

Volleyball team heads to state

The Oberlin volleyball team be-deviled all the opposition at the Class 3A substate tournament Saturday in Phillipsburg, winning a trip to the state tournament in Salina this weekend.

The Decatur Community High volleyball team wasn't content to rest on its laurels as Northwest League champions, a title the girls won barely a week ago. Saturday, the Oberlin girls went to Phillipsburg and whipped Norton, Phillipsburg and Holcomb to win a trip to the Bicentennial Center this weekend for the Class 3A state volleyball championships.

The substate tournament was single elimination, with Holcomb, 29-5, seeded as No. 1; Phillipsburg, 25-5, No. 2; Oberlin, 24-5, No. 3; Cimarron, 21-12, No. 4; Lakin, 21-13, No. 5; Norton, 14-14, No. 6; and Beloit, 14-14, No. 7. As No. 1 seed, Holcomb got a first-round bye while Oberlin took on Norton.

The Oberlin Lady Devils plucked the Lady Blue Jays in two straight, 26-24, 25-12.

"Norton has an aggressive ball club," Coach Pat Dorshorst said. "Oberlin did not shut the net down in the first game. This allowed Norton to be on the offensive. Once Oberlin started blocking and hitting the ball rather than free balls, they took control of the match."

Top players were:
 • Servers — Emmie Pauls, 12 of 12 with one ace, and Sarah Murray, 11 of 11 with two aces.
 • Passers — Tricia Dorshorst, 17 of 18 with five perfect, and Lauren Fortin, 15 of 15 with three perfect.
 • Setter — Heather Williams, 44 of 44 with eight assists.
 • Hitter — Pauls, 22 of 22 with nine kills.
 • Blocker — Lydia Karnopp, four points blocked.
 Phillipsburg knocked off Beloit,

How to get to the games

The Lady Red Devils volleyball team will be playing at the Class 3A state tournament Friday and Saturday in Salina.

To get to the Bicentennial Center, take I-70 to the Ohio Street exit just east of Salina. Turn right, going south on Ohio Street about 2 3/4 miles until you reach Iron Avenue. Make a right turn (west) onto Iron and go about half a mile to Oakdale Avenue. Turn left (south). Once you turn onto Oakdale, continue south until you reach the Bicentennial Center.

You should see all the school buses in the lot.

25-18, 25-20, in its first match and then Oberlin tamed the Panthers in three games, 21-25, 26-24, 25-13.

"Phillipsburg was tough to play on their home court," Coach Dorshorst said. "They were hitting and blocking well in both the first and second game.

"They won the first game of the match in a close 25-21 game. The second game was led by Phillipsburg throughout. Oberlin trailed 23-14 when Lauren Fortin stepped into the serving box and brought the Oberlin squad to a 23-20 score.

"The entire team hustled to make every one of Fortin's serves count for the team. At 23-20, Phillipsburg got the ball down on Oberlin, which brought the score to match point for Phillipsburg, 24-20. Oberlin fought hard, winning the serve back to bring the score to 24-21. Tricia Dorshorst stepped into the serving box to serve the team out for a 26-24 Oberlin victory.

"The Oberlin squad really fought for the last six points to keep Phillipsburg from winning the semi-final match. Girls were hustling to the bleachers to keep the ball in play. "Oberlin dominated the third game with a 25-12 victory."

Top players were:
 • Server — Dorshorst, 23 of 23

with two aces.
 • Passer — Fortin, 13 of 13 with six perfect.
 • Setter — Williams, 48 of 48 with eight assists.
 • Hitters — Pauls, 28 of 30 with 11 kills; Dorshorst, 12 of 13 with eight kills; and Murray, nine for 10 with seven kills.
 • Blockers — Karnopp, seven, and Dorshorst, six points blocked.

Cimarron took out Lakin in the first round, 25-22, 25-15, and Holcomb downed Cimarron, 25-15, 25-17, in the semifinals to put No. 1 Holcomb and No. 3 Oberlin in the finals.

It was another three-game match, with Oberlin losing the first game and coming back strong to win the match and the tournament. The Devils gored the Holcomb Long-

Oberlin starts play at 9:30 a.m.

The Decatur Community High volleyball girls will arrive at the Class 3A state volleyball tournament as the No. 6 seeded team.

The Oberlin girls, 24-5, will play their first game against No. 3 seeded Sacred Heart of Salina, 32-1, at 9:30 a.m. Friday on the B Court at the Bicentennial Center.

Rossville, 34-1, No. 2, will meet

horns, 23-25, 25-16, 25-23.

"Holcomb was an outstanding defensive ball club," Coach Dorshorst said. "Oberlin hit hard and blocked well, but Holcomb continued to get the ball up. It was a great championship match, with the two teams playing some excellent volleyball.

"The match could have gone either way, but the Oberlin squad played with a lot of heat. They had a goal and fought to achieve it. There were several times in the day that Oberlin could have given up; instead they dug deep and fought harder. They pulled together and worked as a team to achieve state qualification."

Top players were:
 • Serves — Murray, 12 of 12, and Fortin, 10 of 10.
 • Passer — Dorshorst, 22 of 24 with eight perfect.
 • Setter — Williams, 64 of 65 with 23 assists.
 • Hitter — Dorshorst, 24 of 25 with seven kills.
 • Blocker — Dorshorst, two points stopped.

Oberlin will face Sacred Heart of Salina at 9:30 a.m. Friday in the first round of state action at Salina's Bicentennial Center.

The last time the Lady Red Devils made the trip to the state meet was in 2001.



SHOWING THE FORM that won the Lady Red Devils a trip to the state tournament, Oberlin junior Lauren Fortin hit the ball over the net in a volleyball game earlier this month. — Herald photo by Jonna Inman

Cross country finishes season

While the Decatur Community High cross country team ran well at the Class 3A Regional meet in Ellsworth, no Oberlin runner was fast enough to win a ticket to the state meet on Saturday.

Oberlin's top runner, sophomore Rebecca Helm, took 20th in 14 minutes, one second, in the girls' race. Senior Whitney Beinke ran 29th in 14:23. Neither was good enough to win a place at state.

Only the top 10 individuals and the top three teams advanced to state competition.

"We did not have anyone qualify for the state meet," Coach Dick Ahlberg said. "Kellen Doeden had a good race, a full minute faster than last year's regional and on a tougher course.

"Becky Helm had a competitive race, running faster than last year's qualifying time on a tougher course. This gives you some idea of the level of competitive cross country at the Class 3A level. We just have to step up our level of running to be more

competitive next year."

Doeden, a senior, came in first for the Oberlin boys, 48th in the boys race in 20:21. After him were junior Andy Leitner, 53rd, 20:53; junior Aaron Helm, 70th, 21:47; senior Zeke Ruzicka, 77th, 23:41; sophomore Corbin Sherlock, 85th, 23:41; and senior Brent Stallman, 86th, 24:37.

Other Oberlin girls at regional competition were seniors Lora Marietta, 51st, 15:11; Nikki Lincoln, 65th, 16:33; Anne Wasson, 72nd, 17:19; and Danica May, 73rd, 18:07.

The Oberlin girls came in tenth in the 14-team competition, with Ellsworth taking first with 54 points; Sacred Heart of Salina, second, 73; Southeast of Salina, third, 115; then Holcomb, 134; Lakin, 135; Beloit, 178; Cimarron, 182; Phillipsburg, 182; Norton, 185; Oberlin, 214; Ellinwood, 240; and Bennington, Hoisington and Lyons, no team scores.

Southeast of Salina took first for

the boys race with 60 points. Norton was second with 80 and Holcomb, third with 91. Following them were Sacred Heart, 105; Hoisington, 112; Beloit, 135; Lakin, 177; Phillipsburg, 254; Lyons, 260; Bennington, 274; Ellinwood, 287; Cimarron, 303; Oberlin, 315; and Ellsworth, incomplete team.

"In summary, this season was somewhat difficult for us, but there was some development," Coach Ahlberg said. "The rewarding thing about this season was having seven first-year runners. The scary thing about preparing for next year is we graduate 10 runners, who will have to be replaced. We, of course, would like to encourage more participation.

"Our leadership core runners will be fine and competitive with Andy Leitner and Aaron Helm for the boys and Becky Helm for the girls.

"The team and myself would like to thank the parents, fans and district staff for all their support this season, and the great school web site."

Eighth graders take fifth place

The Decatur Community Junior High eighth-grade volleyball team won two matches and lost one, but still came in fifth in the Northwest Kansas League tournament in St. Francis Thursday.

After winning the first game, 25-15, Oberlin lost the second two

to Sainty, 25-21, 15-11, for the girls' only loss of the tournament.

"We missed a lot of serves in the second and third set, which cost us the match," Coach Melissa Dreher said.

Oberlin then took on Atwood and defeated the young Buffaloes

25-18, 25-16.

"The girls played very well this match," Coach Dreher said. "We focused on setting the ball up."

In the final match for fifth-place, the Lady Devils downed the Grant Junior High Mustangs in three, 21-25, 25-20, 15-11.

Seventh graders come in second

The Decatur Community Junior High seventh graders took second in the Northwest Kansas League volleyball tournament in Colby on Thursday.

Oberlin opened with a win over Quinter, beating the young Bulldogs 25-2, 25-20.

"All 12 girls played a good

game," Coach Kimberly Witt said. "They all handled the ball very well."

Oberlin then downed the Goodland Mustangs in three games, 25-21, 23-25, 15-3.

Oakley won the championship match 27-25, 25-22.

"At the beginning of the sea-

son, the team set a goal and that was to use and set up the ball," Coach Witt said. "I'm proud of my team, because the entire team accomplished that goal.

"It didn't matter if we won or lost. We focused on the goal, and they did a great job of accomplishing it."

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