

# Everyone should prepare for winter's icy weather



## The Jayhawker

By Jim Merriott

The first big hit of winter over Thanksgiving weekend reminds us to prepare our vehicles for severe winter conditions, just in case we might get stranded somewhere on the highway or a country road.

The last storm and frigid conditions bring to mind the blizzard of 1982, when several Air Force Academy cadets were found frozen to death in their vehicle on I-70 just west of Goodland.

Being an outdoorsman and a veteran, it never occurred to me that most people just throw on a coat, jump into their vehicle and head out, taking for granted everything will be OK.

What I have learned over the years is this: if it can happen, it will, so it is a good idea to prepare just in case.

There was a case of a group of hunters who got stranded back in the late '60s to early '70s. They left Durango, Colo., for Gunnison and were stranded on the highway for almost a week. They lived. None of them had a great deal of survival equipment, they just used the most important thing they had, their heads.

These survivors used the stuffing in their seats to protect themselves from freezing to death by padding their shirts. They used the cigar lighter to start a fire burning stuffing. They burned the tires for heat, melted snow in their hub caps for water and used everything possible off that vehicle to make it.

So what should you carry in your car to protect you from the elements? First, think: What is the most important thing you need? Answer: Heat.

Many people have been found dead in their vehicle with the engine running, victims of carbon monoxide poisoning

ide poisoning

Here is a trick that works and it can save your life. Get yourself a one-pound coffee can. Then get a couple of spools of toilet paper. Take the inside spool of the toilet paper out and then shove the toilet paper into the coffee can.

Buy yourself at least two bottles of 70 percent rubbing alcohol and keep them with the coffee can. If you're stranded, pour one bottle of the alcohol into the coffee can, soaking the toilet paper. Then find a safe place to put the can in your vehicle where you will not start a fire or accidentally turn the can over after it is lit. Heat the car until it is warm, then douse the fire by shutting off the oxygen with a lid or aluminum foil. Basically what you have produced is a Bunsen burner. Crack a window just a bit for ventilation, not much.

Rubbing alcohol does not create carbon monoxide to poison you. It does produce carbon dioxide, or CO2. Carbon dioxide is heavier than oxygen. It hangs lower in your vehicle, around the floor, so don't lay down there.

If you ever owned a Chevy Vega back in the '70s, it is easy to understand why this system works. My old Vega never would heat up in the winter. I built a carrier in my dash to hold the coffee can. It was the only way I could heat up my vehicle on

frosty mornings. Believe me, it works. I have been stranded more than once in the mountains and this method has saved me and my kids more than once.

Take along a sleeping blanket if you have one and some old army blankets, extra changes of socks, pants, jacket, compass, maps, newspapers, books (especially ones you don't like or won't read, they burn easy), shovel, matches, snack bars, and a jug of water. I try and figure how far the trip is and always keep the gas tank on full.

Use some common sense and stay in your vehicle. You will be found. Let people know when you are leaving and when you expect to arrive at your destination and what route you are taking. Don't decide to change plans unless you contact the party who is expecting you.

Always check the weather forecast. Use common sense and everything will work out. Don't panic. Take a deep breath and think things out.

Jim Merriott has been a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America. He has taught over 5,000 people hunter education and is a Master Hunter Education Instructor. He is a former hunting and fishing guide, winter survival instructor, and master of ceremonies of the Denver Boat, Sports, and Travel Show.

## Hitting the target



DAVID MURRAY of Oberlin supervised safety techniques as his daughter Sarah, 16, a junior at Decatur Community High, scattered a clay pigeon at the "Kids Fun Shoot" last Saturday at the Oberlin Gun Club.

— Herald photo by Jim Merriott

# Oberlin wrestlers ready for Phillipsburg, McCook

By JIM MERRIOTT

The Oberlin Red Devils wrestling team headed into the new year with high hopes, carrying a 7-2 dual record into a home match Tuesday against Phillipsburg and McCook.

The Red Devils' competitive attitude placed them second at the Hoxie tournament last month and seventh overall of 18 teams at the Colby tournament.

"We just need to focus on improving in three areas each week," said Coach Joe Dreher, "technique, intensity, and conditioning. We have a good bunch of athletes that make up a competitive practice room."

Friday, the wrestlers have a home match against Atwood. Matches

start at 6:30 p.m.

Following are the team's match statistics as of Dec. 31:

Wrestler	wt.	won	lost	pts.
Regan Badsky	215	7	6	36
Corey Cook	135	1	4	6
Colt Diederich	215	6	0	36
Brock Euhus	275	9	3	45
Royal Fisher	140	1	6	6
Aaron Helm	103	8	5	36
Jared Marcuson	152	4	4	23
Drew Martin	171	7	5	39
Scott Miller	160	12	1	63
Gabe Moore	275	3	2	12
Cameron Nedland	171	4	3	23
Garrit Peters	152	8	4	37
Gage Reichert	119	7	5	38
Andrew Richards	112	5	8	30
Jonathon Richards	140	12	0	61
Breck Simonsson	135	5	8	27
Nathan Simonsson	152	5	4	24

Jordan Tally	103	1	3	6
Jacob Unger	185	2	3	12
David Urban	145	8	4	45
Everett Urban	130	10	2	51
Terry Urban	189	7	6	30
Kane Ware	135	0	5	0

### Takedowns T2

OBERLIN 201	
OPPONENTS	179

LEVEL	WON	LOST
VARSITY 98	60	
JR. VARSITY	34	31
EXHIBITION	0	0
SEASON RECORD	132	91

TEAM POINTS	686
DECISIONS	27
FALLS	85
TECH FALLS	4

# Junior varsity finishes 2005, 3-0

By JIM MERRIOTT

The Decatur Community High junior varsity boys' basketball team (3-0) finished the first month of the season with victories over Hill City, 42-35, and St. Francis, 63-21, before Christmas break.

Andy Leitner lead all scoring in the Hill City game on Dec. 13 with 11 points, followed by Jobey Black's 9.

The Red Devils took a 7-0 lead headed into the second quarter and led at half time 19-12.

Hill City made their run in the third period, tying the game 23-23.

Then the Ringnecks saw Leitner and Black set the cords on fire in the final period, pumping in 18 of the Red Devils' 19 points while the team shut down the Birds' final attempt to win the game.

"We played pretty well overall," said JV Coach Keith Grafel. "Hill City has a nice squad.

"We need to do a better job inside, but when your team only gives up 35 points, you don't feel too bad about your defense.

"It was a good win on the road."

### Scoring by quarter

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
OBERLIN	7	12	4	19	42
HILL CITY	0	12	11	12	35

### Individual Scoring:

OBERLIN-A. Manning 0-0-0-0-1-0, S. Ritter 1-0-2-5-2-4, K. Glodt 2-0-0-0-2-4, A. Leitner 2-1-4-6-4-11, L. Fortin 1-0-1-2-0-3, J. Black 2-1-2-3-5-9, J. Fortin 1-1-0-0-5, C. Haas 1-0-0-0-2-2, M. Hitt 0-0-0-2-2-0, N. May 1-0-2-2-0-4. Totals: 11-3-20-18-42.

HILL CITY-Covington 0-0-0-0-2-0, Vap 2-0-0-0-4, Walker 0-0-0-0-1-0, Gierstner 2-0-2-8-4-6, Miller 1-0-3-4-5-5, Van Loeren 1-1-0-0-1-5, Jeffrey 2-0-4-5-1-8, Benoit 3-0-1-3-1-7. Totals: 11-1-10-20-14-35.

The junior varsity continued its winning streak by pounding St. Francis 63-21 on Dec. 16, 2005.

Logan Fortin led the way with 11 points, followed by Mitchell Hitt's 10. A well-balanced attack gave every player a chance to score against the meek Indians.

At the end of the first quarter, the Red Devils led 16-2 and the team took a 33-13 lead into the third quarter. Oberlin just kept pouring on the steam, increasing their lead to 43-16 going into the fourth quarter. The Devils ran the Indians ragged in the

fourth quarter, scoring 20 points to St. Francis' five to end the game with a lopsided victory.

"We played very well against St. Francis," Coach Grafel said. "Our pressure really caused a lot of turnovers, which lead to some pretty easy baskets. We are going to be a good JV team as the season continues. We hope our defense continues to be a bright spot for us. It is nice to go into the Christmas break 3-0, but we have a lot of tough games coming up."

### Scoring by quarter

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
OBERLIN	16	17	10	20	63
ST. FRANCIS	2	11	3	5	21

### Individual Scoring:

OBERLIN-A. Manning 1-0-0-0-0-2, S. Ritter 0-0-2-2-0-2, K. Glodt 2-1-0-0-0-7, A. Leitner 2-0-2-2-0-6, L. Fortin 4-0-3-6-0-11, J. Black 3-0-2-2-0-8, J. Fortin 3-0-1-2-0-7, S. Stapp 2-0-0-0-0-4, R. McEvoy 0-0-2-6-0-2, M. Hitt 5-0-0-0-0-10, N. May 2-0-0-0-0-4. Totals: 24-1-12-20-63.

ST. FRANCIS-Havel 1-0-0-0-0-2, Ketzner 1-0-1-4-0-3, Kinen 1-0-2-2-0-4, Frewan 0-0-0-1-0-0, Hobrock 0-0-2-2-0-2, VanAllen 1-0-0-4-0-2, Walz 0-0-2-4-0-2. Totals 6-0-9-21-0-21.

# Three-point shots help yearbook

The Decatur Community High yearbook staff invites everyone to join the third annual Three-Point Club by pledging any amount of money for every three-pointer scored by Oberlin varsity basketball players.

Last year, the girls hit 96 three-pointers and the boys 57, raising about \$350 to help support the year-

book.

By attending or listening to the basketball games, participants can support these students.

At the conclusion of the season, the yearbook staff will tally up the three-pointers and multiply that number by the amount of money a participant pledges.

You may pick up a form from Courtney Gillespie or Kim Wessel by half time of the boys' game to be eligible for a home game drawing for a Red Devils T-shirt.

There will be a water jug at the ticket booth for loose change to help support students who cannot afford a yearbook.



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