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Hot, hard ground greets Red Devils

By JIM MERRIOTT

The ground was baked brick-hard by July's drought and the 100-degree weather as the Decatur Community High School Red Devils hit the field last month for coach Trevor Williams' annual Red Devil football camp.

With only four offensive returning starters, seven positions must be filled. One of the top priorities will be building a new backfield.

Gone are the likes of hard-hitting Jason Thomas, the elusiveness of Denton Bailey, the cat-like moves of Jonathon Richards and the speed of Josh Fortin.

A new breed of running back is developing their own identity with their own style for the 2006 season.

"It's a wide-open battle for starting fullback, tailback, and slot back this year," said running backs coach Joe Dreher. "It is hard to tell at this point who is ahead of whom. We will find out who wants to play the most when we put on the pads."

Candidates for varsity the running backs include seniors Chet Ely, Garrit Peters, Jacob Unger and Kyle Glodt, juniors Jebb Tally and Royal Fisher and sophomores Lucas Juenemann and Sam Stapp.

Monday will be the first day of two-a-day practices.

"Not all the kids made it to camp this summer," said Dreher. "Their may be others in consideration when practice starts."

Coach opens practices to K-State football fans

By JIM MERRIOTT

Sit tight, Kansas State University football fans. You are not forgotten.

Newly installed football Coach Ron Prince knows you are out there and appreciates your support.

Prince, a Junction City native, returned to his home state to guide the Wildcats, who start with their first home game Saturday, Sept. 2, at Bill Snyder Family Stadium in Manhattan.

Saturday, Prince opened a series of three weekend practices to the public.

"Our fans are our base, without them our program would not exist," the coach said. "I am happy to let them get an early look at 105 players currently on the field at this time."

"I also want the people in the western part of the state to know I have not forgotten them. Just after I was hired, I took my wife on a trip to the Colby and Goodland area. She had never been farther west than Salina. It was thrilling to meet with fans."

"We will recruit that part of the state just as we do the eastern half. Remember, I played football at Dodge City Community College, so I know the state."

"I, along with the new coaching staff, also hit the western half over the winter months, talking to the public doing the dinner circuit. Norton was one of the towns we visited, and we look forward to coming to Oberlin and St. Francis. Our staff stopped in a few convenience stores to get gas and pick up some snacks. We didn't tell anybody who we were, but a few people came up to me and said, 'Are you the new coach?' so we chatted with them as we were on recruiting trips."

The Wildcats took the field Saturday for their first helmets-and-shorts practice, an up-tempo hustling affair even though it was in 102 degree afternoon heat.

When asked if heat was a prob-



NEW K-STATE Football Coach Ron Prince directed the Wildcats' first practice last Saturday at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

— Herald photo by Jim Merriott

lem, Prince said that it was just an average day from his past experiences coaching in the Southeast Conference.

"What heat?" he added with a grin. "This is how we find out who kept in shape over the summer."

The Wildcats will practice in public the next two Saturdays starting at 3:30 p.m. Fans are not allowed to bring cell phones or cameras, but admission to the stadium is free.

Oberlin golfer places eighth in Goodland radio tourney

Oberlin resident Dick Ahlberg finished eighth with an individual score of 74 in the 17th annual KLOE-KKCI-KWGB Radio Classic men's team golf tournament Sunday, July 30, at Sugar Hills Golf Club in Goodland.

The Atwood Country Club won the championship, shooting a team score of 765. This was Atwood's sixth championship in the 17 years of the tournament.

Nine towns from the Colorado-Kansas area compete each year in the tournament.

Team results were: Atwood, first, 765; Goodland, second, 781; Norton, third, 785; Burlington, fourth,

791; St. Francis, fifth, 844; Oakley sixth, 847; Sharon Springs, seventh, 881; Tribune, eighth; and Oberlin ninth, 895.

The Oberlin team comprised Ahlberg, Kurt Vollertsen, Jon Wishon, Bill Goscha, John Stanley, Doug Fair, Robbie Henningson, Kevin Berry, Jeff Williams, Jerry Alstrom and Scott Carlton. Individual scores were not reported except for the top 10.

Marcus Grinnan of Burlington won medalist honors, shooting a 3-under-par 68.

"The weather was hot and windy a typical July day in western Kansas," said Ahlberg.

Hunter Education next week

There will be a Hunter Education class with 10 hours of classroom time offered Monday, next Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 17, at the Oberlin ambulance barn and the Oberlin Gun Club.

Classes will run each evening from 6 to 10 p.m. Students may register at Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, (785)

475-2201, or Custom Trophy, 475-2877. Students must be at least 11 to participate.

Students should pick up a manual at either location before the class. There is no charge. The class is required for youths to hunt on their own or to buy a hunting license for anyone born after July 1, 1957.

Utica driver wins Sprint race

Jon Johnson won his sixth United Rebel Sprint Series race of the season Saturday night at the Rush County Fairgrounds Speedway in United Rebel versus Jetmore Victory Sprint Series duel competition.

Johnson, a Utica native, led all 20 laps of the feature. In hot pursuit were Raymond Seeman, Jetmore, who finished a close second; Brian Herbert, Dodge City, third; Brandon Fisher, Ensign, fourth; and Darren

Bowman, Kinsley, fifth.

Sprint racers compete this Saturday at RPM Speedway in Hays starting at 7 p.m.



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