

Football team sweats through first practice

By JIM MERRIOTT

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Way before the sun came out Monday morning, the first day of football practice for Decatur Community High. Coach Trevor Williams was in his office putting the last-minute touches on his practice schedule.

As sleepy-eyed players began to filter into the football locker room in the basement of the high school gym, waiting for practice to begin at 6 a.m., the smell of a new season loomed.

Helmets clanked and lockers slammed as the optimistic Red Devils watched the sun come up while they tied their cleats on outside the gym.

Two hours later, sweat soaked, wobbly-legged players finished practice by running sprints and practicing up-downs before taking a drink of much-needed water.

"Our second practice today will start at 6 p.m.," said Coach Williams.

During the two-hour-plus morning session, the Red Devils brushed up on their fundamentals for offense and defense.

Among assistant coaches, Ken Badsy will again handle the offensive and defensive lines and Keith Grafel will handle the receivers and defensive ends.

Shane Bird in his second year as an assistant will fill the gap left by Joe Dreher, who has been bumped up to athletic director at the high school. Bird will coach the running and defensive backs, while Williams will again handle the quarterbacks and linebackers.

The Red Devils planned to practice twice a day until school starts Friday, then will begin daily afternoon practices.

Thursday, Aug. 23, the team will put on the annual inter-squad "Soap Scrimmage" at 7:30 p.m.. The scrimmage is open to the public, with the admission fee one or more bars of soap for use in the showers this season.

The Red Devils open league play begins at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31, at St. Francis.

Monday afternoon, cross country runners reported for their first workout in the triple-digit heat after



OBERLIN RED DEVIL junior fullback Sam Stapp toughed out a final wind sprint at the end of the first practice session on Monday.

— Herald staff photo by Jim Merriott

equipment checkout and a brief team meeting with Coach Dick Ahlberg. Each runner is carrying a water bottle during their workouts to keep their body hydrated during the heat wave, he said.

The running Red Devils are preparing for the annual "Soap Run," held in conjunction with the scrimmage.

Also Monday afternoon, the

steamy gym looked like a popcorn popper with volleyballs flying in every direction. First-year head coach Sherri Ruf led the defending Northwest Kansas League champions in their first workout.

"We are excited to get going," Ruf, a long-time assistant to former coach Pat Dorshorst, said. "We are young, but we also have a great winning tradition."

Sprint cars draw a big crowd

Dirt-track racers strapped on their helmets and kicked up some dust at the third annual High Plains Shootout Sunday evening at the county fairground just as the county fair wound down to a close.

As the sun began to set in the 100-degree Kansas heat, spectators began to feel a cooling south breeze in the stands.

On the track, though, it was a different story. It began to heat up, with drivers slipping and sliding into each turn in hopes of reaching the checkered flag first.

Each heat in each division brought roars from the fans. Utica driver Jon Johnson won the main "A" event, which featured the cars racing with their rear stabilizer

wings attached.

To excite the crowd, promoter Rick Salem added a special nonwing event, speeding things up and giving the drivers less control.

With the stabilizer removed, cars flew around the track, bringing roars from the crowd. Cars fishtailed around the oval, but no crashes resulted.

Johnson captured the checkered flag again in the wild and woolly conclusion of the evening.

The race was sponsored by Raye's Grocery, Tally Farms, Stellar Sales, Ward Drug, First National Bank, Graphix by Salem, K-Rock 98.5, Flowers by Lee, KFNH 101.1, Oberlin Fertilizer, Salem's Mower Sales, ASC Towing and Repair,

Metcalf Realty, Sappa Valley Construction, Farmers Bank and Trust, Fidele Electric and Woodworking, and the Decatur Cooperative Association.

It was the last Sprint competition of the year at the track.

"I just want to thank everyone involved," said Salem. "I thought we had a nice turnout. Hopefully next year, we will be able to add more racing divisions."

Battered drivers claim cash from demo derby

By JIM MERRIOTT

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With the interiors stripped out of their cars, safety gas tanks mounted in the back seat area to prevent them from exploding and catching fire, and batteries mounted on the passenger-side floor, daring drivers from around the area bashed away at each other, using cars like battering rams, Friday at the Decatur County Fair Demolition Derby.

Before a packed grandstand, Ken Badsy, the head official for the Decatur County Fair Board, gave the green flag to three heats of junk cars, challenging the drivers' skills as they tried for the top prize of \$600.

Between blown tires, overheated radiators, broken drive shafts, and crushed fenders and rear ends, drivers did their best to eliminate each other.

By the time the main event started, only eight drivers had vehicles that were able to withstand the jarring abuse.

When all had ended, Glen Baughman of Culbertson, Neb., brought home the winning trophy after local favorite Jon Fisher could not move this vehicle, which was stuck in a rut against another stranded car.

There were mixed reaction after the derby, with some drivers prais-

ing the refereeing and others displeased with the officiating.

"It was a good, tough derby," said Brice Lytle of McCook. "In my opinion, I thought the officiating was good. Next year, I plan to build a stronger car."

"Truthfully, I thought the officiating was questionable," said Oberlin driver Johnathan Dressler. "There were several direct driver-door hits that were not called that are fouls. I can only speak for myself, but at least five other drivers felt the same and we do not plan on returning to the event next year."

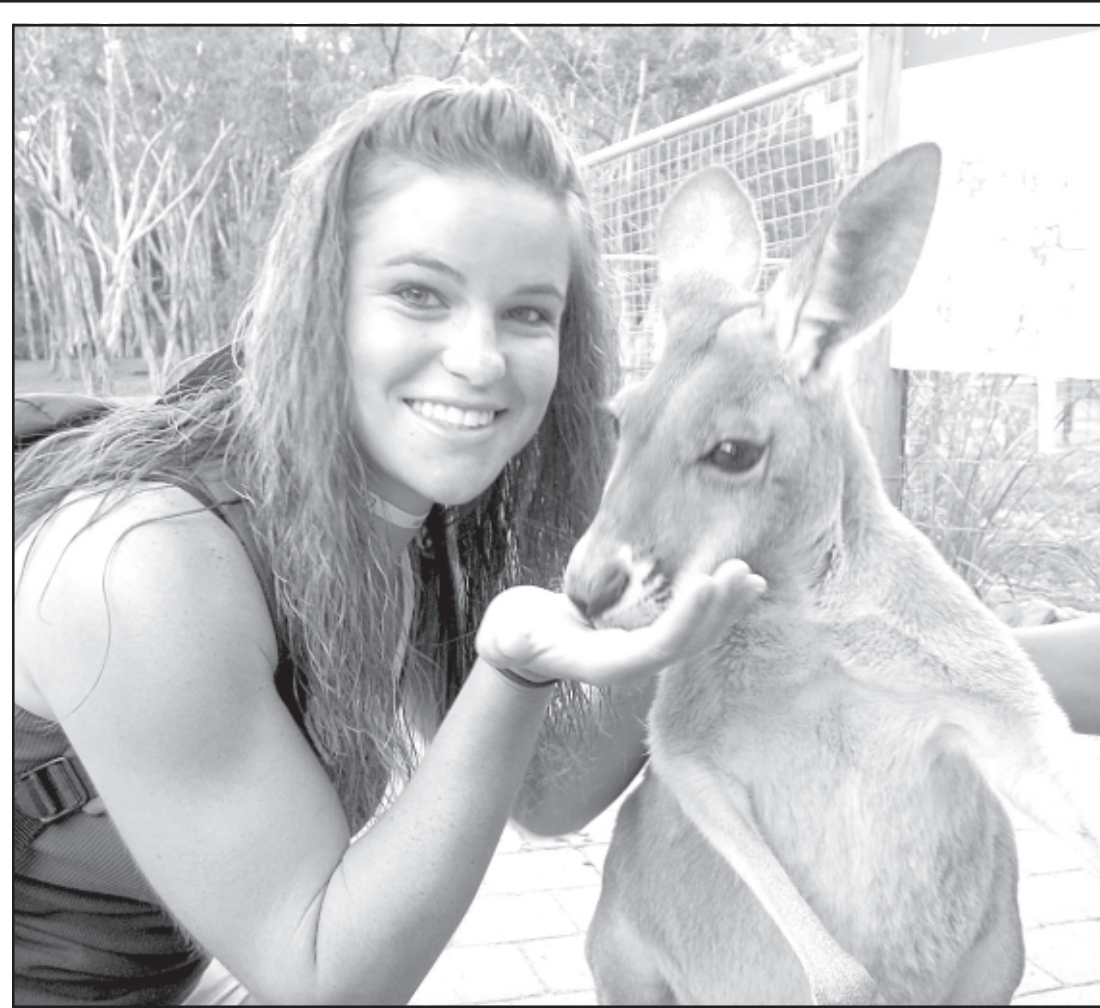
Badsy stated, "We had a great turnout with 18 drivers.

"We judge each derby as fair as possible, just as we have for over 30 years.

"Unfortunately being judges, it is impossible to please everyone. We call it as we see it, fair and square."

The top eight drivers:

Baughman, first, \$600; Fisher, second, \$400; Tanner Eskew, McCook, third, \$300; Rodney Solko, Oberlin, fourth, \$250; Andrew Richards, Oberlin, fifth, \$200; Roger Deal, Norton, sixth, \$150; Shane Anderson, Jennings, seventh, \$50; and Seth Ritter, Oberlin, eighth, \$50.



OBERLIN SWIMMING SENSATION Heather Glodt enjoyed spending time with a kangaroo during her recent trip to Australia. Glodt was one of two amateur swimmers from Kansas on the 17-member U.S. team July 12-24 in the Down Under Sports international swim meet.

Oberlin swimmer plunges into Down Under competition

Decatur Community High senior Heather Glodt knows what it feels like to be able to compete at the U.S. Olympic Center in Colorado Springs.

Now she also knows what it feels like to compete with the U.S. team at the Down Under Sports international competition in Brisbane, Australia.

Glodt qualified for the American team by winning five gold medals at the Sunflower State Games. With little rest after her grueling trip to Australia, July 12-24, she competed in Colorado Springs on Aug. 2-5 at the State Games of America.

Heather was ranked 15th in her age division prior to the nationals. At the Kansas State meet, she placed first in the 50-meter flystroke and first in the 50-meter freestyle. She placed second in the 200-meter freestyle and 100-meter flystroke, third in the 100-meter freestyle, fourth in the 50-meter backstroke and 50-meter breaststroke, and fifth, 200-meter and 100-meter breaststroke.

Glodt said she was the only member on any of the teams who goes to a high school that doesn't have a swim team and who does not swim year-around.

After smashing nearly every record in the book at the Northwest Kansas Swim League meet this summer, she tackled the state meet, then made the cut to qualify for the national team that traveled to Australia. After the international competition, Glodt went to Colorado Springs to compete in the State Games.

Heather left for Australia July 12 and returned July 24, said her mother, Sue Glodt. She met a teammate, Wichita swimmer Larissa Dunn, in Wichita before flying to Los Angeles to meet the rest of the team.

After arriving in Los Angeles, the swimmers boarded a flight to Hawaii, where they practiced as a team for three days before heading to Australia.

"My favorite part of the trip was getting to play with the kangaroo," Glodt said. "They are so cute."

"The toughest part was the long 14-hour flight."

"I was really surprised that the majority of the food we ate was nothing but carbohydrates."

"It was also pretty cool that Australians drive on

the left side of the road instead of the right like we do in the United States.

"It was also difficult to understand their English and understand their mannerisms. Instead of saying, 'Hello, how are you?' they say, 'Good day, how are you going?'"

"It was confusing at first, but we caught on."

She said teams consisted of 17 members from each country.

In the final meet, she said, each team swam a 17-member, freestyle 25-yard relay, unique to the event among world games.

"I met so many people and struck up some great friendships," Glodt said. "I hope to be able to keep in touch with them over the years."

"I have a dream, and I would like to be able to compete at a strong swimming college or university after I graduate next spring."

The U.S. team finished second in each meet, she said. Hong Kong won the first meet with an Olympic trial team. Hong Kong was the only team to swim adults ages 19-22 during the competition, she said.

Australia won the second meet.

In the first international meet, Glodt swam on the 200-meter freestyle and 200-meter medley relay teams, which finished fourth.

In the second meet, she won a bronze medal in two events. She was the lead-off swimmer in the 200-meter medley relay, placing third, and then placed third in the 50-meter breaststroke. She also participated in the 50-meter flystroke and 50-meter freestyle, finishing fourth, but did not receive a medal.

She was one of just 500 swimmers nationwide to compete at the States Games, billed as the premier national multi-sport event for athletes of all ages and abilities, which is held every two years.

Heather's father, Kelly Glodt, was superintendent of school in Oberlin until this summer, when he took a job in South Dakota. She has an older brother, Kyle, who plans to attend Fort Hays State University this fall. Her mother teaches kindergarten in Hoxie.

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