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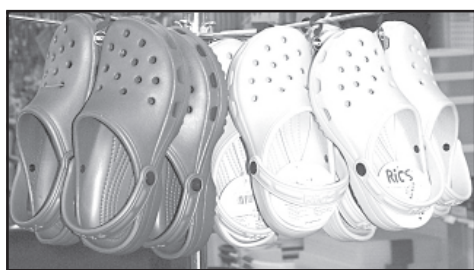
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SPEEDY SENIOR JOE MONDERO helped the Red Devils break a 13-year losing streak with St. Francis last season.
—Herald photo by Jonna Inman

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The Rocking R in Oberlin invites you to join us on July 22, 2006 from 9:30 to 2:30 for the second annual National Day of the Cowboy celebration.

Wear your cowboy hat or cowboy boots in for 10% off any regular priced items. Wear your spurs in and receive 25% off one regular priced item. The first person to ride their horse in will receive a free Bill Cook pad, valued at \$57.95.

Tripple Creek Riders will be holding a western bake sale, a roping competition and selling raffle tickets to win a saddle.

Country Woods will have their new wood gifts on display for sale.

Western trivia contest every hour for prizes.

Join us for a fun filled day.



ROCKING R
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Coach motivated speedster to succeed

This is the ninth in a series on Decatur Community High athletes who have excelled during their high school career, designed to let younger kids understand what it takes to be a success in sports.

By **JIM MERRIOTT**

He will be graduating for the second time this year on Sept. 15, this time from Marine Corps basic training in San Diego, Calif. He will come home on leave for 10 days, then head back to infantry training at Camp Pendleton and graduate one more time.

Three graduations in less than a year is something new for Joe Mondero. He says he is growing up and learning what it takes to be a man. He has chosen a different path than the majority of young men in Decatur County.

While most of his classmates have headed off to college, Mondero is heading off to become a warrior. He knows the risks, he says, but something inside him tells him this is something he must do.

Northwest Kansas League opponents know Mondero as a speedy wide receiver in football and tough sprinter during track season.

"I have always been interested in running," he said. "My uncle ran track for Hays High School and my cousin was a three-time state qualifier in track for Ness City, so it came natural. I wanted to live up to the Mondero name."

Mondero said track Coach Joe Dreher was a key inspiration to him during his high school career.

"Coach Dreher knew how to talk to me and help me get the most out of my training," he said, "and I thank him for that. He convinced me to spend time in the

weight room and mentally prepare myself for whatever was coming next."

Mondero said he moved to Oberlin his seventh-grade year. During high school he lettered four years in track, qualified for state three years in a row running either the 100- or 200-meter dashes or running the 4x100-meter relay. He finished second in 100-meter dash his junior year at the league meet. His 4x100-relay team finished fifth that year at the Class 2A state meet.

Mondero's touchdown reception against St. Francis won the Red Devils' first game last fall. Saintry had beaten Oberlin 13 straight years before that.

He finished the season with over 300 yards in receptions and won second-team league honors as the Red Devils' punter. He earned two football letters and holds eight records for speed and jumping events at Decatur Community High.

Mondero started weight training with his friends in seventh grade.

"What I learned was the weight room is your second home," he said. "The key to being a good athlete is being bigger, faster and stronger than your opponent."

"I believe what I learned at Decatur Community High School taught me something about myself. I realize already that I still have a lot of growing up to do. Hopefully I will find myself in military life."

Write to Joe in boot camp: *Recruit Mondero, 3rd BN-Kilo Company, Plt. 3021, 38990 Midway Ave., San Diego, Calif., 92140-3021.*

Football camp planned

Decatur Community High School will offer Red Devils Football Camp from 8 to 11 a.m. Monday through next Friday, July 24-28, for any high school football player who plans on playing for Oberlin this fall.

Camp fee is \$15. Athletes need to bring T-shirts, shorts and cleats.

The camp will cover basic fundamentals, drills, skill improvement

techniques and weight lifting.

Campers will receive a camp T-shirt. Athletes will not be provided with any type of insurance and will not be covered by the camp or school district.

"This camp is really important for the kids who want to play this season," said Coach Trevor Williams. "It is pertinent that they attend."

Volleyball camp set

Decatur Community High School will host the annual Triple Threat Volleyball camp, which started Tuesday and ends Thursday, beginning each morning at 9 a.m.

Tuesday and Wednesday camp was to run 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., with a session Thursday 9-11:30 a.m.

Campers are invited from grades 4-12 and should wear T-shirts, shorts and gym shoes. The camp will work on basic fundamentals

and drills, along with games.

Camp fee is \$50. Certificates and prizes will be given.

The camp is conducted by former Grinnell Coach Don Bechard, who currently coaches at Gardner-Edgerton High School in Johnson County.

The clinic staff will include Darrell Wait, assistant from Gardner-Edgerton, and college volleyball players. For information, call (913) 707-9387.

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