

# Runners go to McCook

The Decatur Community High boys came in ninth and the girls seventh at the McCook Invitational Cross Country meet on Thursday.

Freshman Rebecca Helm was the only medal winner for Oberlin. She came in 15th in 17 minutes, 52 seconds, on the 4,000-meter girls' course.

"Becky had an outstanding race," Coach Dick Ahlberg said. "She got out at the start and really competed. Our girls are running together in a pretty strong pack, but the pack is starting too far back the first half-mile and we cannot make up that much ground. We have to have the courage to get out quicker."

Junior Whitney Beinke came in next for the Oberlin girls, 35th in 19:25. She was followed by St. Francis High senior Amy Grace, who is running with Oberlin this season, 36th, 19:29; senior Molly Coleman, 37th, 19:32; junior Lora Marietta, 43rd, 19:57; and junior Tawni Davis, 51st, 23:53.

Sophomore Andy Leitner was the first Oberlin boy across the finish line. He was 37th in 20:45, followed by junior Teryn Grafel, 46th, 21:17; junior Kellen Doeden, 55th, 22:32; sophomore Aaron Helm, 59th, 22:56; junior Brent Stallman, 61st, 24:08; and junior Zeke Ruzicka, 63rd, 25:03.

"This was a big, tough meet with



**THE OBERLIN GIRLS** ran together on Thursday at the McCook Cross County Meet. In front was Lora Marietta (No. 425) and behind her were Molly Coleman (No. 424), Amy Grace of St. Francis (No. 422) and Whitney Beinke (No. 423). — Herald photo by Mirla Coleman

some of the best Nebraska schools competing, on a challenging course," Coach Ahlberg said.

In the girls race, Holdrege came in first with 33; North Platte, second, 43; Ogallala, third, 46; McCook, fourth, 55; Imperial, fifth, 68; Grant, sixth, 85; Oberlin, seventh, 107; Cambridge, eighth, 114; and Eustis-Farnam, ninth, 115.

In the 5,000-meter boys race,

Ogallala came in first with 44; Cambridge, second, 46; Imperial, third, 50; North Platte, fourth, 52; McCook, fifth, 66; Gothenburg, sixth, 78; Holdrege, seventh, 83; Cozad, eighth, 119; Oberlin, ninth, 136; and Eustis-Farnam, tenth, 146.

All schools except Oberlin were from Nebraska.

"This is a learning experience for all of our runners," Coach Ahlberg

said. "Our guys will just have to keep working hard to try to bring their times down."

Thursday, the runners will be in Hill City for a 5 p.m. start.

The 37th annual Oberlin Invitational will be Tuesday at the Oberlin Golf Course starting at 5 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come out and watch the runners and there is no admission charge.

THE OBERLIN HERALD —

## Sports

### Junior high girls split games at home

The Decatur Community Junior High girls played Quinter on Thursday at home and came away with some wins and some losses.

The seventh-grade A team lost its first game 25-8, came back to win the second round 25-23, then dropped the third game 15-13.

The seventh-grade B team lost both its games, 25-23, 25-15.

"Despite the loss, our seventh-grade team did a nice job using the bump, set and spike," Coach Melissa Dreher said.

The eighth-grade A team won its first game 25-15, dropped the sec-

ond 25-17 and came back to win the third game 15-11 to take the match.

The eighth-grade B team lost its first game 25-20 and won its second 28-26.

"The eighth-grade girls had a good first game," Coach Dreher said. "In the second game, Quinter seemed to hit it where we weren't."

"The girls played hard and won the last one."

The junior high Devils will be at a tournament in Hoxie on Saturday starting at 9 a.m. and on Thursday, Sept. 30, they will be in Atwood for a 4:30 p.m. start.

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## Volleyball girls play in Nebraska tourney

The Decatur Community High volleyball team hit a wall at the McCook Invitational Tournament on Saturday, losing all its matches and all but one game.

The girls had a 5-4 record going into the event, but came out standing 5-7. In the first round, Oberlin lost to Southwest High School, which is east of McCook, 25-17, 25-12.

"We were very intimidated in this match," Coach Pat Dorshorst said. "Southwest has some excellent hitters. Instead of getting tough at the net, we backed off and let their hitters pound the ball at us. It was a great learning experience of what happens when the blockers do not get up and close up the blocks at the net."

Top players against Southwest were:

- Server — Kelly Olson, four for four with one ace.
- Passer — Kaitlyn Stapp, 11 of 14 with one dig.
- Setter — Heather Williams, 22 of 23.
- Hitter — Lydia Karnopp, eight of 10 with five kills.

• Blockers — Trina Shields and Karnopp, three points stopped each. In the second round, against Cambridge, Neb., High, the Lady Red Devils won their only game of the day, 25-17. However, they dropped the next two, 26-24, 25-17, to lose the match.

"We played well in this match," Coach Dorshorst said. "We came out aggressive against a very good Cambridge team. There was a great deal of hustle throughout the match."

"The two teams matched up pretty evenly. Oberlin struggled late in the second game, and throughout the third game, due to one injury late in the second game and a second injury in the third game.

"Either team could have come out on top during this match. It was a well-fought competition."

Karnopp strained her back and although she was still fighting spasms, she was back in practice on Monday.

Williams had a contusion on her heel and will be on crutches for several days. She will be out at least a week, Coach Dorshorst said.

Top players against Cambridge

were:

- Server — Williams, 12 for 12 with two aces.
- Passer — Lauren Fortin, 12 of 17 with two digs.
- Setter — Stapp, 22 of 22.
- Hitter — Karnopp, 11 of 11 with eight kills.
- Blocker — Tricia Dorshorst with five points stopped.

In the third round, Hayes Center won the match 25-17, 29-17.

"We really struggled for a unified effort in this match, especially in the first game," Coach Dorshorst said.

"There were a lot of adjustments on the court due to the injury of two starters in the previous match.

"We needed to increase our court communication but instead got quiet. This is a match that we could have won with more team communication. We were just out-scraped to get to balls. It did help us to find out players that can step up and fill in when they are needed. Lauren Fortin did an excellent job of stepping in and setting for us. She has practiced some as setter, but has never played this position in a competition before."

Top players against Hayes Center were:

- Server — Olson and Stapp, five for five each.
- Passer — L. Fortin, 11 of 14 with one dig.
- Setter — Fortin, 20 of 21.
- Hitter — Stapp, 12 of 13 with six kills.
- Blockers — Dorshorst and Sarah Murray, two points stopped each.

The Lady Red Devils were to travel to Bird City on Tuesday to take on the girls from Cheylin and St. Francis.

The annual Oberlin Invitational Tournament will start at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 2.

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