenberger,

Logan Lampe, Lane Hoffman, Austin White, Derek Queen, Tyler Lee, Jacob Baxter, Scott Warren, Gaten Cooper.

Seventh grade: Riley Shay, Cade Bracelin, Tanner Gilliland, Ian Schmid, Matt Howell, Jonathan Hoard, Nicky Easter, Kyler Zwegardt, Shakotah Blanka.

### Football schedule

Thursday, Sept. 3: Decatur County/Oberlin, here, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 10: Dundy County, there, 4 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 17: Oakley, there, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 24: Rawlins County/Atwood, there, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 1: Hoxie, here, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 8: Goodland, here, 4:30 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 12: Colby, there, 4:30 p.m.

### Volleyball roster

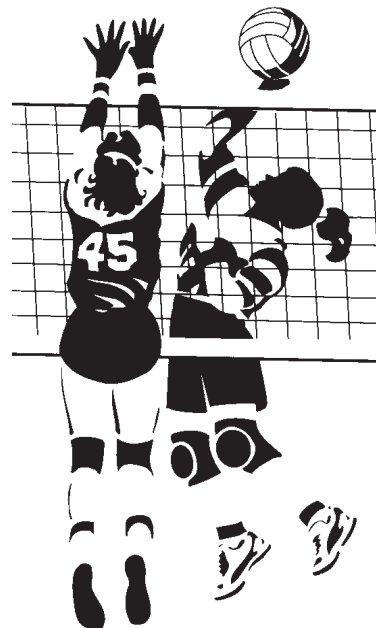
Eighth grade: Bailey Merklin, Rande Grover, Aly Schlepp.

Seventh grade: Valerie Wurm, Brianna Cooks, Dallas Reed, Ashlee Orth, McKayla Taylor, Mariah Beikman, Kyla Bandel, Echo Jones, Justice Wiley.

### Volleyball schedule

Thursday, Sept. 3: Decatur County/Oberlin, here, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 17: Oakley, there, 4:30 p.m.



Saturday, Sept. 19: Oakley Round Robin Tournament, Oakley, 9 a.m.

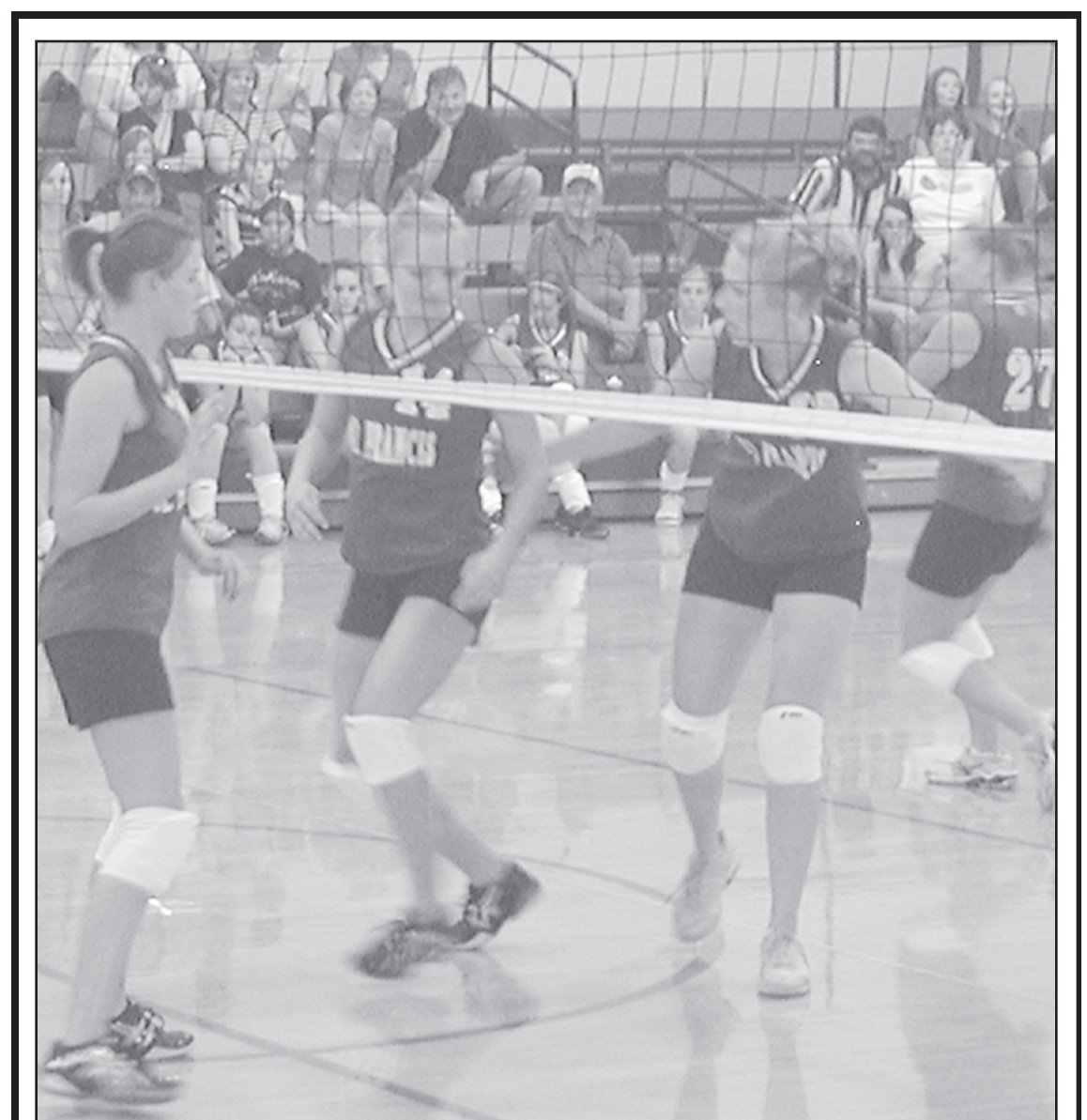
Thursday, Sept. 24: Rawlins County/Atwood, there, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 26: Hoxie Tournament, Hoxie, 9 a.m.

Thursday, Oct. 1: Hoxie, here, 4 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 12: Colby, there, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 22: Northwest Kansas League Tournament, A-team at Colby, 2 p.m.; B-team at St. Francis.



**LADY INDIANS** – Shayla Hilt (l to r) Mikaela Grace, Kaitlin Figgins and Aly Marin demonstrated volleyball skills at the open house Friday. *Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick*