

# Sports



## Red Devil boys take third in tourney

The Decatur Community High boys took third place in the annual Oberlin Invitational Basketball Tournament last week, beating Republican Valley and Cambridge but falling to Quinter.

Oberlin player Corey Fortin made the all-academic boys team and Ryan Ruf and Rusty Grafel the all-tournament team.

On Tuesday, the Red Devils met Republican Valley, from east of McCook, a team with a 10-2 record. The Devils downed the Nebraska boys 78-64 to advance to the semi-finals.

"We played well tonight," Coach Dick Ahlberg said. "We played together at both ends of the floor."

The Oberlin boys started out strong hitting 21 points to Republican Valley's 13 in the first quarter. Republican Valley came back in the second quarter, outshooting the Devils 17-15, but was still behind 36-30 at the half.

In the third quarter, the Devils shut their opponents down, hitting 20 points while allowing only 9. The score at the end of three was a Devilish 56-39.

Republican Valley recovered in the last quarter to outscore Oberlin 25-22 but never could pull ahead.

Scoring for Oberlin were Grafel, 24 points; Ruf, 22; Skyler Tacchini, 20; Tyson Nicholson, 7; Nathan Carr, 3; and Rollie Leitner, 2.

Grafel and Ruf led the team in rebounds with 12 each followed by Tacchini and Nicholson, six each, Carr, 5; and Fortin, 1. Carr had eight assists.

In the semi-final contest on Friday, the Devils started out well but fell to

the Quinter Bulldogs 72-54 after bad second and fourth quarters.

The Devils led the Bulldogs 15-13 at the end of the first quarter but then fell behind in the second as they were outscored 18-9. At the half, Quinter led 31-24. While the Devils tried hard to catch up, they were outscored 16-14 in the third quarter (it ended 47-38) and 25-16 in the fourth quarter.

Scoring for Oberlin were Ruf, 14; Nicholson, 11; Tacchini, 8; Grafel 7; Carr, 5; Fortin, 4; Aaron Ploussard, 3; and Brandon Metcalf, 2.

The loss put Oberlin in a fight for third place against Cambridge. A bad second quarter cost Cambridge the game as Oberlin came out on top 58-50.

Cambridge led in the first quarter 13-11 but was outgunned by Oberlin in the second quarter 26-6 to put the Devils ahead 36-19 at the half.

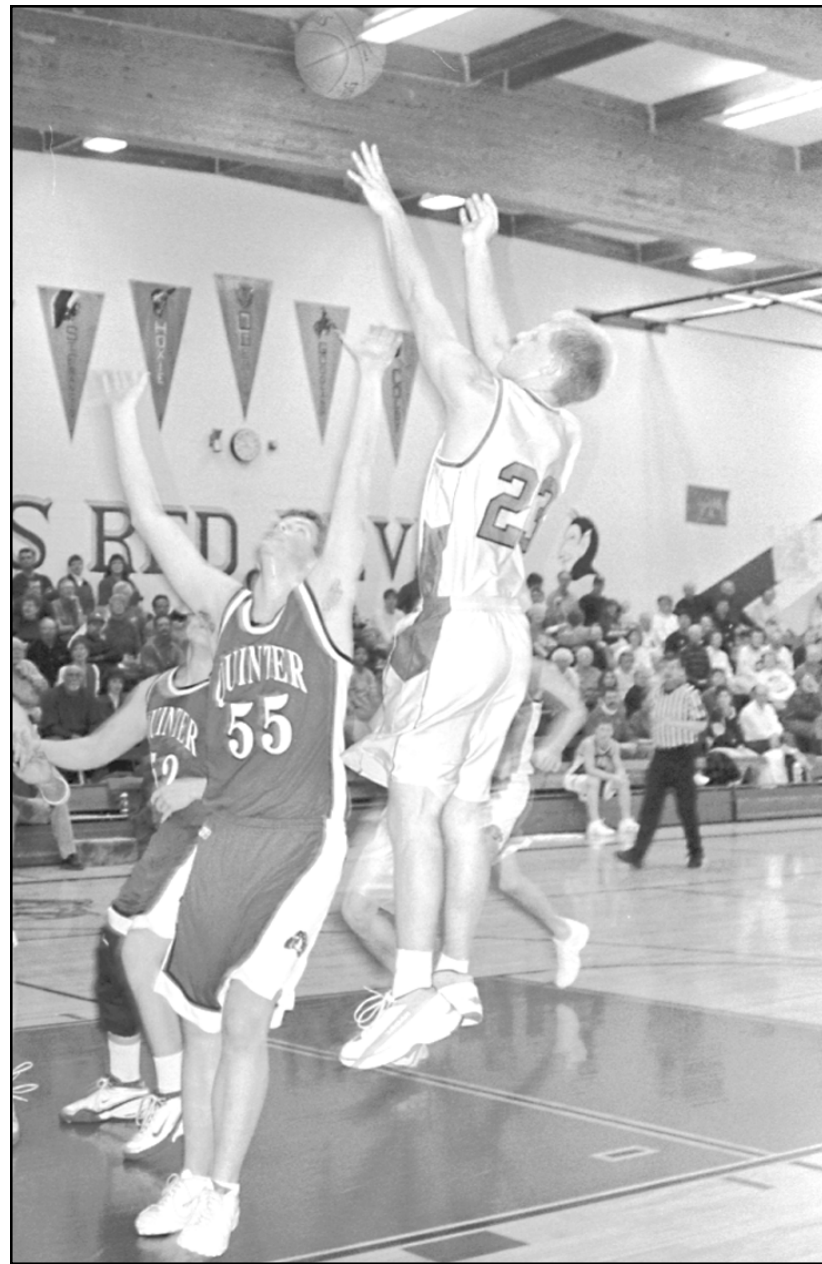
The Nebraska team was able to outshoot Oberlin in the last half, putting another 31 points up to Oberlin's 21. The second quarter told the tale, however, as Oberlin took the third place win.

"Our team's performance, third place, was a solid team effort," Coach Dick Ahlberg said. "Our consistency is getting better. We just want to continue to improve."

"I thought Nicholson and Tacchini really stepped up their game."

Scoring against Cambridge were Ruf, 17; Grafel, 15; Nicholson, 10; Tacchini, 8; Carr, 6; and Fortin, 2.

The boys will travel to Goodland this week for a 6:30 p.m. start (Central Time) on Friday.



**MAKING A BASKET,** Red Devil Rusty Grafel (above) fought off Quinter defenders on Friday night while Nathan Carr (above left) took a spill as he tried to go for a rebound.

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

## Quinter, Atwood first in Oberlin Invitational

The Quinter High School boys and the Atwood High girls took first place in the annual Oberlin Invitational Basketball Tournament last week.

The Decatur Community High boys came in third and the girls seventh.

In the boys bracket, Quinter overcame Hoxie, 78-57, on Saturday to take the top spot while Oberlin beat Cambridge, 58-50, for third place. Republican Valley, east of McCook, beat St. Francis, 58-50, for fifth place and another Nebraska team, Dundy County from Benkelman, edged out Atwood, 48-46, for seventh.

In play on Friday, Quinter beat Oberlin, 72-54; Hoxie downed Cambridge, 64-55; St. Francis ousted Atwood, 60-51; and Republican Valley overcame Dundy County, 46-40.

In the first round last Tuesday, Hoxie knocked off Atwood, 54-44; Cambridge edged St. Francis, 75-72;

Oberlin beat Republican Valley, 78-64; and Quinter downed Dundy County, 53-43.

In the girls bracket, Atwood romped over Cambridge, 51-31, for first place; Republican Valley downed Hoxie, 54-50, for third; St. Francis beat Dundy County, 45-40, for fifth; and Oberlin outplayed Quinter, 55-49, for seventh.

On Friday, Atwood beat Republican Valley, 65-55; St. Francis dropped Oberlin, 48-32; Cambridge outdid Hoxie, 60-52; and Dundy County downed Quinter, 51-32.

In play last Tuesday, Oberlin fell to Atwood, 71-47; Republican Valley outdid St. Francis, 57-46; Hoxie overcame Dundy County, 44-38; and Cambridge beat Quinter, 36-29.

"We enjoy seeing and competing with the Nebraska schools," Coach Dick Ahlberg said. "They are very athletic and aggressive."

## Jennings students named to league academic team

Three seniors at Prairie Heights School at Jennings were named to the Western Kansas Liberty League Academic team prior to the boys final contest at the league tournament held at Max Jones Field house in Goodland on Monday.

They are Russell Miller, son of Greg and Marie Miller of Dresden; Lori Vahling, daughter of Dick and Betty Vahling, Dresden, and Kristi Smith, daughter of Peg Smith of Oberlin.

The awards were presented to seniors only who were required to have participated in six sports and six non-athletic league activities recognized by the Kansas State High School Athletic Association or the Kansas State Department of Education up to their second semester of their senior year.

Principals of league schools certified their eligibility for the award and the final selection of the team was based on their grade point average.

Twenty-four seniors were selected for the award with duplicate awards given for ties.



Russell Miller



Lori Vahling



Kristi Smith

## Shooters advance in hoop contest

Two Jennings students took first place in the Hoxie Elks Hoop Shoot contest on Dec. 10.

Jacinta Carter and Kaitlyn Gillespie will go to the district hoop shoot in Russell on Saturday for the next level of play.

Jacinta took first in the 8-9 year old girl category, making 10 of 25 shots. Kaitlyn took first in the 10-11 year old girl category, making 11 of 25.

Other first-place winners were Kelton Jones of Golden Plains, 15 of 25, boys 8-9; Erik Paulsen of Colby Middle School, 20 of 25, boys 10-11; Kirby Benisch of Quinter, 16 of 25, boys 12-13; and Karinda Hill of Quinter, 15 of 25, girls 12-13.

Jennings students Joshua Ritter took third place for boys 8-9 with 13 of 25 shots; Courtney Gillespie, third for girls 12-13 with 10 of 25; Clay

DuBois, fourth for boys 12-13 with 10 of 25; and Seth Ritter, fifth for boys 10-11 with 10 of 25.

The first three finishers in each age group received medals and ribbons to mark their shooting abilities from the free-throw line. First-place winners received a display basketball and a trip to Russell.

Winners at Russell will go on to the state contest in Newton in February. Winners there will go to regionals in Denver in March and winners at regional will get a trip to the National Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass., in April.



## Herndon team beats Lakeside, drops a game

The Herndon Junior High girls basketball team scored 22 points each in games on Thursday and Jan. 11. That was enough to beat Lakeside Junior High in Stratton, Neb., Thursday but not quite enough to overcome Twin Valley a week earlier.

Herndon beat Lakeside 22-17 on Thursday.

"We were closely matched in number of players," Coach Holly Hoffman said. "We had seven and Lakeside eight. We outscored Lakeside in the first and second quarters by eight points."

"Lakeside came out strong in the third and fourth quarters to score 13 points to our 11. We were able to keep our fouls to a minimum. The girls played a great defensive game and are continuing to work on outside shooting."

Scoring were Renea Solko, 12 points; Anikka Martin, 6; Chelsey Williams and Janelle Solko, 2 each.

On Jan. 11, Twin Valley edged Herndon 24-22.

"We played another very close game against Twin Valley," Coach Hoffman said. "The girls were great on defense, keeping the percentage of inside shots down. We were able to run a more effective offense than we have been. Anikka Martin led our scoring with 12 points, playing a very aggressive fourth quarter."

"The team has accomplished a great deal and I am very pleased with the girls' progress and with their confidence in themselves."

Other scoring in the game were R. Solko, 8, and Kendra Solko, 2.

The girls will play Northern Valley in Alma on Thursday.

<p><b>\$11,700</b></p> <p>'98 Ford Windstar GL Local trade-in, loaded, rear air, two-tone paint</p>	<p><b>\$10,995</b></p> <p>'99 Buick Century Real clean, local trade, Like New!</p>	<p><b>\$8,975</b></p> <p>'96 Olds Cutless Sup. Low, low miles Loaded!</p>	<p><b>\$9,495</b></p> <p>'97 Ford Mustang Sporty-Special Suspension Package</p>	<p><b>Priced to Sell!</b></p> <p>'96 Chevy Monte Carlo Sporty! Great Condition!</p>
<p><b>\$7,200</b></p> <p>'96 Chrysler Cirrus 4-dr., auto Low miles!</p>	<p><b>\$8,995</b></p> <p>'99 Chevy S10 PU Perfect work truck low miles</p>	<p><b>*Financing Available</b> <b>*Warranties on all cars</b> <b>*Top dollar on trades</b> <b>*Boss &amp; bank says,</b> <b>"Move 'em"</b> <b>* Call Garon *</b></p>	<p><b>\$12,499</b></p> <p>'97 Chevy X-Cab PU V-8, Cheyenne Package SHARP!</p>	<p><b>\$12,499</b></p> <p>'97 Dodge Dakota 4x4 extended cab, Very Clean!</p>
<p><b>Reduced!</b></p> <p>'97 Buick LeSabre One Owner</p>	<p><b>Needs new home</b></p> <p>'98 Jeep Cherokee Sport 4x4 Like New!</p>	<p><b>\$6,500</b></p> <p>'93 Cadi Sed. DeVille One Owner Local Trade</p>	<p><b>SAVE-SAVE</b></p> <p>'96 Olds 98 Regency Locally Owned Leather, Loaded</p>	<p><b>\$14,900</b></p> <p>'96 Chevy Camaro Z-28, leather, loaded Low Miles!</p>

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