



JUNIOR LAUREN FORTIN puts up a nice jump shot against the Goodland Cowgirls as Oberlin team mates look on. — Photo by Jonna Inman

Good walleye habitat

Time and time again, all I hear is that good walleye /saugeye waters need good structure.

Structure — just what is it? Does structure make a good walleye reservoir? In my opinion, the answer is yes, but I have seen in many bowl lakes of eastern Colorado and Kansas with far less structure produce fine stringers of quality walleye.

Walleye fishermen are the first to say their species “relates” to these conditions. So what does “relate” mean? And how can a walleye relate to anything, anyway? Its brain is the size of a pea.

Well, then I guess it doesn't take much gray matter to figure out how fish think.

Fish realize three things in their existence. One, they must eat. Two, they must keep from being eaten. And three, they must spawn. That's pretty much it.

So how do they keep from being eaten? Structure, that's how.

Walleye hang where there is cover, especially where there are break lines in the lakes, places where the river or creek bed runs through. They also like points where they can ambush other prey, any sunken area that changes from sand to gravel or brush to rock, especially cliff areas or rip-rap along a dam. Walleye love to find “honey holes” where they can rest and capture prey with the least amount of expended energy.

There is an old saying, “The young aggressive fish are usually caught first.” This is because the old-time lunkers are smart and hold the key feeding areas, running off the smaller fish.

A fisherman doesn't need to spend thousands and thousands of dollars on expensive fishing equipment to be successful. First, find a hydro-survey (underwater structure) map of the lake you decide to fish. If you were going on a vacation, you wouldn't leave without looking at a highway map, would you? Of course not. You would look for places to stay or rest stops to eat at. So do the same thing when you fish, but think, “Where would a fish rest and eat?”

Another important thing to do is scout your lake. Take pictures in the winter when the lake is down. This will give you an idea what the lake looks like underwater when filled. I like to compare my photo to the area I fish.

I put together a little information packet and put it in a small notebook, then put it in a watertight plastic bag. I write down the conditions of the



The Jayhawker

By Jim Merriott

weather, the depth of the lake, the temperature, what tackle I used, and what the results were, all for future reference. It helps the next time you hit the same lake.

I first look at the dam area, which contains the deepest water. It usually has the cleanest water and some of the best deep-water jig fishing. This area is sometimes overlooked, as most fisherman will want to fish the inlet areas where the water enters the lake. If this is pre-spawn, that's OK, but if you catch the big females after they drop their eggs, they are either resting on the sandy bottoms off the points or laying on the bottom along the dam where they have dropped their eggs in the rip-rap. Walleye have a tendency to dropeggs in the easiest safest cover, and that is usually along the rip-rap of the dam.

Another way to find good walleye fishing is with the “walleye chop.” If it's too windy for water skiers, it's just right to churn up insects for walleye.

Second, I look for rocks or boulders, or rocky ledges of avalanched rock for suspended walleye. These suspended fish hang in their comfort zone. This is the area that produces the most bait fish for them to eat and also where they are most comfortable, not too cold and not too hot. It is the “thermocline,” kind of like the beds Goldilocks tried out in the “Three Bears” story.

Next, I will leave my boat and head to the tail race of the dam if they are letting out excess water. This is some of the best slip-bobber fishing around the lake. I look for washout areas that are wind-blown into the cuts of the bank. The water flow churns up and discolors the water. The area of the stream with the most discoloration is where the walleye will hide out to capture bait that drifts past them in the clearer water.

Back on the lake, I look for high bluffs that run near the river channel. These bluffs have cracks, holes, pockets and rock slides that hold crayfish, small perch, minnows and the like.

Next, I check the steep, quick-

breaking rocky points. These points hold great concentrations of walleye if they are close to the river cut line. Lazy lunkers just love to sit facing the current, sucking up any food source that drifts past them. That's why they are so hard to find sometimes. If there is a great food source and they don't have to exert much energy, they will not move.

I also look for mudslides. Here you may be fishing for a walleye deep-eater by jigging, and if the lake has smallmouth bass, you will either catch walleye or bass as they hang either over or under the other fish. Either way, you are a winner unless you are fishing a tournament. I have fished in tournaments next to great fishermen on the walleye circuit. They could find the walleye and smallmouth, too.

Last, I look for fallen timber. This is where the camera comes in handy. I learned from my father-in-law, Joe Gees, back in the early 1970s to keep good records on each season and compare them over the years. You will learn where the good places are on the lake.

Top Kansas Walleye waters include: Wilson Reservoir, Glen Elder, Milford Lake, Marion Reservoir, and Melvern.

—jhb—

If you have a nice picture of your hunting or fishing trip in the immediate area (no more than 60 miles), drop it by the office and I will try and get it in the paper. Give me a run-down of the hunt and leave your phone number or e-mail. If you would like, e-mail me at thejayhawker@yahoo.com.

Good luck in the field, and play it safe.

“The Jayhawker,” Jim Merriott has been a professional outfitter and guide for over 25 years.

He founded the Colorado Walleye Association and has worked with state wildlife departments to improve walleye habitat, and to increase length and creel limits to conserve walleyes for future generations.

He is a selective release fisherman.

Cowgirls down Lady Devils 48-41

By JIM MERRIOTT
The Goodland Cowgirls branded the Oberlin Lady Devils with their sixth loss of the season Friday night 48-41.

Goodland came out firing in the first quarter, ending with a lead of 17-10. Oberlin kept it close 4-4 until Justeen Koehler hit a short jumper to put the Cowgirls ahead 6-4 at the 6:20 mark in the first quarter.

Koehler rebounded a missed shot and put back a deuce at 5:20 making the score 8-4. Sarah Murray countered Koehler two by scoring inside, making the score 8-6 at 4:21.

Goodland's Emily Murray hit for two making the score 11-6 at 2:42. Oberlin's Kim Wessel brought the Lady Devils within three when she hit a jumper.

Oberlin turned the ball over at 1:17. Goodland's Samantha Raymer promptly pulled up and hit a three pointer at 1:03 making the score 14-8. Oberlin's Heather Williams hit a jumper from just outside the paint at 00:47 to up the score to 14-10.

The first quarter ended 17-10 Cowgirls.

The Cowgirls took over where they had left off when Murray hit a two pointer, putting Goodland ahead 19-10 at 7:24 in the second quarter. Oberlin could not penetrate the Cowgirl 2-3 zone defense and was forced to take lower percentage shots from the perimeter.

Williams hit a jumper for Oberlin at 6:50 in the second, Goodland 19, Oberlin 12. Archer hit a trey for the Cowgirls at 6:03 increasing Goodland's lead to 22-12.

Oberlin was forced to taking a low percent shot and missed. Raymer hit a jumper at 5:43 running the score to 24-12, and Coach Terry Ream called a 30-second time out.

Oberlin tried another three to no avail at 4:57. Goodland fouled and Dorshorst immediately hit back-to-back free throws, making the score 24-14.

Goodland would not give in; Raymer popped another three at 4:31 making the score 27-14.

Dorshorst hit a jumper with Cowgirls all over her at 3:36 to move the score to 27-16.

Raymer popped another three for the Cowgirls making the score 30-16.

Finally, the Lady Devils were able to work the ball inside to Courtney Gillespie, who came off the bench, making a move under the bucket and scoring two for Oberlin at 1:16, 30-18.

The third quarter started by Goodland's Koehler hitting two shots and then another two by Kaylee Billinger.

Oberlin's Lauren Fortin popped a three at 3:53, 36-21.

Fortin was fouled at 1:55 and hit both ends of the free-throws as Oberlin started to make a little run. At 36-23, Oberlin stole the ball on the in-bounds play. Fortin put up two underneath the basket making the score 36-25.

Entering the fourth quarter, Fortin got hot again hitting jumpers at 7:43, 6:31 and again at 5:39, making the score 40-32. Goodland called time out.

At this point in the game, turnovers were fairly even at 13 for Oberlin and 14 for Goodland.

Oberlin's Lacey Ream hit a three at 4:24 making the score 42-37.

Dorshorst committed her fourth foul at 4:13 on Koehler. Koehler hit both free throws moving the score to 44-37. Oberlin and Goodland exchanged turnovers two times in a row.

At 3:02, Fortin stole the ball and laid it in, score 44-39. Koehler hit a bucket for Goodland at 2:41, score 46-39. Oberlin missed a three, then Goodland turned over the ball at 2:00.

Wessel hit another two at 1:40 making the score 46-41. Goodland turned the ball over again, but Oberlin committed a traveling violation at 1:32 while having trouble breaking the Cowgirl pressing defense.

Goodland turned it over again to the Lady Devils, but missed a shot at 1:12. Goodland went into their spread offense and Oberlin was forced to foul. Oberlin had 15 turnovers and Goodland 18 at 00:39.

Goodland turned it over again and Oberlin still had a chance, but

missed a shot at 00:27. As the clock dwindled down, Fortin and Dorshorst had no choice but to foul. Both Fortin and Dorshorst fouled out, Fortin at 00:16 and Dorshorst at 00:05.

Goodland's Murray hit both free throws, ending the scoring. Oberlin tried to make a last-second shot, but the ball was tipped out of bounds. Goodland 48, Oberlin 41.

“It was hard to get around underneath, the Goodland girls were much bigger than us,” said Tricia Dorshorst. “They just beat us down.”

“Beside one quarter we played pretty well,” said Coach Terry Ream. “We are very close to being very good. We've just got to take that extra step.”

Scoring by Quarter					
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th Final	
Oberlin	10	8	7	16	41
Goodland	17	13	10	8	48

Indiv.	Pts.	Rebs.	Asst.	Stls.
Oberlin				
Lauren Fortin	18	5	1	4
Sarah Murray	6	7	2	2
Tricia Dorshorst	4	5	0	2
Lydia Karnopp	0	2	1	3
Lacey Ream	3	4	0	2
Kim Wessel	4	2	0	1
Heather Williams	4	3	0	0
Courtney Gillespie	2	0	0	0
Totals	41	28	4	14

Goodland Raymer 13, Murray 12, Koehler 11, Archer 6, Billinger 4, Shields 2. Total 48.

The junior varsity girls play Monday night in the Colby High School during the junior varsity basketball tournament versus Goodland. If they win, they will play the winner of the Colby/Sharon Springs game at the Colby Community Building. If they lose, they will play the loser of the Colby/Sharon Springs at Colby High.

C-team thumps St. Francis

The Oberlin C-team boys basketball team got a little revenge last Monday from recent lose to St. Francis when they trounced the Indian C-team 62-37.

Jacob Fortin scored 29 points to lead the Devils including three baskets from outside the perimeter. Sam Stapp and Ryan McEvoy each scored 13 points a piece to add insult to injury against the Indians.

“We played very well,” said coach Keith Grafel. “Our pressing defense is starting to cause opponents problems. We also shot the ball a lot better.”

The Red Devils took a 8-2 lead in the first quarter and then stepped on the gas, out scoring St. Francis 17-7 in the second quarter taking a 25-9 lead into the locker room.

Oberlin lead 46-24 by the end of the third quarter. In the final fourth quarter, the Red Devils finished off the run down Indians 16-13 as Grafel emptied his bench. Final Score Oberlin 62, St. Francis 37.

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Auction Reminder
Real Estate Auction
We will offer for sale at public auction the following real estate at the Parrish hall in Selden, KS. on:
Monday, February 13, 2006
AUCTION BEGINS AT 1:30 P.M.
Decatur County
300 Acres Cropland
Location of real estate: 4 miles east (on #83 & 383 Hwy.) of Selden, Ks. (1 mi. E. of Decatur Co. line or 1 mi. W. of Leoville Catholic Church)
Legal Desc.: That part of the NW 1/4 which lies S. of the R.R. right of way & that part of the NE 1/4 which lies S. of the R.R. right of way & the SW 1/4 all in 32-5-28 W. of the 6th P.M.

Sheridan County
319 Acres Cropland
Location of real estate: 4 miles West on #83 Hwy. & 1/2 mi. South (on Co. Rd. #467) of Selden, KS.
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