

Devils down Oakley Junior varsity wins first game

The Decatur Community High junior varsity boys basketball team downed Oakley 66-27 on Dec. 2 in Oakley.

"For it being our first game, I thought we played pretty hard," Coach Keith Grafel said. "I was a little disappointed about our man-to-man defense, because we seemed to foul way too much, but we still did a nice job of pressuring the ball.

"Our press was pretty effective early, and we did get some easy baskets. We could be pretty good as the year goes on if we just work to get better every day.

"Our inside people need to score more. I think they were open quite a bit, but we may have just not gotten them the ball. Our freshmen played very well for us, and they could develop into pretty fair junior varsity players."

Oberlin opened the game with a big 23-6 lead in the first quarter, then outshot the Plainsmen 16-8 in the second quarter for a 39-14 lead at the half.

The point spread continued in the second half, as Oberlin outshot Oakley 16-8 in the third quarter and 11-5 in the fourth.

Scoring for Oberlin were Jobey Black, 19 including three three-point shots; Logan Fortin, 8 with two three pointers; Cody Haas, 8; Lucas Juenemann and Jace Robinson, 7 each; Ace Manning, 6 including a three pointer; Kyle Glodt, 6; and Seth Ritter, 5.

The C-team game scheduled for last Monday against Atwood was postponed due to weather.

Boys fall in league tourney

Eighth graders end season 1-9

By JIM MERRIOTT
The Decatur Community High Junior High eighth grade boys took their lumps in the Northwest Kansas League tournament last week, finishing the season with a 1-9 record.

In round 1, Oakley defeated Oberlin 49-22. Nolan Wasson led all junior Devils with six points. Wiley Farr and Toby Peters each scored five. Chris Schiessler hit four points and Daniel Jordan added two.

In round 2 of the losers' bracket, the Red Devils lost 44-36 to St. Francis.

Peters hit a game-high 17 points, followed by Schiessler with seven, Kaden Macfee's five, Farr with three, and Wasson and Christian Rittman with two each.

In the final round, held in Oberlin, Rawlins County defeated the Devils 38-27. Peters lead all scorers with 13 points. Schiessler finished with eight points and Farr with six.

Quinter won the tournament and finished the season undefeated at 9-0.

Coach Tim Breth said he wanted to thank everyone for their support.

"I am proud of both teams," he said. "They showed a lot of improvement over the course of the season. I especially wanted to recognize Jason Ketterl, my assistant, for all the fine work he did with the seventh graders."

The seventh-grade boys finished fourth in the league tournament, winning one and losing two, and 6-5 for the season.

The up-and-coming junior Devils defeated arch rival Hoxie 35-31. Dakota Soderland lead the seventh grade in scoring throughout the tournament, scoring 12 points against Hoxie, 14 against Goodland and 18 against top-seeded Quinter. Chad Williams hit 14 against Hoxie, 11 points versus Goodland and 17 against Quinter in a heartbreaking 47-46 loss in the final round.

Jeb Fortin hit for two points for the tournament, Josh Ritter had nine, Jacob LaRue six, Keithen Fortin three and Nolan Peters one.

Going for a basket



GOING FOR A BASKET, Red Devil Teryn Grafel (No. 21) helped Oberlin to a 51-44 victory over Atwood a couple of weeks ago. — Herald photo by Jonna Inman

Junior high boys lose to Colby

The Oberlin seventh-grade boys basketball team ended its regular season with a 5-3 record after losing 40-32 to Colby on Dec. 8, and the eighth graders wound up 1-6 after losing, 65-33.

The seventh-grade team started out well, outscoring Colby 9-5 in the first quarter, but Colby came back to outscore the young Red Devils 15-6 in the second quarter, to lead 20-15 at the half. In the third quarter, Colby outscored Oberlin 9-6 and in the fourth quarter each team scored 11.

"Colby's man-to-man defense took us out of our offense, and we didn't work the ball well," Coach

Tim Breth said. "The team is excited for the upcoming (league) tournament."

Scoring for Oberlin were Dakota Soderland, 14 points, and Chad Williams and Josh Ritter, 9 each.

The seventh graders were to take on Hoxie at home in the first round of the Northwest Kansas League tournament on Monday.

Other matchups in the first round were St. Francis versus Goodland, Oakley versus Colby and Quinter versus Rawlins County.

The eighth graders were outscored by Colby in every quarter, 19-9, 16-6, 16-10 and 14-8.

"Colby's size hurt us on the

Meet my best friend

Charley is my best friend. He doesn't talk much, but he lets me know what's on his mind most of the time.

Charley is a chocolate Labrador retriever, 5 years old and 73 pounds.

I named him Charley because that's what the writer John Steinbeck named his famous dog.

Most likely, I'll never win a Pulitzer Prize as did Steinbeck.

Nor will I publish such great reading as Ernest Hemingway, Aldous Huxley, Jose Ortega y Gasset, Alfred Leupold, John Michner or Tom Clancy.

What I do comes from the heart, though, and from my personal experiences. I have befriended some great animals in my 58 years.

My first dog, a Boston-bull-terrier-and-Beagle mix named Rusty, died around my 21st birthday. I got Ralph, a deaf stray that no one wanted, when I was 24. Bozo, a great cat, died of leukemia.

Gentle, one of my first English setters, loved the field. Dovey, a German shorthair, had her pelvis crushed in a car accident. After surgery, she became one of my best short-range dogs. Then there was Lady, a beautiful black Lab.

Miss Kitty was the best hunter of them all. She was the only cat I have ever seen who would bring live birds into the house and let them go just to chase them down. Miss Kitty would line up her kills in a row on my patio deck to show off her afternoon's work.

Moochie, a long-haired Siamese, looked like a puff ball but was one of the toughest tomcats I have ever seen. Moochie had a face full of scars and holes in his ears from cat fights, but never a bite on his hind



The Jayhawker

By Jim Merriott

end, which is a sign that a cat has lost a duel.

Morris was the only cat I ever had that liked to ride in a truck. Morris thought he was a dog. He rode in the back with my big redbone hound Buddy, who chased off black bears, bobcats, mountain lions and the like when I lived in the mountains just south of Estes Park.

Morgan, a golden retriever, could find a needle in a haystack and bring it back to you. Freckles, a Brittany, loved to chew up my bass boat's wiring. Black Jack, a free-spirited English setter, once got lost outside of Hill City and ended up back on my doorstep in Wheatridge, Colo., before I had made it back from that hunting trip.

And then there is Charley.

Of all the dogs and cats I have befriended, Charley is the most unique. He likes to hunt but is not very good at it. I think his former owner didn't train him very well.

He likes to take long walks, whines like a little kid, cries when you leave, jumps in the car or truck with valor when it is time to go somewhere, and treats me the way he wants to be treated.

He is a good dog and walks in a noble fashion. You should see the way he perks up when he sees a rabbit or gets a whiff of some type of

fowl. He is not selfish or greedy like some humans. He never complains except when you clean out his ears. He loves to be petted and will sit at your feet for hours just to be next to you.

Yes, Charley is, as all good dogs seem to be, "man's best friend." I guess since time started, man needed some type of creature he could talk to when he was down, upset, happy or whatever.

Charley doesn't understand Christmas, other than the fact that a whole lot of people are around the house, sleeping on every bed and divan. He just wants to be one of us.

He doesn't understand why he was put outside after stealing the Thanksgiving turkey off the dining room table. He just knows he likes turkey and stuffing.

Oh, well, I like pork chops better than I like turkey anyway.

Who knows what the New Year will bring? Charley will be whimpering in his dreams, most likely chasing rabbits or pheasants in the field, laying on his back sprawled out with all fours in the air, fast asleep, or getting into the Christmas trash in the garage.

Does this sound like any pet you know?

Sprint car races to start in May

With the support of competitors and tracks in Kansas and Nebraska, an "affordable" sprint car series will open in May 2006.

Organizer Rick Salem, a veteran Oberlin driver, says he is booking dates at area tracks for the United Rebel Sprint Series.

"This series' bottom line is affordable open-wheel racing," Mr. Salem said. "The costs are being cut on the sprint class to ensure growth, making it profitable for track promoters."

"Have commitments right now for enough cars to fill a full feature and the number is growing every

day. With our pay structure of \$500 to win and \$150 to start the main event, it is designed to bring new competitors into the series."

The series has adopted rules combining two groups in the 305 sprint car division, Mr. Salem said.

"Drivers feel these are a good set of rules," he added. "By enforcing the rules, we can keep the series affordable to everyone."

For information, contact Mr. Salem at 702 W. Frontier Parkway, Oberlin, Kan., 67749; call (785) 475-7010; or e-mail rksalem@classicnet.net.

Freshmen to play in Hill City

By JIM MERRIOTT

The Decatur Community High School boy's freshman basketball team will be playing in the 16th annual Joe Green Basketball Tournament in Hill City from Thursday to Saturday.

Oberlin, 0-1 for the year and seeded seventh, will take on Plainville (0-0, second seed) in the first round of the tournament at 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29, in Hill City.

If Oberlin wins their first game, they will face the winner of the Hill City-Northern Valley game in

the second round at 5:30 p.m. Friday. If they lose, they will play the loser in the second round at 2:30 p.m.

The third round will be Saturday. If Oberlin loses in the second round, they will play for seventh place in the final round at 10 a.m. If they win all three rounds, they will play at 2:30 p.m. for the championship.

If the Red Devils lose in the first round and win in the second, they will play for third place at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

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