

Oberlin golf team snarcs league crown

The Oberlin Red Devil golf team came out on fire in Hoxie, winning the Northwest Kansas League championship by one stroke in a hard-fought tournament.

Oberlin edged Goodland for the crown on Friday, May 12, shooting a 325 team score to Goodland's 326. Colby finished a distant third with 336; Hoxie, fourth, 337; Quinter, fifth, 379; Oakley, sixth, 383; and Rawlins County anchored the bottom with a seventh-place 385.

Senior Jonathon Richards snared the second-place medal, shooting 37-37=74. Junior Breck Simonsson was hot on his heels for the third-place medal only one stroke behind, shooting 36-39=75.

Junior Jobey Black continued to improve his game, finishing with a 10th-place medal by shooting 45-40=85.

Other Oberlin golfer scores were Andy Gilliam, 46-44=91; Corey Cook, 47-46=93; and Nolan May 50-47=97.

Boys tie for 10th at state

The Decatur Community High golf team finished 10th in the Class 3A state golf tournament in Hesston on Monday.

Twice rain delayed play for an hour or more. The tournament continued until almost dark.

Senior Jonathon Richards finished in the top 25, shooting 38 on the front nine and 44 on the back for an 82, just missing a medal.

Junior Jobey Black shot 43-45=88 and junior Breck Simonsson shot 46-42=88.

Wichita Collegian won the championship with 315. Sabetha finished second, 321; Phillipsburg, third, 322; Seneca-Nemaha

Valley, fourth, 323; Hillsboro, fifth, 326; Hesston, sixth, 329; Baxter Springs, seventh, 329; Wichita Trinity, eighth, 336; Eureka, ninth, 339; Oberlin, tie, 10th, 351; Leon/Bluestem

"I am really proud of our team," said Coach Dick Ahlberg. "They handled themselves like gentlemen in stressful times today.

"We came to play but just didn't have it today." I would also like to thank everyone who helped and supported us this season."

Other Oberlin scores included Corey Cook, 46-47=93; Nolan May, 47-47=94; and Andy Gilliam, 51-45=96.

Richards, Simonsson, and Black earned All-Northwest Kansas League first-team honors. "We played well on the back nine

today," said Coach Dick Ahlberg. "We were down four shots at the turn, but played hard and got the job done."

-Baseball Schedules-

2006 T-Ball

Thursday, June 1
6:30 p.m. First National Bank vs. Pauls
7:30 p.m. Addleman's vs. Raye's
Monday, June 5
6:30 p.m. Decatur County Feedyard vs. Raye's
7:30 p.m. Pauls vs. Addleman's
Monday, June 12
6:30 p.m. Addleman's vs. Decatur County Feedyard
7:30 p.m. First National Bank vs. Raye's
Monday, June 19
6:30 p.m. Pauls vs. Raye's
7:30 p.m. First National Bank vs. Decatur County Feedyard
Monday, June 26
6:30 p.m. First National Bank vs. Addleman's
7:30 p.m. Decatur County Feedyard vs. Pauls

2006 Little League

Monday, June 5
6 p.m. Countryside Vet vs. Ward Drug
7 p.m. Fredrickson Dental vs. Nelson Concrete
8 p.m. Countryside Vet vs. Fredrickson Dental
Monday, June 12
6 p.m. Nelson Concrete vs. Ward Drug
7 p.m. Nelson Concrete vs. Countryside Vet
8 p.m. Ward Drug vs. Fredrickson Dental
Monday, June 19
6 p.m. Countryside Vet vs. Fredrickson Dental
7 p.m. Countryside Vet vs. Ward Drug
8 p.m. Fredrickson Dental vs. Nelson Concrete
Monday, June 26
6 p.m. Ward Drug vs. Fredrickson Dental
7 p.m. Ward Drug vs. Nelson Concrete
8 p.m. Nelson Concrete vs. Countryside Vet
Monday, July 10
6 p.m. Seed #1 vs. Seed #4
7 p.m. Seed #2 vs. Seed #3
8 p.m. Winners play for championship

2006 Pony

(boys' baseball)

Tuesday, June 6
6:30 p.m. Farmers Bank & Trust vs. Black Gold
8 p.m. Black Gold vs. The Bank
Tuesday, June 13
6:30 p.m. The Bank vs. Farmers Bank & Trust
8 p.m. Black Gold vs. Farmers Bank & Trust
Tuesday, June 20
6:30 p.m. The Bank vs. Black Gold
8 p.m. The Bank vs. Farmers Bank & Trust
Tuesday, June 27
6:30 p.m. Farmers Bank & Trust vs. Black Gold
8 p.m. Black Gold vs. The Bank
Tuesday, July 11 - Round Robin Tournament
6 p.m. Farmers Bank & Trust vs. The Bank
7:30 p.m. Black Gold vs. Farmers Bank & Trust
9 p.m. The Bank vs Black Gold

2006 Bantam League

(girls' slow pitch)

Wednesday, June 7
6:30 p.m. Countryside Vet vs. Salem Graphics
7:30 p.m. Countryside Vet vs. Fredrickson Insurance
8:30 p.m. Salem Graphics vs. Fredrickson Insurance
Wednesday, June 14
6:30 p.m. Fredrickson Insurance vs. Countryside Vet
7:30 p.m. Fredrickson Insurance vs. Salem Graphics
8:30 p.m. Countryside Vet vs. Salem Graphics
Wednesday, June 21
6:30 p.m. Salem Graphics vs. Fredrickson Insurance
7:30 p.m. Salem Graphics vs. Countryside Vet
8:30 p.m. Countryside Vet vs. Fredrickson Insurance
Wednesday, June 28
6:30 p.m. Countryside Vet vs. Salem Graphics
7:30 p.m. Countryside Vet vs. Fredrickson Insurance
8:30 p.m. Salem Graphics vs. Fredrickson Insurance
Wednesday, July 12 - Tournament-If tie, winner will be picked by total tournament points or the least runs allowed.
6:30 p.m. Fredrickson Insurance vs. Countryside Vet
7:30 p.m. Fredrickson Insurance vs. Salem Graphics
8:30 p.m. Countryside Vet vs. Salem Graphics



NORCATUR NATIVE CHANCE HARMAN took control during saddle bronc competition last year. Harman will compete for the second year in a row at the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyo., June 6-7.

—Photo by Dan Hubbell

Norcatur cowboy shows he's ready for the big time

By JIM MERRIOTT

Norcatur's Chance Harman wants to follow in the footsteps of Casey Tibbs, Ben Johnson, Larry Mahan, Don Gay, Tom Ferguson, and Ty Murray, all world champion rodeo riders.

Harman is proving his point as a professional cowboy, with his second trip to the National College Rodeo Championship in Casper, Wyo., June 10-17. He's no "wannabe" anymore. He's the real deal, slapping leather and taking his bumps and bruises with the big boys.

He is the son of Renee and Ron Harman of Norcatur and grew up on the family farm.

Though he knows rodeo is a tough life, Chance is a tough kid. When you talk to the soft-spoken young man, you can see the twinkle in his eye. He has a gift and the guts and grit it takes to be a champion. Today, he is just paying his dues.

He dreams of riding against professional saddle bronc riders like Cody DeMoss, Heflin, La., the No. 1 rider this year. He knows that Dan Mortensen, Billings, Mont., has been a champion in the past years and he wants to ride against Billy Etbauer, Edmond, Okla.

Harman, a 2005 Decatur Community High School graduate, is spending most of his time in Curtis, Neb., where he attends the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture on a rodeo scholarship.

His team competes against eight to 12 colleges at rodeos across Nebraska, Iowa, and North and South Dakota. Wiry at 5 foot, 11 inches, and 160 pounds, Harman won the Great Plains College Regional May 6 allowing him to compete in the National College Rodeo Championship.

He works as a farm hand in the summer, working cattle, calving, artificially inseminating cows and mending fence to pay for his entry fees and living expenses, as well as helping with college.

Harman was born May 27, 1986,

and turns 20 Memorial Day weekend. He rides the fall and spring circuit only, taking off December-February. Harman said the team competes in four rodeos during the fall and five in the spring semester.

Next year will be his last to compete on the college circuit.

"Currently, I am working to get my professional rodeo card," he said. "A rider must make \$1,000 on a learners permit to receive the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association member card, which makes them a professional."

Harman said he started competing in rodeo after a friend, Logan Glaze, talked him into joining the Decatur Community High rodeo team his junior year. A family friend gave him a bronc riding saddle to get started. Later, he had one made for himself. He competed in saddle bronc and bull riding, making it to the state High School Rodeo championship in Topeka, where he won a first-place saddle. This entitled him to compete in Farmington, N.M., at the National High School Rodeo championships in 2004.

His senior year, he competed in saddle bronc, tie-down roping, and team roping winning many buckles, bags, and knives.

In 2004-05 Harman attended the Junior-Senior High School Rodeo at Curtis where he took first place and lassoed a college scholarship to Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture.

He qualified for the state championships again his senior year, winning first place again to bring home

another state championship saddle and buckle.

His first-place finish allowed him to compete again at the National High School championship in Gillette, Wyo., where he took fourth out of 39 riders and won a scholarship.

Oberlin people have sponsored Harman the past three years.

"I would like to thank everybody that has helped me get started," he said. "I appreciate it. I won't let them down."

Harman said he doesn't train like regular athletes. He works as a cowboy.

"Over the years, I have learned to stretch well before I compete," he said. "I don't work out with any training program like football players and the like, but if I don't stretch, I get really sore, and stretching has kept me from any injuries so far."

He attended bronc riding school in Burwell, Neb., and learned under Corey Hughes and Bart Macbeth during the summers of his eighth and ninth grade years.

"Ever since I can remember, I have been riding a horse," he said. "Mom said that they put me on a horse before I could walk."

Few of us have the courage and ability to enter the rodeo ring with over a thousand pounds of thunder between their legs.

Harman has what it takes to answer the rodeo call, "Cowboy up!"

"Chance has always wanted to be a cowboy since he was a little kid," said his mother, Renee, "and has been fortunate in doing well."



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OPEN

Decatur Rec at the golf course will be open Friday, May 26 - 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Saturday, May 27 - 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. and Sunday, May 28 - 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.
The patio deck will also be open