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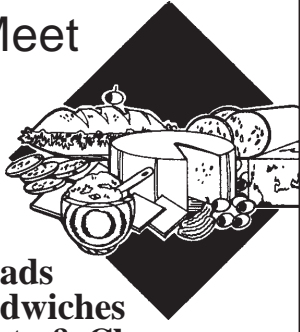
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Girls place 28th at state meet

The Decatur Community High girls finished in a tie for 28th place in a field of 40 teams Saturday at the state track and field meet in Wichita. The Lady Devils' hopes for a higher finish evaporated when they dropped the baton during an exchange in the finals of the 4x100-meter relay. The team consisted of Lauren Fortin, Heather Glodd, Sara Murray and Lydia Karnopp. The mishandled baton disqualified the team even though they finished the race. The Lady Devils did have a strong finish from the 4x800-meter relay

team of Lacey Ream, Tamara Ketterl, Lora Marietta and Whitney Beinke. They finished fifth, bringing home a medal with a time of 10 minutes, 21 seconds, but it was too little, too late. The girls had a great season, winning all their meets but one. The only meet they didn't finish first at was the Northwest Kansas League contest in Quinter, where they came in second. A week later, they finished third at the Class 3A regional in Ellsworth. The Lady Devils qualified 10 athletes for the state meet, raising hopes for a strong finish.

Oberlin state point getters were:
• Junior Tricia Dorshorst, a seventh-place medal in the high jump with a leap of 5 feet.
• 4x800-meter relay team, fifth, 10:21.
Oberlin competitors who did not qualify for the finals:
• Murray, javelin, 113-7, and 4x100-meter relay team, preliminaries, 51.6.
• Fortin, javelin, 109-8; 100-meter dash, 13.4; and 4x100-meter relay team, preliminaries, 51.6.
• Rory Wendelin, shot put, 31-6.
• Glodd, 200-meter dash, 28.17,

and 4x100-meter relay team, preliminaries, 51.6.
• Lydia Karnopp, 4x100-meter relay, preliminaries, 51.6.
"It was a tough two days," said Coach Joe Dreher. "All in all, I am proud of the girls for competing hard this season. We are fortunate to have a good bunch of girls out. They should look forward to next season. We will miss the seniors. "I want to thank everyone who supported us throughout the season and a big thanks to the assistant coaches, Trevor Williams, Pat Dorshorst and Mark Bricker."

College sports ahead Family got her playing

This is the fifth in a series on Oberlin athletes heading off to college to continue their athletic careers, designed to let younger athletes understand what it takes to be a success in a sport.

By JIM MERRIOTT
What does it take to earn a chance to play college varsity sports? Norcatour native Kaitlyn Stapp, a Decatur Community High School senior who recently signed to play basketball and run track at Colby Community College, has the answer: "Work hard and have fun." Stapp said she got started by her parents, Dave and Patty Stapp, who took her to her first basketball camp when she was in second grade. "My older sister Kortney (now a junior at Emporia State University) got me interested in basketball in first grade as I watched her play," Stapp recalled.

Kortney was a four-year all-Northwest Kansas League basketball star for the Lady Red Devils and played two years at Allen County Community College in Iola. Kaitlyn comes from a strong family of basketball players, as her grandfather Dewaine was a varsity basketball player for Norcatour High School and her father is well remembered as a four-year basketball letter winner and All-Northwest Kansas League performer, too.

"I just followed in my family's footsteps, as they all played here in Decatur County," Kaitlyn said. "It's my younger brother Sam's turn to lace up the sneakers for the Red Devils."

She said Sam will be a sophomore this fall. Stapp was a four-year letter winner and all-league in volleyball as a junior. She was a two-year letter winner in basketball, winning all-league honors in that sport as well. She did not play basketball her senior year as she was rehabilitating an anterior cruciate ligament she tore during volleyball season. Stapp also lettered four years in track and placed in the high jump at state her junior year. "My parents always told me to give 110 percent in everything I



KAITLYN STAPP PENETRATED to the basket past an Atwood defender, demonstrating the skill and technique needed to excel in high school varsity basketball. — Herald photo by Jonna Inman

did," she said. "I want to thank them and all my coaches who helped me along the way. "My parents sent me to a lot of basketball camps in Norton, along with the Triple Threat basketball camp, since I was in third grade. I also attended the Heart of America camp in Salina, where I got colleges to look at me." She said it is important to attend camps to improve individual skills and play against stronger competition during the summer. "It is a good idea to start as soon as you can," she said, "but to remember to have fun along the way."

Stapp spent time in the weight room during the off-season and during her rehabilitation last winter. "In my case, I think it's not necessarily bigger for me," she said, "as I ended my growth. Working out in the weight room is the key; keep your muscles toned. "I think Oberlin should have a recreational center with classes of all different types of lifetime exercise activities and sports for all ages. "After my surgery, my doctor said I needed to exercise in a swimming pool, but Oberlin didn't have

a year-around pool, so it limited my rehabilitation. If other residents run into the same problem, it is understandable why a year-around pool is necessary. Besides, it would provide a place for people to go after work and school. "I hope Oberlin will continue to plan for the future over the next 50 or so years, because it is necessary to develop a job market here. If they don't, it will be difficult to get young people to return. I just don't know if I will move back to Oberlin, but if they would start improvement, I might."

K-18 baseball team set for double header

The Oberlin Red Devils team in the K-18 league will play a double-header at 6:30 p.m. Thursday night against the Atwood Buffaloes.

K-18 is a statewide program for boys 13-15, one step under American Legion baseball and a step above youth leagues, said county recreation director Joe Dreher. Jim Andersen and Jason Fortin are the coaches for the Oberlin team.

Members of the team include Keithen Fortin, Clay Andersen, Dakota Soderlund, Jacob Fortin, Jacob Helm, Jacob Larue, Chad

Williams, Cody Kane, Steven Overmiller, Saeger Grafel, Jeb Fortin, Dalton Dolan, Christian Rittmann and Nolan and Toby Peters. Dreher said the summer schedule has not been completed.



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