

## Going head to head



**SENIOR RED DEVIL** Sean Ybarra (81) fought off a hard charging Cody Kane (87) during the annual Soap Scrimmage on Thursday night. The Oberlin Red Devils will travel to St. Francis on Friday night to take on the Indians at 7 p.m. — Herald staff photo by Jim Merriott

# Devils open against Indians

By **JIM MERRIOTT**  
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 The Decatur Community High School Red Devil football team travels to St. Francis on Friday to tackle the Indians in the opening game of the season.

Indians' Coach Tim Lambert, a disciple of famed Smith Center coach Roger Barta (263-58, a 75 percent winning average), will be entering his 15th year as coach of the Indians with an overall record of 109-42, a 72 percent winning average.

The Indians are coming off an 11-2 season which ended with a semi-final state playoff loss to Smith Center, 6-2. And Smith Center went on to win the Class 2A state championship.

For the past three years, the Indians have gone deep into the state playoffs. Lambert has installed a carbon copy of the Smith Center offense while piloting the program. He has fine tuned the wishbone offense to fit his personality and his personnel, working it into a well-

oiled running machine. The Red Devils hope to do their best to improve on the 46-0 loss to Sainty in last season's opener.

The Indians are returning five starters on offense and three on defense.

Senior Ted Crabtree, 6-2, 170 pounds, will take the snaps at quarterback. He rushed 31 times for 208 yards last season and passed 27 times, completing 13 for 193 yards and four touchdowns. He also plays free safety on defense and has been clocked at 4.6 seconds in the 40-yard dash.

Senior David Guthmiller, 5-9, 205 pounds, who carried the ball 210 times last season for 1,110 yards and 14 touchdowns, will handle the inside blocking and running game at fullback for the Indians and play linebacker on defense.

Sophomore Trent Raile will try to fill the shoes of Joel McAtee at running back. Raile, 5-11, 170 pounds, rushed 38 times last season for 340 yards and six touchdowns. He also is the Indians' kick returner and

plays cornerback on defense.

As the Indians reload their quivers, they will be led on the front line by offensive tackles Shawn Warren, 6-2, 225 pounds, and Ethan Zwegardt 6-3, 260 pounds.

Trevor Williams will be entering his seventh season as coach for the Red Devils. His record is 24-32, for 43 percent.

Oberlin will return five senior lettermen from last year's squad, Colt Diedrich, Royal Fisher, Ace Manning, Jared Marcuson and David Urban.

Williams said juniors Nathan Simonsson, Everett Urban and Derek Chambers will fill in the holes in the line left by the 2007 graduating seniors.

The Red Devils' backfield will have junior quarterback Jacob Fortin, junior fullback Sam Stapp, and junior tailback Lucas Juemann.

The receiving corps includes junior Logan Fortin and first-year senior player Sean Ybarra.

Game time is 7 p.m.

# Annual scrimmage and run held

A sparse but loyal group of Oberlin athletic boosters got their first view of the football and cross country teams Thursday at the annual Soap Scrimmage and Run at Smick Field.

Coach Dick Ahlberg showed off the 2007 cross country team, with top performances from Nolan Wasson, Andrew Fisher and Kayla Zodrow.

The boys ran two laps around the track, then exited the stadium running a course of two-miles ending with a finish lap in front of the crowd. The girls ran one lap, then exited the stadium and finished with

a one-lap finale.

After the cross country run, Coach Trevor Williams ran the football squad through a series of offensive and defensive maneuvers.

The Red Devils ran the first team offense against the second team defense, then the second team offense against the first team defense. Several players also changed positions during the scrimmage.

"We want to see if our players can play more than one position," said Assistant Coach Keith Grafel. "We are a young team this season and with only 28 players out for the team, we are a little thin in the depth

# Boys basketball coach needed for Red Devil's

By **JIM MERRIOTT**  
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 Decatur Community High School enters the 2007-08 school year with no varsity boys' basketball coach for the season that starts Nov. 20.

"Hopefully, we will hire someone before the first of October," said Athletic Director Joe Dreher.

Rusty Montgomery, who coached the team last year, resigned after the 2007 season, saying he was busy with his professional car racing schedule. The Red Devils finished with a 1-19 record.

"We are still looking for a head coach," Dreher said. "One of the problems is that the coaching job doesn't have a teaching position attached to it."

Team members are anxious to have a new leader.

"It is not a good situation," said Jacob Fortin, a junior.

"I really haven't thought about it

much," said teammate Sam Stapp. "Currently, I have complete focus on football."

"I wish we had Coach (Dick) Ahlberg back," said Logan Fortin, another player. "He could really run a practice well. I also miss Coach Grafel."

Ahlberg stepped down after the 2006 season in preparation for his retirement. He is working part-time and still coaching cross country. He left after more than 27 years as boys basketball coach.

Grafel, an elementary and high school physical education teacher, was Ahlberg's main assistant, coaching the junior varsity and freshman teams. He played basketball at Colby Community College during his school years.

When asked about the basketball job, Grafel said he wasn't available right now.

"The timing is just not right for me

and my family this year," he said. "My wife and I plan on traveling to see our son Egan play for Northern Illinois University."

"He is a senior and this will be the last opportunity we have to see him in action. He will be playing at Notre Dame in South Bend, at Illinois University in Champaign, and another Big 12 team, so it is out of the question this year."

Coach Ahlberg stated that he is officially retired and can only work part-time.

This past summer was the first time in several years that Oberlin players did not participate in the MAYB summer basketball program. In the past, former Oberlin Red Devils and Fort Hays State University basketball player Rusty Grafel, Egan's brother, has coached the team during the summer. Grafel worked this past summer helping manage the city swimming pool.

# Cross country race in Norton

By **JIM MERRIOTT**  
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 The Oberlin Red Devil runners travel to Norton on Thursday to race with the Bluejays in the annual Norton Invitational starting at 4:30 p.m.

Dick Ahlberg, in his 31st year as Red Devils coach, will put his team to the test against teams from Ellis, Hill City, Ness City, Natoma, Northern Valley, Phillipsburg,

Trego Community and Wheatland/Grinnell.

The junior varsity race will begin at 4:30 p.m., followed by the girls varsity at 5 p.m.. The boys varsity will top off the day at 5:30 p.m..

The Norton Blue Jays will be led by seniors David Counter, Kylie Morel and Luke VanSkike. Others to watch, said Ahlberg, are juniors Zach Bainter, Laura Lee Baird, Jordan Bebb, Kerry Brandyberry, Josh

Gallentine, KaraJo Jones, and Taylor Rossi. Sophomores include: Chris Maddy, Grant McClymont, Matt Miller, Adam Myers and Amanda Ray. Freshmen competing are Cole Archer, Troy Bainter, Zach Porter, Kaylen Rossi, Dustyna Sprigg and Kegan Vanover.

The Blue Jays are led by first-year coach Tom Hehn, assisted by Anne Stiles. Their team manager is Karlynn Kent.

# Junior varsity loses first two games

The Oberlin junior varsity volleyball squad got its first action Friday night in Grainfield against Wheatland/Grinnell and Hoxie.

The young Decatur Community High Lady Red Devils lost both matches, starting the season 0-2 in match play and 0-4 in games played.

The Lady Thunderhawks of Grainfield defeated Oberlin 25-8

and 25-14 in a two-game match.

The Lady Indians of Hoxie downed the junior varsity 25-19 and 25-16.

The "C" team only played against Wheatland/Grinnell winning the first of three games 25-14, but then spluttered, losing 25-14 and 15-8.

"This was the first high school experience for the 'C' team," said

Coach Sherri Ruf. "Now that the first few games are under their belt, they will respond differently."

"The junior varsity will continue to work on developing consistency and continuity during game situations. They all have been working hard in practice to improve their skills."

# Volleyball team prepares for Oakley

The Decatur Community Junior High volleyball team is preparing for its opening match against the Oakley Lady Plainsmen at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 6, in Oberlin.

This will be Coach Gina Witt's fourth year coaching junior high volleyball in Oberlin. She is assisted by Lindsay Fortin, a 2003 Oberlin graduate, who graduated from Fort Hays State University with a degree in elementary education.

The young Lady Red Devils have been running drills to improve basic fundamentals, learning the rules and how to enter and re-enter a game properly, said Coach Witt.

This season, the squad has 10 eighth graders and 13 seventh graders. Returning eighth graders are Megan Huntley, Brooklyn O'Hare, Megan Wentz, Kaitlin Brown, Samantha Anderson, Brianna Klima, Darian Bose, Amanda

Marshall, Serena Stacy and Kiah Blau.

Seventh-grade team members are Keatra Fisher, Mika Hackney, Darbi Rouse, Samantha Wrinkles,

Taylor Macfee, Mikaela Dorshorst, Dannay Rhein, Michelle Russ, Elizabeth Nedland, Cassidy Shields, Jordin Wasson, Kaylee May, and Cheyanne Soderlund.

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