



LOOKING FOR A RECEIVER, Oberlin Red Devil quarterback Denton Bailey (No. 3 above) prepared to pass during Friday's game against the St. Francis Indians. Later, Bailey and Regan Badsky (No. 54) helped block for ball carrier Jason Thomas, No. 33. — Herald photos by Leslie McCormick



Red Devils upset Saintry Indians

Inches made to count after thirteen years of Saintry dominance

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Although football is measured in yards, players and fans know that it is frequently a game of inches. And inches made the difference Friday as the Decatur Community High Red Devils stopped a determined end-of-the-game push by the St. Francis Indians, keeping the ball out of the end zone to win their season opener 21-18.

It had been 13 years since the Oberlin Red Devils had downed the St. Francis Indians, on Sept. 11, 1992, when the Decatur Community High boys beat the Indians 34-7 in Oberlin.

In St. Francis on Friday, however,

it didn't look like the Indians' streak would be broken, at least not in the first half. The home team scored twice in the second quarter, and while the Indians were unable to make their two-point conversions, at the half, the green team was up 12-0.

In the first quarter, the teams traded the football back and forth as the Indians fumbled on a third-down play and the Red Devils had a pass intercepted on third down.

Halfway through the quarter, Oberlin took over on fourth down. It looked good for the Red Devils as they drove to the end zone. However, a holding penalty caused the

touchdown to be called back, and when Oberlin went to the air on the next play, the pass was batted down. Saintry was not allowing Oberlin to gain on the ground or in the air.

St. Francis took the ball on a punt and marched downfield the rest of the quarter. The Indian drive ended with a fumble early in the second quarter.

Oberlin took over, but lost the ball on an intercepted pass. Taking advantage of the error, Saintry moved the ball into the end zone with 2:42 left in the half.

The Indians scored again in the last seconds of the first half.

Oberlin started looking better in the third quarter as quarterback Denton Bailey threw an 86-yard pass to Joe Mondero for a Red Devil touchdown after only a minute of play. Josh Fortin kicked the extra point and Oberlin was on the board.

A Saintry fumble gave Oberlin the chance for another scoring drive. This time, the Red Devils were able to move on the ground, and the drive included a 30-yard run by Fortin.

Bailey took the ball into the end zone on a three-yard run to take the Red Devils ahead 13-12. A two-point conversion attempt was no good, however.

The Indians came back with a vengeance, taking the ball from their own 38-yard line into the end zone in the next four minutes of play. With 4:11 left in the third quarter, the home team led 18-13.

In the fourth quarter Oberlin again took control of the ball and drove down the field, eating up the clock. With 3:12 left, Jonathon Richards ran three yards into the end zone and Bailey was successful with the two-point conversion. The score was now 21-18 but Saintry had the ball back.

The Indians began a determined drive back toward their goal, but ended up with too many inches and too few seconds. The St. Francis team had used all its timeouts before the final drive. With the clock ticking away and first-and-goal, the Oberlin line held on first down and again on second.

Time ran out after the third-down play, and Oberlin had the victory.

"As coaches we were really pleased with the team's effort on Friday," said Coach Trevor Williams. "It was a good win. I thought the kids played with a lot of intensity and desire."

"At times Friday, we struggled on offense. St. Francis is a really good football team, but I felt that our offense picked up the second half and the guys up front — Drew Martin, Bret Marietta, Riley Cochran, Regan Badsky, Brock Euhus and Garrit Peters — really started to get on the ball for us."

"On defense, the guys did a great job. It was a super physical game."

"This Friday, Quinter is a much improved team. They won on Friday against a good LaCrosse team (8-1 last season)."

"Our kids will need a really good week of practice and get our minds set to come out and improve upon last week's performance."

Top rushers for Oberlin were Richards, 54 yards on 14 carries and

a touchdown; Fortin, 38 on 11; Bailey, 31 on nine and a touchdown; Jason Thomas, six on two; and Jesse Juenemann, one on one.

Bailey was one for five in the air for 86 yards, a touchdown and a two-point conversion. Mondero was his receiver, catching that one pass for 86 yards and a touchdown.

Fortin kicked one extra point.

Tacklers were Thomas, five solos and 29 assists; Martin, two solo, 29 assists; Marietta, one solo, 20 assists; Terry Urban, one solo, 15 assists, two fumble recoveries; Richards, four solos, 12 assists; Euhus, one solo, 16 assists; Fortin, 13 assists, one fumble recovery; Bailey, one solo, nine assists; Chet Ely, six assists; Jesse Juenemann, one solo, one assist; Mondero, three assists; Nolan May, one solo, two assists; Jacob Unger, Cochran, Royal Fisher and Peters, one solo each; and Badsky and Jacob Unger, two assists each.

The Red Devils will be at home on Friday as the Quinter Bulldogs come to town. Kickoff will be 7 p.m.

Girls win medals in Norton

Two Oberlin runners grabbed medals as the Decatur Community High boys team came in eighth and the girls fifth at the Norton Invitational on Thursday.

Oberlin sophomore Becky Helm was seventh in the girls race, running the course in 15 minutes, 19 seconds. She was followed by senior Whitney Beinke, who won a medal for her 12th-place finish in 15:40.

Other Oberlin girls were senior Lora Marietta, 18th, 16:19; senior Nikki Lincoln, 27th, 18:24; senior Danica May, 31st, 19:05; and senior Anne Wasson, 32nd, 20:17.

Junior Andy Leitner was the first of the Oberlin boys across the finish line. He came in 29th in 21:02. He was followed by senior Teryn Grafel, 38th, 22:05; senior Kellen Doeden, 41st, 22:28; junior Aaron Helm, 43rd, 22:57; senior Brent Stallman, 46th, 23:34; sophomore Corbin Sherlock, 50th, 24:20; and senior Zeke Ruzicka, 53rd, 24:51.

Norton's boys won the meet with 36 points, followed by Phillipsburg, 74; Ness City, 87; Ellis, 96; Trego Community, 119; Wheatland, 126; Hill City, 141; and Oberlin, 178.

Wheatland was the top girls team with 46 points, followed by Norton, 61; Phillipsburg, 72; Hill City, 77; and Oberlin, 81.

The course at the Prairie Dog Golf Course south of Norton is a little longer than most, said Coach Dick Ahlberg. The boys ran 3.25 miles and the girls 2.15. Most cross-country courses are three and two miles.

Sophomore Cody Haas came in 15th in the junior varsity division in 25:38, followed by senior Scott Miller, 19th, 27:23, and junior Cameron Nedland, 23rd, 31:42.



SOPHOMORE REBECCA HELM came in seventh in the Norton Invitational cross country meet on Thursday.

— Herald photo by Susie Marble

ence and improve down the road," Coach Dick Ahlberg said. "For six of our 16 runners, this was their first race."

The runners will attend the

Quinter Invitational at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

The annual Oberlin Invitational will start at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27, at the Oberlin County Club.

Junior High loses first game

The Decatur Community Junior High Devils lost 18-0 to St. Francis' team on Thursday in their season opener in St. Francis.

Due to small class sizes for many northwest Kansas junior highs, the seventh and eighth graders are playing as one team with a "fifth quarter" for the younger boys when possible.

"As a team, we came out slow in the first half," Coach Caleb Howland said. "We allowed several big runs in the first half that allowed St. Francis to get the lead at half time."

"I was very pleased with the way the players responded defensively in the second half, holding St. Francis to just seven yards from scrimmage."

Junior High School Football

Thursday, Sept. 8: Oakley (home)	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 15: Quinter (away)	4:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 24: Hoxie (away)	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 29: Atwood (home)	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 6: Goodland (home)	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 13: Colby (home)	4:30 p.m.

"The fifth quarter team did a great job, winning that competition 12-6. The backfield did an excellent job of running behind the great blocks of the line, and we had several long runs."

Quarterback Clay Andersen had one successful pass out of four tries for 28 yards.

Leading rushers for Oberlin were Wiley Farr, 22 carries for 65 yards; Toby Peters 13 for 47; Anderson, 4 for no gain; Cody Kane, one for 14; and Keithen Fortin, one for five.

The junior high home opener will be Thursday as the young Red Devils play host to the Oakley Plainsmen at 4:30 p.m.

Sports Reporter wanted

Sports enthusiasts, this may be your chance to tell the whole town about the thrill of winning and the agony of defeat.

The Oberlin Herald is looking for a part-time sports reporter, so give us a call at 785-475-2206 for all the details.

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