

Oberlin golfers take 2nd

Junior Breck Simonsson led the Oberlin Red Devils golf team to a second-place finish Saturday at the Rawlins County Invitational in Atwood.

Simonsson finished second overall in the tournament with a final score of 76 over the 18-hole course, earning him a medal. That kept the Red Devils on the heels of Goodland, which took the tournament.

The Cowboys finished with a team score total of 341; Oberlin and Colby shot 349 to tie for second; Hoxie was fourth at 353; Atwood, fifth, 385; Oakley, sixth, 403; Quinter, seventh, 442; and the Atwood junior varsity was eighth at 481.

"The team is showing steady improvement," said Coach Dick Ahlberg.

Oberlin scores included B. Simonsson 38-38=76; Andy Gilliam, sixth, receiving a medal, 44-41=85; Jobey Black, 43-49=92; Corey Cook, 48-48=96; Andrew Richards, 48-54=102; and Nathan Simonsson, 57-51=108.

The Red Devils planned to travel to Thomas Moore Prep in Hays on Tuesday. Thursday they will send a split squad to Colby, and Saturday they compete in Ulysses.

Last Tuesday's match at Hoxie was cancelled and will not be made up due to scheduling problems, as Oberlin must compete in regionals Monday, when the match would be rescheduled.

"There is a slight possibility Oberlin might send a junior varsity team to Hoxie, but it is doubtful," said Coach Dick Ahlberg.

The Red Devils were handcuffed at the Atwood tournament, as two top players, Jonathon Richards and Nolan May, missed the match due to the state music competition in Gypsum, near Salina.

Time to sign up for teams

Summer softball and baseball forms for the Decatur County summer recreation program are due Wednesday so players are assured they will be chosen in the draft and get a team shirt.

The draft day, for coaches only, will be next Wednesday at the Decatur Community High main gymnasium. T-Ball and Little League drafts begins at 6 p.m., with Bantam and Pony League drafts at 7:15 p.m.

For anyone getting a co-ed softball team together, there will be a meeting for team representatives at 6 p.m. on Tuesday at the high school gym. A team representative must be present to set the schedule. Team fees are \$150.

K-18 coaches are still needed. Anyone interested should apply at the county clerk's office as soon as possible.

Boys finish fifth

The Decatur Community High boys track team finished fifth in a field of 19 at the St. Francis Invitational last Tuesday.

The team from Wray, Colo., won the meet with 92 points, followed by Burlington with 87; St. Francis, third, 60; Atwood, fourth, 58; Oberlin, fifth, 51; Weskan, sixth, 46; Tribune, seventh, 42; Brewster, eighth, 38; Sharon Springs, ninth, 30; Hoxie, 10th, 23; Cheylin (Bird City), 11th, 10; Bethune, 12th, 8; Tri-Plains, 13th, 8; Liberty, 14th, 2. Teams from Colby, Grinnell, Herndon, Idalia, Colo., and Oakley did not place.

Oberlin senior Teryn Grafel kept up his torrid pace, winning the 110-meter hurdles in 15.06 seconds and 300-meter hurdles in 40.57.

Senior Denton Bailey finished first in the javelin with a throw of



FRESHMAN LUCAS JUENEMANN (right) flew through the hurdles in his heat last Tuesday at the St. Francis Track Invitational track meet

154 feet, 7 inches.

Grafel also had a second-place finish in the triple jump at 40.75. Senior Joe Mondero took second in

the 200-meter dash with a 23.46.

Garrit Peters finished fourth in the 400-meter dash at 54.93 and Lucas Juennemann was sixth in the high

jump at 5-4.

Monday, freshmen and sophomores were to compete in Atwood. Tuesday, the Red Devils hosted the

— Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Oberlin Invitational and Monday, Oberlin will travel to Hill City. The Northwest Kansas League meet will be Friday, May 12, in Quinter.

Football star offers tips for younger players

As the high school year winds down, *The Herald* plans a series of articles on senior athletes who will be graduating and heading off to college. These articles are designed to let the younger athletes understand what it takes to be a success in a sport they are interested in.

By **JIM MERRIOTT**

What does it take to play college football?

Oberlin senior Jason Thomas, an honorable-mention All-State linebacker for the Oberlin Red Devils, has signed to play Division I junior college football at Dodge City Community College this fall. How did he get to that point?

Thomas, who played fullback and tight end, carried the ball 72 times for 371 yards and scored three touchdowns on offense in high school. A two-year starter as a linebacker on defense, he recorded 286 tackles during his four years at Decatur Community High School, intercepting three passes and recovering six fumbles. His efforts landed him on the All-Northwest Kansas

League first team as a junior and the second team as a senior.

"We recruited Jason with the idea that he can come in immediately and compete for one of our linebacker positions," said Dodge City Coach Marcus Garstecki. "From what I have seen from game films, he fits the linebacker mold here at Dodge City."

Thomas said he has always loved football and started playing in the fifth grade, even though there was no organized team here.

"When I was in fifth grade," he said, "Oberlin didn't have a tackle football program. Some of my friends and I had heard that there was a tackle team in Norton, so our parents signed us up to play ... with a Norton team."

"During that time, my parents put a lot of miles on the car and I would like to thank all them and the rest of the parents that spent their time driving us and coaching us. Without their help, I would never be where I am today.

"There is just something about



Jason Thomas in the weight room.

this game that attracted me. Football is a physical game, and I love to hit. It was the contact that attracted me; there is just something about hitting that I love.

"Over the years, a lot of coaches helped me get better. I owe a lot to

those coaches, and I would say to any young upcoming Red Devils to listen to your coaches. They know what's going on. They have played the game and understand what it takes to make you a better player.

"I also owe a lot to my parents,

Kaylene and Dennis Thomas; they have been an inspiration to me.

"One of the things I would tell young kids is to get to as many summer camps as possible. Another thing is that a football player needs to learn that the weight room is the secret to their success. Bigger, faster, and stronger athletes always win out.

"The weight room builds mental confidence and toughness. Part of the game is physical and part is mental. If you think you can do it, you probably can, if you don't give up. If you think you can't, you are right.

"I would recommend to start lifting weights at the end of sixth grade going into seventh grade, but I would make sure I was taught correctly."

Thomas was coached by Trevor Williams at Decatur Community High School.

"He has a bright future," said Williams.

Writer helped to build Pomona Lake 42 years ago

This is the first of a series on treks to Kansas state parks on my annual summer fishing excursions, letting Kansans in on great places to take short weekend trips while keeping our money in our state.

This week, I headed back to my old stomping grounds at Pomona Lake, 35 miles south of Topeka off U.S. 75 near Vassar, between K-31 and K-268.

Construction of the dam took about four years and was completed in 1963 at a cost of \$13 million.

As a summer laborer during high school, I spent many hot days cutting stumps in that valley.

The lake to date has registered over \$135 million in flood protection savings.

It has been 35 years since I left the Michigan Valley, on the north side of the lake just four miles from Overbrook.

You can still see east to west from the top of the dam the inlet of Dragon Creek.

As a kid, I would wade up the creek and set limb lines for big old catfish to hit during the night.

When the summer got hot, I would fish all night looking for the big ones. Some of those channel cats were anywhere from five to 20 pounds.

Their granddaughters and grandsons are still spawning there in the shallows, just as they have from the start.

If fishing is in your plans, crappie, white bass, wipers, largemouth bass and blue gill, along with rough fish such as buffalo, drum, and carp, call Pomona home.

"Pomona is known for being a good catfish and crappie lake," said Pomona State Park Ranger Jason Sunderland, (785)-828-4933.

"Pomona has been known for every decent walleye population, up to five pounds," said James Stegeman, a geological consultant at the lake.

Fishermen report a good number of one- to three-pound white bass



The Jayhawker

By **Jim Merriott**

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and wipers.

Crappie range up to three pounds. Flat heads and channel cats can range up to 20 pounds.

"Largemouth bass numbers are down, but bluegills are plentiful and if you like to bow fish, rough fish such as buffalo, drum, and carp can be found in the shallows."

Locals like Jimmy Myers, who has lived on the lake since its inception, and Terry Heathman of Ottawa, who fishes the lake 275 days per year, agree that the lake has changed from a predominate wall-eye fishing lake to a catfish lake today.

"There was a time when walleye was king when the lake was in its infant stages," said Myers. "Over the past 30 years, things have changed."

"Pomona lake is controlled by the Army Corps of Engineers, who regulate water flow.

As the lake has aged, the sediment on the bottom of the lake has changed how we look at stocking," said Don George, regional biologist for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

"Every three years, it is necessary to flush the lake. "We loose a tremendous number of walleye downstream to the State of Missouri due to the fact that the majority of walleye hang close to the rip-rap and outlet of the dam.

It is more economically feasible to stock wiper in the lake because they are cheaper and handle the habitat of the lake better than the walleye."

The lake has a great camping area on the southeast side at Pomona

State Park, which has two concrete boat ramps.

It has all the facilities necessary to have a good time; reserved and open camping, electricity hookups, showers with hot water, picnic facilities, water supply, swimming beach, fishing dock, reserved shelter, a dump station, reservable group camping, marina and playground facilities for the kids.

On the west end of the lake is Carbolyn Park.

Camping is more primitive in this remote area; it has a boat ramp, but fewer facilities.

On the north central arm of 110-mile Creek is Cedar Park, an area for camping with a boat ramp, but with primitive facilities.

On the northeast side of the lake by the Wolf Creek arm is Wolf Creek Park, which has a boat ramp and pretty good facilities.

It is across the bay from the North

Shore Marina, which has camping facilities more like the state park.

Then there is Michigan Valley Campground down by the riprap of the dam, my favorite, where the beach is sandy, a great place to swim and catch lazy walleyes off the dam.

If you are a big water skier, then ski up the north arm of 110-Mile Creek. It is the calmest.

The wind can make the rest of the lake choppy at times, so I would advise skiing in early morning or just before dusk along the riprap of the dam.

This is a great Memorial Day weekend getaway.

It takes about five hours to get to Vassar from Oberlin, but it is worth it.

The most important thing to do before you go is to reserve a camping spot by calling the National Recreation Reservation service toll free at (877) 444-6777, or visit the Internet at www.ReserveUSA.com.

You will need either a annual state parks pass for admission or a day or overnight camping pass.

A one-day motor vehicle pass is \$7, an annual motor vehicle permit is \$46.65.

Daily camping permits are between \$5.50-\$6.50, an annual camping permit is \$11.50-\$130.50.



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DCHS ALUMNI BANQUET RESERVATION COUPON

The DCHS Alumni Banquet will be held at The Gateway in Oberlin, Saturday, May 27, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5:30. Mail reservations and remittance to: Alumni Assn., P.O. Box 201, Oberlin, KS 67749. Deadline for reservations is May 19, 2006. Price per plate is \$12.50 - This includes dinner and 50 cents for the Smick Memorial Loan Fund.

Alumni's Name _____ Class _____

Spouse or Guest Name _____ Class _____

Space allows for alumni and spouse/guest. BE SURE to give class year and maiden name.

If spouse/guest is also an alumni, please indicate the class year he/she would like to be seated with: _____

Late registrations accepted, but no guarantee on sitting with your class.

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