



HEATHER GLODT AND LAUREN FORTIN (right) prepared themselves for the season's first track meet, Friday against Atwood and Quinter in Oberlin.

—Herald staff photo by Jim Merriott

Track team gears up for first outing on Friday

The Decatur Community High School track team is preparing for its first meet at 3 p.m. Friday in Oberlin against Quinter and Rawlins County.

The girls roster includes seniors Whitney Ashley, Tricia Dorshorst, Lauren Fortin, Sarah Murray, Emmie Pauls and Kim Wessel; juniors Heather Glodt, Rebecca Helm, Kierstyn Johnson, Nathany Lourenson, Alyssa Montgomery, Jennifer Ploussard, Lacey Ream, LeAnna Sheaffer, Rory Wendelin, Nikki Wessel and Kayla Zdrog; sophomores Tamara Ketterl, Anna Larue, Heather Ploussard and Desirae Shields;

and freshmen Stephanie Bruggeman, Brandy Diederich, Kortnie Fisher, Mary Olson, Alex Ortiz, Adrienne Pauls and Ashli Samson.

The boys team will have seniors Riley Cochran, Chet Ely, Kyle Glodt, Mitchell Hitt, Andy Leitner, Nolan May and Seth Ritter; juniors Andrew Dempewolf, Colt

— TRACK SCHEDULE —

Friday, March 30	3 p.m.	Quinter/Rawlins County at Oberlin Smick Field
Tuesday, April 10	3 p.m.	Rawlins County
Friday, April 13	3 p.m.	Hoxie
Friday, April 20	3 p.m.	Oakley
Monday, April 23	3 p.m.	Rawlins County (9-10th Grade only)
Tuesday, April 24	3 p.m.	St. Francis
Tuesday, May 1	3 p.m.	Oberlin Invitational
Monday, May 7	4 p.m.	Hill City
Friday, May 11	3 p.m.	League Meet/ Goodland
Friday, May 18	TBA	Regional Track
Friday-Saturday, May 25-26		State Track Meet Wichita State University Cessna Field

Diederich, Chenny Langness, Ace Manning and Jared Marcuson; sophomores Jacob Fortin, Logan Fortin, Lucas Juenemann, Cole May, Andrew Richards, Sam Stapp and Jay Wessel;

and freshmen Wade Juenemann, Hunter Nedland, Christian Rittman and Nolan Wasson.

Joe Dreher will be the coach and Jessica Fredrickson and Ashley Horton will be team managers.

Golf team set to go

Decatur Community High School golf coach Dick Ahlberg has announced his squad for the 2007 season.

The team will attempt to repeat as Northwest Kansas League champions and hopefully advance to the Class 3A state tournament in Cheney this spring.

Returning to the squad are seniors Breck Simonsson, two-time state qualifier, 2007 All-league player and two-letter winner; Jobey Black, 2007 All-league player and two-time letter winner; Corey Cook,

— GOLF SCHEDULE —

Tuesday, April 10	2 p.m.	Goodland
Saturday, April 14	9:30 a.m.	Oberlin Invitational
Tuesday, April 17	3 p.m.	McCook
Friday, April 20	3 p.m.	Hill City
Tuesday, April 24	3 p.m.	Hoxie
Saturday, April 28	9 a.m.	Rawlins County
Monday, April 30	9 a.m.	Thomas More, Hays
Thursday, May 3	3 p.m.	Colby
Monday, May 7	1 p.m.	Phillipsburg
Friday, May 11	3 p.m.	League meet, Oakley
Monday, May 14	8:30 a.m.	Regional meet, TBA
Monday, May 21	8 a.m.	State meet, Cheney

two-time letter winner; Andy Gilliam, two-time letter winner; and Kurt Olson.

The squad also includes junior Joe Carter; sophomores Nathan Baker, Chris Larson, Nathan Simonsson,

Jordan Tally and Mitchell Wittman; and freshman Jaxen Alstrom.

Ahlberg is in his 28th year as a Red Devil coach. He played varsity golf and graduated from Fort Hays State University.

Senior athlete enjoys music, racing

By JIM MERRIOTT

Senior Lady Red Devil Sarah Murray will be ending her high school athletic career just prior to graduation, but the all-Northwest Kansas League basketball player, volleyball ace and track speedster will not be forgotten.

Murray helped the Oberlin volleyball team to a 31-0 league record and a berth in the state championship this season.

Murray said she loves the color orange, country and pop music and is a big Rascal Flats fan. She likes movie stars Angelina Jolie and Ben Affleck.

"When I was in grade school my family encouraged me to start sports," said Murray. "It was the competition and the fun that hooked me."

Murray races mini-trucks during the summer on the dirt tracks in western Kansas and Nebraska.

She is the daughter of David Murray, noted race car driver.

"Mom and Dad always encouraged me to do my best," she said. "I



S. Murray

tried to work hard in practice and stay after to work on different things so I could improve."

Murray, who said she would rather have a steak than tofu, will major in radiology at Fort Hays State University this fall.

"I have decided to concentrate on studies in college and will not play sports, but I intend on still racing every summer on the circuit."

Whether it is helping her father change a racing tire, painting a side panel or numbering the car, she said she is not afraid to get her hands dirty.

But she also likes daisies, cats, movies, reading and hanging out with friends.

"I am not sure where I will end up in the future, because Oberlin cannot offer as much as I would like," she said. "With the population de-

clining, the future of our town must change. As I see it, it is gradually going down hill.

"The town needs to have more camps during the summer, because of the traveling expense on families. It would be nice to have an indoor pool, too, because it would give all the people in the county an opportunity to swim and stay fit year around," said Murray.

"It would also be nice if they expanded the Gateway Civic Center workout facilities," she continued. "One of the problems is that the Gateway is not open when kids have time to use it, especially on weekends. It needs a better weight and workout facility."

"A weight training program is the key to athletic success," she explained. "I first learned about the weight room during junior high school. The secret to all athletics is the ability to be bigger, faster and stronger than your opponent. The harder you try, the better the chances you have to succeed. A person can never fail if they never quit."

Time to get gear ready to hit the water and fish

Now that ice off has occurred, nature calls fish to gear up for the early spring spawn.

Along with the spring spawn, fish will migrate to warmer water looking for hearty meals as their metabolism begins to pick up with milder temperatures.

I have found over the years that the best places for largemouth bass fishing this time of year are in the feeder creeks, where the winter runoff enters the lake or reservoir.

If you can find a feeder creek that follows a good break line and drops off the edges into deep water, that is even better.

No matter what you fish, think small and reel slow because of the fish metabolism. During the spring, things haven't grown yet.

When I traveled the bass and tournament trail in the late 1980s and early '90s one thing I learned from some of the pros — the difference between winning and losing a tournament is like splitting hairs.

As a member of the fishing team that won the John Fox Great Outdoor Adventures ESPN Bass Fishing Celebrity Classic Tournament in May 1987, I had the opportunity to fish against some of the masters of the circuit, such as Tommy Martin, Larry Nixon, Zell Rowland and Guido Hibdon.

I learned, over the years, that trends in bass fishing come and go fairly fast. The industry is set up to entice the consumer to purchase as much equipment as possible so companies can make more money.

After a long, cold winter the industry automatically has a sucker waiting on the other end of their line, ready to bite at the newest gear on the market.

So each year researchers who work for the big lure companies



The Jayhawker

By Jim Merriott
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bring out new, fancy items for consumers to buy because they have been cooped up all winter and haven't been able to fish.

One of the secrets I learned, and professionals won't tell you, is instead of being fairly good with a whole lot of new-fangled lures and casting techniques, stay with the basics.

Learn how to do a few things well and work on being an expert at those things — be it throwing plastic worms, spinner baits, or a jig and pig. Learn how to do them well and forget the rest.

Man has been fishing since time started; the fish haven't gotten any smarter, and sometimes I wonder if we've gotten any smarter.

So work on basics. For instance, bass have a tendency to hit a plastic worm from head-on and the strike is pretty easy to recognize.

On the other hand, bass tend to swim up from behind on a jig, bumping and pushing it toward you. This type of strike is called a slack-line strike and is much harder to detect.

Master the jig fishing technique early in the season. The old standard, a jig and pig, works better in cooler water during the spring compared to crank baits.

For some reason, in colder water plastic worms are not as comfortable in old bucketmouth's jaws as the jig seems to be, but again, a fish-

erman never knows what will work best until they are on the water.

Walleye fishing pro Mike McClland told me once at a tournament at Lake McConaughy in Ogallala, Neb., "The secret to catching fish is to keep your line in the water longer than the rest of the other guys."

That may sound silly, but it makes sense. The more you fish the better you get at it. It is just like anything else — practice, practice, practice.

But remember to practice perfect when you practice, because shoddy practice leads to bad habits, which makes liars out of all of us.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife began taking their gill nets out on March 19 to net female walleye at Cedar Bluffs Reservoir, so they can collect the walleye spawn.

There are a couple of sleeper spots, Goodman State Lake down by Ness City and Clark State Fishing Lake south of Dodge City, worth looking at.

Evidently the crappie and largemouth have been doing well early, so I am headed south during the warm up to see what happens. I will give you reports in the following weeks as I begin my "Great Kansas Weekend Getaways."

So good luck and good fishing. I hope to see you in the great Kansas outdoors.



OBERLIN KID WRESTLER DAYTON DREHER put the moves on an opponent at the state finals in Topeka on Saturday. Dreher finished 2-2.

— Herald photo by Carol Brown

Young wrestlers place at state meet

The Oberlin Kids Wrestling team was well represented Saturday at the Expocenter in Topeka for the state finals.

Kelly Brown brought home a second-place medal in the 8 and under, 95-pound class, and Everett Urban took fifth in the 16 and under, 150-pound division.

Basketball tournament set

The Sappa Valley Shootout Youth 3-on-3 basketball tournament will be held in Oberlin on Saturday, April 14.

Boys and girls grades 1-12 are eligible.

The tournament will be held in the Decatur Community Junior and Senior High School gyms and is sponsored by the high school basketball girls to provide money for summer activities.

Boys and girls will be in separate divisions. T-shirts and medals will be awarded to winning teams in each age division and second-place teams will receive medals.

Entry fees are \$30 per team and are due to Barbara Olson by next

Also representing Oberlin were: •Dayton Dreher, 10 and under, 85 pounds, who finished 2-2.

•Kade Brown, 12 and under, 96 pounds, 1-2.

"Everett and Kelly had nice state tournaments," said Coach Kevin Brown. "Dayton was only one match away from placing. Kade also

wrestled well. All four wrestlers should be proud in making it to the state finals. I also want to thank everyone who made it possible this season, parents, coaches and fans."

Wednesday. Entry forms are available for download at sappavalleyshootout.com and will also be available at area schools.

The public is invited. Admission will be \$2 for adults and \$1 for students. Players and children under 5 are free.

There will be concessions available all day.

For information, visit the web site or contact Olson at (785)475-3602.



Planning a Wedding?

The Oberlin Herald

is happy to run pictures and stories of weddings.

However, we need the information within five weeks of the marriage. Write-ups received after this date require a \$10 charge for each month past the deadline date.

Stop by our office for a wedding form.

IDENTITY THEFT PERSONAL SAFETY PROGRAM

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2007
2:00 - 4:30 P.M.
OBERLIN GATEWAY CENTER

PRESENTED BY:

SCOTT FERRIS
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KANSAS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SCOTT TEESELINK
Retired Agent
KANSAS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Protect yourself
Learn what to do if victimized
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- First National Bank, Member FDIC
- Oberlin Medical Arts
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- United Northwest Federal Credit Union, Norton/Oberlin, Member NCUA

Please RSVP by April 9 to:
Decatur County Farm Bureau
785-475-2238
785-475-2554 (fax)