

Lady Devils take second in substate

Oberlin girls best Ellis, Osborne, lose to Trego

The Decatur Community High girls almost made it out of substate, but after defeating Ellis, 61-37, and Osborne, 61-43, they fell to Trego Community High, 52-45, in the final round.

While they didn't make it to state, the Oberlin girls took second place and brought home their first trophy in more than a decade.

The Lady Devils had a good enough record to play their first substate game at home against the Ellis Railroaders.

After defeating Ellis, they played their next two games in Smith Center, first against the Osborne Bulldogs then in the finals against the Trego Community High Golden Eagles.

Last Tuesday, the Lady Devils downed the Ellis Railroaders in Oberlin.

"This was a good start for our post season," Coach Terry Ream said. "Everybody stepped up, played well and got us to the semifinal round."

"Lauren (Fortin) had an exceptional game with 20 points, eight rebounds, three steals and six assists."

Between Fortin's shooting and Kaitlyn Stapp's three-point baskets, the Lady Devils outscored the Railroaders 22-14 in the first quarter.

In the second quarter, Stapp hit another pair of three pointers but the Lady Devils couldn't sink their free throws, and the Railroaders outscored them 13-12.

In the third quarter, Oberlin started hitting the free throws and keeping Ellis from the basket, outscoring the visitors 15-4 to lead 49-31 after three quarters.

In the fourth, Ellis woke up and

outright the Lady Devils 18-12, but couldn't even begin to catch up.

Scoring were Fortin, 20; Stapp, 17; Jamie Elwood, 10; Tricia Dorshorst, 7; Lydia Karnopp, 5; and Sarah Murray, 2.

Stapp hit five three-pointers, Fortin sank a pair and Elwood added one.

Following Fortin's eight rebounds were Dorshorst, seven; Karnopp, six; Stapp, five; Murray, four; Elwood and Heather Williams, two each; and Christa Hardy, one.

Elwood led the team in steals with nine, followed by Fortin, three; Stapp, Dorshorst and Murray, two each; and Karnopp, one.

Elwood and Fortin each had six assists while Dorshorst had two and Karnopp, one.

On Friday, the girls downed the Osborne Lady Bulldogs in Smith Center in the semifinals.

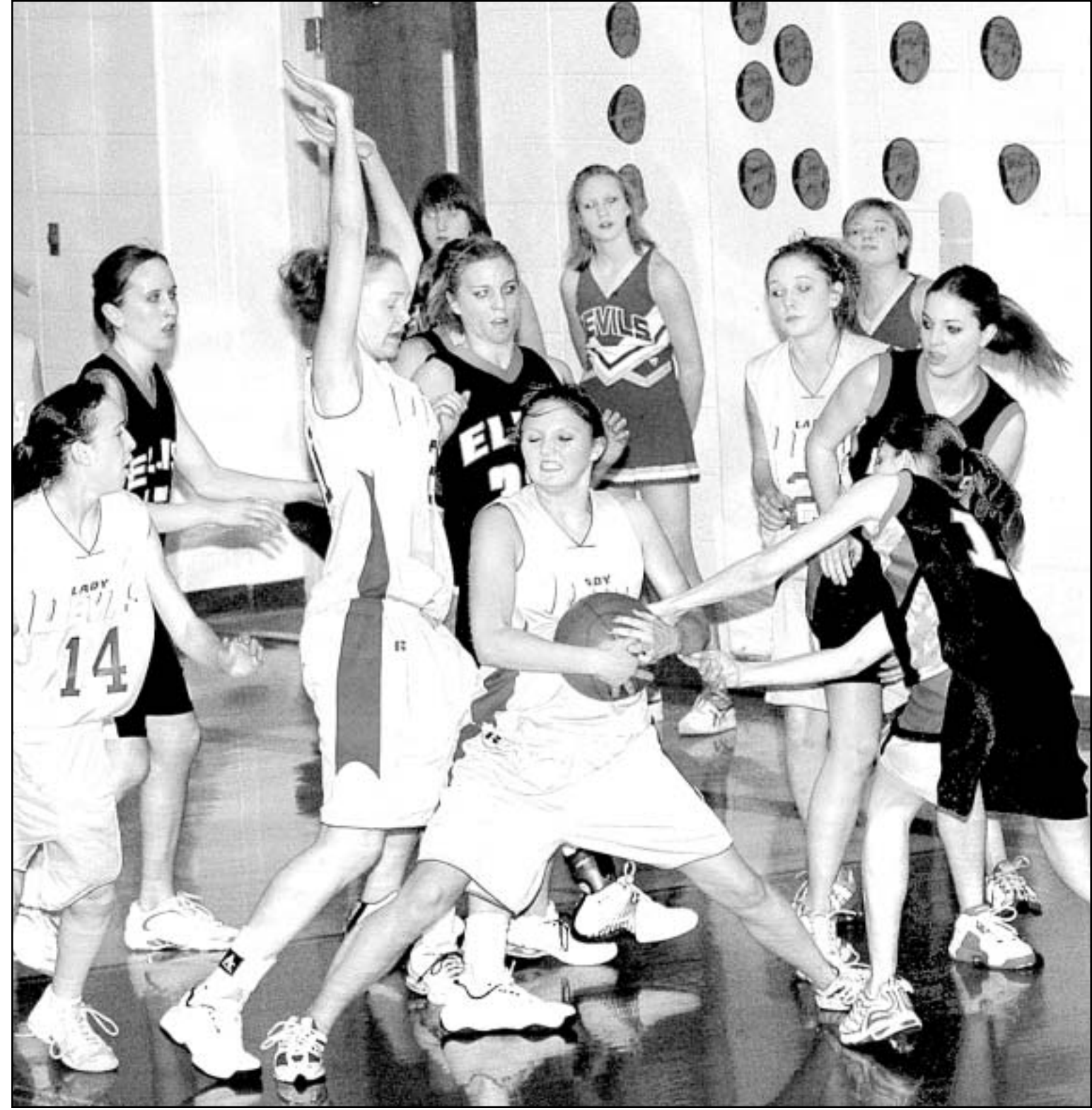
"This was by far our best game of the season," Coach Ream said. "We played an exceptional team in Osborne. The girls did what they needed to do — play four complete quarters — and came away with a great win."

"Everyone involved — the starters, subs and bench — all did their parts, whether it was playing or cheering on their teammates. This was a whole-team effort."

Oberlin outscored Osborne in every quarter but the last, topping the Bulldogs 18-14 in the first quarter, 13-6 in the second and 20-13 in the third. In the fourth, both teams scored 10.

Oberlin hit 10 out of 15 free throws for 67 percent.

Scoring were Fortin, 19; Stapp, 15; Dorshorst, 12; Elwood, 7; Murray, 6; and Courtney Gillespie,



FIGHTING FOR THE BALL, Sarah Murray wasn't going to let a Lady Railroader make a steal during substate play last

Thursday. Helping were No. 14 Jamie Elwood, Lydia Karnopp (center) and Heather Williams. — Herald photo by Jonna Inman

2. Fortin and Stapp each sank three three-pointers and Elwood hit one.

Dorshorst led rebounding with nine, followed by Stapp, seven; Elwood, five; Fortin, four; and Karnopp and Murray, two each.

Fortin had six steals followed by Stapp, five; Karnopp, three; and Elwood and Dorshorst, two each.

Elwood and Fortin each had five assists, while Stapp had four and Dorshorst, Murray and Williams had one each.

Coach Ream took the blame for the Lady Devils second-place finish after the loss to the Trego Community Golden Eagles.

"I, personally as a coach, just didn't have the girls ready for the physical game we encountered here," he said. "They played all-out, but we didn't shoot well and had problems adjusting to the style of play for Trego."

"The girls did what I asked and left it all out on the floor."

"On the bright side, we brought home the runner-up trophy, which was the first hardware we've won since, I believe, 1991. I hope we can use this as a building stone for the future."

Trego started out tough, outscoring Oberlin 16-6 in the first

quarter. In the second, the Red Devil defense helped Oberlin outscore Trego 8-4 but the Eagles led 20-14 at the half. In the third quarter, Trego added 15 while Oberlin hit 10 points. In the fourth, both teams spent a lot of time at the free-throw line, as the Eagles sank 13 of 15 and made two field goals for 17. Oberlin hit four of seven plus seven twos and a three for 21.

Scoring were Elwood, 18; Stapp, 8; Fortin, 7; Dorshorst, 6; Murray, 4; and Karnopp, 2.

Stapp had eight rebounds followed by Dorshorst and Murray, six each; Elwood, five; Fortin, four; and

Karnopp and Williams, one each.

Fortin had four steals, followed by Stapp and Murray, three each, and Fortin and Karnopp, one each.

Elwood had four assists while Stapp and Fortin had one each.

"This brought an end the careers of Jamie (Elwood) and Megan (Barrett), both of whom I will miss," Coach Ream said.

"I would also like to thank the parents, students, staff, relatives, media and all others who supported these Lady Devils throughout the season."

The girls ended their season with an 11-12 record.

Seventh-grade girls take fifth

The Decatur Community Junior High seventh-grade girls took fifth and the eighth grade seventh in the Northwest Kansas League Basketball Tournament to end their seasons.

The seventh graders, who had a 3-4 record, lost their first game to Goodland, 5-5, in the first game of the tournament last month.

Goodland, which had been seeded fourth, won the tournament with victories over Colby and Rawlins County.

Oberlin, seeded fifth, beat St. Francis in the second game and Oakley in the third for fifth place.

Rawlins County came in second; Colby, third; Quinter, fourth; Oakley, sixth; Hoxie, seventh; and St. Francis, eighth.

The seventh-grade games were played in Atwood.

The Oberlin eighth graders (2-5), seeded fifth, lost the first round to St. Francis (4-3), which was seeded fourth.

In the second round, Oberlin lost

24-15 to Oakley, which had been seeded eighth.

Scoring were Cindy Murray, 8; Cherish Manning, Heather Ploussard, Alyssa Rippe, 2 each; and Sabrina Dellere, 1.

"The girls struggled with shooting but kept in the game defensively," Coach Melissa Dreher said.

In the final game, Oberlin downed Rawlins County, which was seeded seventh, 27-9 for seventh place.

The leading scorer was Manning with 10 points, followed by Jordan McHugh, 7; Murray, 6; and Ploussard and Dellere, 2 each.

"The girls came out ready to play against Atwood," Coach Dreher said. "They did a good job offensively and defensively."

Quinter won the tournament, with Hoxie was second; Colby, third; St. Francis, fourth; Goodland, fifth; Oakley, sixth; and Rawlins County, eighth.

The eighth-grade tournament was played in Goodland.

C-team falls to Norton in final game of season

The Decatur Community High girls freshman or C-team ended its basketball season with a 47-43 loss to Norton on Feb. 21.

Oberlin led at the end of the first quarter 11-9, but Norton stayed close, and at the half the Red Devils led the Blue Jays by a single point, 18-17.

In the second half, both teams scored 14 points in the third quarter.

In the last quarter, the Blue Jays made their move, outscoring Oberlin 16-11.

Scoring were Lacy Ream, 22 in-

cluding a three pointer; Jessica Dellere, 7; LeAnna Sheaffer, 6; Heather Glodt, 4; and Nikki Wessel, Fabiola Ortiz and Katrina Wentz, 2 each.

The Lady Red Devils hit three of 11 free throws for 27 percent.

Youth, firefighters set to play

The Northwest Winds will meet the Decatur Firefighters in a basketball game at 1 p.m. on Saturday at The Gateway.

The Winds are preparing for Special Olympics state competition on March 17-19. There will also be a cheerleader competition. Donations will be accepted and cookies and tea will be available after the game.

The team had a drawing for a hog, and Steve Noren and Jason Holub each won half.

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