

# Football players set to go

## St. Francis will provide first opponent

By **JIM MERRIOTT**  
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 As the Decatur Community High School Red Devil football team prepares for its invasion of St. Francis on Friday, Aug. 31, Coach Trevor Williams and his staff have planned their strategy for their first battle of the 2007 Northwest Kansas League football wars.

Last season, the Red Devils won all their games away from home. Oberlin will be led by junior quarterback Jacob Fortin with backups sophomore Toby Peters and freshman Chad Williams to help when needed.

When the Red Devils take on Sainty, Fortin will rely on the inside running game of fullbacks senior Royal Fisher and junior Sam Stapp.

Oberlin's outside running attack will feature junior tailback Lucas Juenemann. Behind Juenemann are sophomores Daniel Jordan and Toby Peters.

If Williams goes to the air, he will depend on senior wide-out Ace Manning and junior Logan Fortin for the catches. Other wide receivers will be sophomores Kaden Macfee, Wiley Farr and Cody Kane.

First-year senior tight end Sean Ybarra will be in the middle and for blocking during running plays. Stapp will back up Ybarra.

Coach Williams said his main concern will be replacing his 2007 graduating senior line, who averaged over 250 pounds each.

On the line will be seniors Colt Diedrich, Jared Marcuson and David Urban; juniors Nathan Simonsson, Everett Urban, Derek Chambers and Shane Hollars; and sophomores Jaxen Alstrom and Donovan Baumann.

Without good blocking, the Red Devils might be in for a long season. If Oberlin uses its quickness and develops mental toughness, it can hold its ground and move the ball.

The Red Devils will also need to



**SENIOR COLT DIEDRICH** led the Oberlin football squad in stretching drills Monday in preparation for the annual Soap Scrimmage at 7:30 p.m. Thursday

— Herald staff photo by Jim Merriott

**— Scrimmage Time —**  
 7:30 p.m. Thursday  
 Smick Memorial Field

work on their tackling.

Last season, the 5-3 and 4-4 defensive alignments could not stop the ground games of Oakley, Rawlins County, St. Francis, Phillipsburg, Beloit or Norton.

The Red Devils must improve their offense by using the clock and hanging on to the ball. Fumbles were a problem for Oberlin last season. The game plan must be to keep the Indian offense off the field.

The Red Devils hope to improve on last season's 3-6 record.

The future looks bright with a strong freshman class with Dakota Soderlund, Williams, Nolan Peters, Jon Samson, Dalton Dolan, Keithen Fortin, Josh Ritter and Jacob Larue. Defensively, J. Fortin, Manning and Juenemann will play the deep three-man zone in the 5-3 defense.

Linebackers will be Stapp in the middle, Fisher and E. Urban outside and T. Peters and Jordan backing them up.

Defensive ends Marcuson, and L. Fortin need to turn the opponents' outside running game back into the middle, where the linebackers can finish them off.

Ybarra will handle the long snap and Juenemann, the punting. The Red Devils are still looking for a long distance placekicker.

The defensive interior line is the key to plugging up running holes that stop the inside opponents' running game.

It will be up to Diedrich, Ybarra, D. Urban, Simonsson, Chambers, Baumann and Alstrom to get the job done.

## Coach talks about defensive strategy

By **JIM MERRIOTT**  
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 There is a new attitude and fresh optimism in the Decatur Community High School football camp this year.

"This season, we will make it a point to work harder on the defensive side of the ball," said Coach Trevor Williams.

"In order for us to be more competitive, we will need to practice harder on form tackling, identifying offensive formations so we can

make the correct adjustments, work harder on running the correct angle of pursuit towards the ball carrier, along with a strong effort to control the line of scrimmage.

"This is no easy task. We lost a lot of size with our graduating class, but I feel we have good athletes who can fill those positions.

"We will need to be quicker and smarter to improve this season.

"We will run a 5-3 and 4-4 defensive alignment again this season with a few twists added to our

Chenaniah Langness. Junior boys are letter-winner Andrew Richards, Chris Larson, Cole May and Jay Wessel.

Sophomores are letter-winner Nolan Wasson, Gatlin Reichert, Christian Rittmann and Ray Zoderow.

Freshmen are Jacob Helm and Tim Larson. This will be Dick Ahlberg's 31st year as Red Devil cross-country coach.

"I am excited. We had a terrific first week of practice," Ahlberg said. "Our first-year boy runners have the potential and depth for us to field a competitive team. I only wish we could convince more girls to come out, because we do not have enough to field a team."

# Volleyball season

## Lady Red Devils prepare for first meet in Grainfield

By **JIM MERRIOTT**  
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 The defending Northwest Kansas League champion Decatur Community High School volleyball team will open up the season at 4:30 p.m. Friday in Grainfield.

Oberlin will go against Hoxie and Grinnell with a younger and less experienced bunch of girls. However, the Lady Red Devil junior varsity finished with a winning record last year.

"Oberlin has a reputation of being a strong well-disciplined team," said new head coach Sherri Ruf. "Our tradition and winning attitude motivates us to get better each week.

"We have a team that works together and we plan on bringing a strong game plan to the court Friday."

The Lady Red Devils are led by senior letter-winners Lacey Ream and LeAnna Sheaffer and seniors Alyssa Montgomery, Jenny Plousard, Nikki Wessel and Heather Glodt.

"We are looking for continuity and expect the junior class to step up and fill the holes left by last year's seniors," said Ruf. "Our girls want to have fun, but they understand what it takes to win too.

"I believe that we have adjusted well during the transition period of changing coaches. Working under former coach Pat Dorshorst helped make that transition work smoothly. The only difference is my personality is somewhat different than Pat's.

"I expect Colby, Hoxie and Rawlins County to be tough this season. St. Francis is another that is scrappy. We can't let our guard down.

"I would like to encourage the elementary school girls to come and watch us play. They are the key to

## Oberlin graduate plays for Fort Hays

Lydia Karnopp, a 2006 Decatur Community High graduate, is in her second year of volleyball for the Fort Hays State University Lady Tigers.

This Friday, Karnopp and the rest of the Lady Tigers will travel to Memphis, Tenn., for their season opener at the Christian Brothers Tournament.

Last season, Karnopp played in 16 games as a freshman, getting 16 kills and 12 blocked shots. She also set a personal high with six kills against Pittsburg State University on Oct. 27, then just after Thanksgiving she finished the match against Bethany College with five more.

Karnopp was selected to the All-Northwest Kansas League

team her senior year and was a state Class 3A second-team pick by the Kansas Volleyball Association.

After the Lady Tigers play in Memphis, they will head for St. Joseph, Mo., next weekend to play in the Ramada Inn Invitational at Missouri Western State University.

Fort Hays plays its home opener on Tuesday, Sept. 4, against Newman University of Wichita.

Last season, the Lady Tigers finished with a 3-25 record and stood 1-18 in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletes Association. The team has been picked to finish ninth in the conference coaches preseason poll.

our future. The more experience means more opportunity for the upcoming younger girls."

"We play a good brand of volleyball and want to win. The more fans that come to see us on the road, the better we will play. So we would like to invite everybody to come out and witness.

"Last year we had the top setter in the league with Heather Williams. She was the quarterback of the team. She was so good that we only needed one set player, so we ran a 5-1 offense. Five hitters and one setter. This year we will install a rotation 6-2 offense, rotating an extra setter

and hitter into the offense to give more depth in case someone gets injured. It will also help us down the stretch run in preparation for the playoffs.

"This year is the first year that the libero, strictly a defensive specialist, will be allowed to serve the ball. Ream will play the position.

"She has the knowledge and experience to come in where Williams left off."

Ruf is assisted by Missy Lippelmann who coached the "C" team last season, and Melissa Dreher, who coached the eighth-grade team.



**ADRIENNE PAULS AND LEANNA SHEAFFER** (right) work on their blocking skills during practice Monday. The Lady Red Devils are preparing for their opener Friday in Grainfield against Hoxie and Grinnell.

— Herald staff photo by Jim Merriott

## Cross country team ready for Soap Run

Nineteen Decatur Community High School cross country runners have put in a week of practice in the hot sun in preparation for their first meet in Norton on Thursday, Aug. 30.

Fans may preview the runners Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. at Smick Field at the annual Soap Scrimmage and Run. Admission is a bar of soap for this year's showers.

The team has nine seniors, four juniors, four sophomores and a pair of freshmen.

Senior runners include three-time letter-winner Rebecca Helm; letter winners Ali Samson, Rory Wendelin, Kayla Zoderow, Kenzie Fisher and Gage Reichert; and Andrew Dempewolf, Cody Haas and

Chenaniah Langness. Junior boys are letter-winner Andrew Richards, Chris Larson, Cole May and Jay Wessel.

Sophomores are letter-winner Nolan Wasson, Gatlin Reichert, Christian Rittmann and Ray Zoderow.

Freshmen are Jacob Helm and Tim Larson. This will be Dick Ahlberg's 31st year as Red Devil cross-country coach.

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