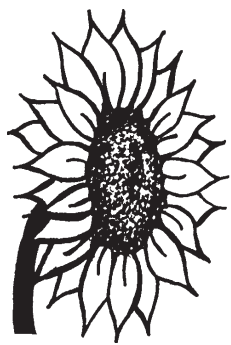


At the Game



Plainsmen victorious over Saintry Indians

By Betty Jean Winston
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The Oakley Plainsmen football team visited St. Francis on Friday night and left town with a 26-14 victory over the Indians. St. Francis was celebrating Homecoming with a variety of activities, including the Friday night football game on the agenda.

Early in the first quarter, St. Francis scored one of the Indians' two touchdowns of the evening. Trent Raile used his blockers to break through with a 50-yard run to the end zone for six points. St. Francis is known for break-away runs in the first minutes of play for their initial score of the game. Raile also scored the conversion points.

After that, the Oakley defense tightened and made consistent yardage hard to come by.

"The Oakley defense shut us down," Coach Nathan Smith said. "We had some drives going but we couldn't finish them. Oakley has a very good team with an older, experience line, including a number of seniors.

Oakley did a nice job of mixing rushing plays and passing attempts said Coach Smith.

During the evening, passes from Parsons to Siruta were successful. Three of them resulted in touchdowns for the Plainsmen and others advanced the offense team down field.

St. Francis will be continuing to get better, Coach Smith said. The kids are working to get better day by day and week by week.

"St. Francis is right there, we just need that last push to get over the hump," he said. "Our defense played really well, even though Oakley used some things we hadn't seen before.

The Indians just made some mistakes he said and that included the number of penalties against them.

Coming up on Friday will be a home game with Norton, who defeated the Indians last year.

"Norton could be the best team we have seen this year," Coach Smith said.

The Blue Jays are 3-1 going into Friday night's game. Their only loss was to Smith Center in a close scoring game.

On Friday night, the Plainsmen also had their first touchdown in the first quarter also. It was the result of a Parsons to Siruta 10-yard pass. The Indians still had the advantage at this point, due to the fact Oakley missed their conversion attempt.

The second quarter saw the Indians making yardage but having no sustained drive. A Parsons to Siruta touchdown pass put Oakley ahead 14-8 at halftime. They maintained the lead the complete second half. Oakley had a touchdown at about 3:30 in the third



INDIANS PLAY DEFENSE – Drew Zwegardt (5) is putting a stop on the Oakley ball carrier Friday night with Brooks Hobrock (68) arriving to add support.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

quarter. This time it was on a Parsons 6-yard run. This moved their advantage to 20-8.

Both teams scored in the fourth quarter with Oakley being first on a Parsons to Siruta 14-yard pass. T. Raile added six points for the Indians late in the game with no conversion points scored. The final score was Oakley 26, St. Francis 14.

"The Indians did a number of good things," Coach Smith said. "They will continue to improve."

Saintry had a total of 189 yards on the ground against the Plainsmen and then added 37 yards in the air. M. Raile was two-of-three in passing attempts with Darris Keller catching one for 35 yards and Garrett Figgins, one for 21 yards. Oakley used the air for 167 yards with 106 of the yards received by Siruta.

T. Raile had 11 yards on 20 carries and one touchdown, one successful conversion and a punt return for a touchdown while Drew Zwegardt had 45

yards on 11 carries, Cody Sherlock, 30 yards on 11 carries, Terrence Lamb, 1 yard on one carry and Matt Raile, minus 8 yards on four carries.

Defensively Tyler Lauer recovered a fumble, T. Raile had a pass interception and Brooks Hobrock caused a fumble.

Defensive points earned are as follows: Guthmiller, five solo tackles, eight assists, 18 points; Sherlock, three solos, nine assists, 15 points; M. Raile 5 solos, four assists, 14 points;

Lauer, three solos, two assists, one fumble recovery, 12 points; T. Raile five assists, 10 points; Lamb, two solos, five assists, 9 points; D. Zwegardt, three solos, one assist; Hobrock, one solo, two assists, one caused fumble, 7 points; Alex Long, one solo, three assists, 5 points; Figgins, three assists, 3 points; Thomas Douthit, one assist, one point; Gavin Cooper, one assist, one point; Keller, one assist, one point; Jeff Meyer, one assist, one point.

Triangular meet held on Sept. 15

By Betty Jean Winston
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The St. Francis Lady Indians are midway through their season and this is one of their busy weeks. Action took place on Tuesday in Oberlin, with another triangular in Wray today (Thursday) and the Oberlin Tournament on Saturday.

On Tuesday, Sept. 15, the Ladies played their 12th and 13th matches of the year in Atwood with Rawlins County and Wallace County. The Rawlins County match was a two set loss with scores of 21-25, 23-25 and the Wallace County match was a three set loss with scores of 25-21, 25-27 and 26-28. Two of the five sets played that day went into overtime.

Following the Wallace County match, St. Francis had a 4-9 season record.

vs Rawlins County 21-25, 23-25.

vs Wallace County 25-21, 25-27, 26-28

The Lady Indians had a 96 percent serving average in this game, one of the best percents of the season. Four players were 100 percent, including Aly Marin, Shayla Hilt, Aubree Schlepp and Kaycee Williams. With a total of 45 serves, 43 of them were good. Schlepp and Marin had two aces each and Christina Hilt had one.

Bottom line is, we should not lose to Rawlins County," Coach Talley Morrow said. "They are rebuilding this year and our loss to them was caused by two things: we did not "get off the bus" and play very well and we have this mental block that tells us we can't beat them. It is not okay and we

are working hard to overcome those.

"Volleyball is such a "sport of momentum" and we really need to get on top and stay on top mentally before we can have a winning season. I think everybody in the community needs to help support the girls and help them believe that they are capable and tough enough to do this."

Katlin Figgins had five kills for this match with Mikaela Grace, Schlepp and Marin each adding two and Williams one.

The team had 65 hits on the attack with Figgins handing 13 and Grace 12. The team percentage was 82.

A total of two stiffs, one each by Williams and Grace, 11 blocks and several digs/saves were recorded.

"Wallace Co on the other hand is very good and fun team to play against," Coach Morrow said.

"Again, there is no good reason why we should lose to them and this match was a true heartbreaker. Just one look at the scores and you know it was a great match. We can take them - we just have to learn to get those last two points for ourselves instead of giving them away. That calls for perfection and "fight" and that is a challenge for us to achieve.

"We are working on this concept in practice and someday soon, we are going to overcome it and the Lady Indians are going to have a winning season."



LADY INDIANS Aubree Schlepp and Aly Marin are being very competitive near the net as the Lady Indians near the end of the September schedule. Tonight (Thursday) the team will travel to Wray.

Photo courtesy of Robert Grace

Leaders in this match include C. Hilt with four aces; Schlepp (16/16) and S. Hilt (12/12) being 100 percent serving; Jodie Hilt

had an incredible passing match; Marin and Grace each had four kills; and Schlepp and Figgins each had three stiffs.

The team was 92 percent serving and had a total of 28 kills, seven stiffs and 19 good blocks.

C-team plays ball

By Betty Jean Winston
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The St. Francis volleyball C-team had another opportunity to participate in home action Thursday as both Chase County and Dundy County came to town with C-teams. Several schools on the Lady Indian's schedule do not have large enough rosters to play C-team ball.

Chase County (Imperial) dominates St. Francis in two games, outscoring the home team 25-12 and 25-9 for a Chase County match win.

St. Francis played more competitively against Dundy County, taking this Nebraska team to three games. The final scores were 16-25, 25-21 and 12-15, with Dundy County taking the win.

"The Dundy County match was a classic volleyball roller coaster," Coach Jeff Olofson said. "There were stretches where everything went our way then we would make a mistake and Dundy County would take control.

"In the end they served a little better than we did. I felt that the freshmen showed more fight than they have in some of their earlier matches and this is a very encouraging sign."

Oberlin tournament

St. Francis met Colby, Goodland and Rawlins County on Saturday at the Oberlin C-team tournament.

The St. Francis Ladies had an opportunity to practice their skills, which is always good, but in the end they were handed three defeats.

Final scores against Colby were 12-25, 22-25; against Goodland 20-25 and 20-25 and against Rawlins County 24-26 and 19-26.

Junior high volleyball teams compete in two events

By Betty Jean Winston
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St. Francis and Rawlins County met in junior high volleyball action on Thursday night in Atwood. The St. Francis A-team and B-team both had the opportunity to see action. St. Francis lost both matches with the A-team falling in two sets 15-25, 24-26 and the B-team in three sets, 18-25, 25-18 and 6-15.

A-team 15-25, 24-26

"We had high expectations and

we kept it close but couldn't come up with the win on this one," Coach Tina Elliott said. "The girls played well together although we still need to communicate with each other a little bit better.

"We also need to work on being down and ready for every moment of the game and as we work toward that it will become easier to get to the ball."

Good serves: Bailey Merklin 13; Rande Grover 9; Aly Schlepp 3;

McKayla Taylor 3; Justice Wiley 2; Dallas Reed 1.

B-team 18-25, 25-18, 6-15.

"We mixed up our players a little bit and it seemed to work pretty good, although we lost we took the match into three sets," Coach Elliott said. "They are looking better and better all the time and I think the season is progressing well."

Good serves: Valerie Wurm 7, Brianna Cooks 4; Kyla Bandel 4; Wiley 4; Echo Jones 3; Grover 2; Merklin

1; Reed 1; Taylor 1; Schlepp 1; Mariah Beikman 1.

Tournament

The St. Francis B-team participated in the Oakley Round Robin Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 19.

St. Francis won two matches and lost one. The wins came over Quinter 25-14 and 25-17 and Rawlins County/Atwood 25-20, 20-25 and 15-10. St. Francis lost to Oakley by scores of 12-25 and 19-25.

"We came to this tournament ready to play and we came out strong and won against Quinter in two sets," Coach Tina Elliott said.

"It was our second match that we let ourselves get stressed out against Oakley. I think it was because they had already beaten us on Thursday so badly and I think we couldn't get over that in our minds.

"But then we came back and played hard and beat Atwood in the final match for the day."

Good serves vs Quinter: Echo Jones 11, Justice Wiley 6, McKayla Taylor 6, Dallas Reed 3, Valerie Wurm 3, Aly Schlepp 2, Bailey Merklin 2, Brianna Cooks 1, Ashley Orth 1.

Good serves vs Oakley: Jones 5, Wurm 4, and Wiley, Rande Grover, Reed, Schlepp, Cooks, Orth and Kyla Bandel, one each.

Good serves vs Rawlins County: Merklin 14, Wiley 13, Grover 12, Schlepp 8, Taylor 4, Reed 2.