

Sports

Winterize your boat before it gets real cold



The Jayhawker

By Jim Merriott

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SEVENTH-GRADE RED DEVIL Brady Fortin smothered a St. Francis player with a swarming defense that led Oberlin to a 43-7 victory Thursday in the home opener.

—Herald staff photo by Jim Merriott

As outdoorsmen make the transition between the summer fishing season and the fall hunting season, boat owners need to ask if they are winterizing their craft correctly.

Just as a homeowner must winterize an underground sprinkler system, boat owners must take the same precautions with their second-largest investment.

Whether you choose to do it yourself or have your marina dealer or storage facility do the job for you, winterizing your boat is the best way to prepare for the seasons to come.

So just what should a responsible boat owner do to protect their investment?

Here is what I have learned over the years, including some tips I learned the hard and expensive way.

- The first thing is to fill the fuel tanks and add the correct amount of fuel stabilizer. Run the engine long enough to get the treated gas into the fuel line and engine. Failure to do this ends up with the gasoline turning to varnish and gumming up the system, making the motor difficult to start in the spring.

- Second, flush the cooling system. Flushing kits are available at marinas and boat dealers. In outboards, make sure the lower unit is free of water. Inboard owners should remove the block plugs and drain all the water from the inboard or inboard-outboard drive engine. Look to see if you have cleaned out all of the rust flakes and accumulated sediment.

Then pump in antifreeze to avoid trapped ice pockets. In today's world, use environmentally safe products to avoid contaminating the marine environment.

- Fog the engine with oil to prevent rust. Aerosol fogging cans are available at dealers. This allows the formulated oil to stick to the cylinders and not slide down the walls. It is wise to remove spark plugs and spray the oil into the cylinders once the engine cools. It is a good time to mark plugs that might need replacing before you head out next spring.

- Replace the oil and oil filter on inboards and inboard-outboard drive engines. Dispose of the oil and filter properly.

- Change the lower-unit gear case lubricant on outboards and inboard-

outboard drive engines. Just a small amount of trapped water in the gear case can cause serious damage, which is costly and time consuming when you want to head out after the ice is off.

- Check the prop for nicks. A bent prop with even slight damage can hinder your performance. Damaged blades can be worse yet because they cause vibration and unbalanced stress against engine parts, leading to damage that is expensive to repair.

- Store outboards upright.
- As a rule of thumb, it is wise to replace the water pump impeller every two or three years. The rubber legs inside the pump can get stiff, which causes poor water circulation. Worst of all, they might break off, eliminating coolant flow.

- Spray a moisture-displacing lubricant such as a silicone product onto the electrical terminals and fuse panel. Make sure the lubricant is safe for use on your electrical components first.

- Inspect the steering system, which includes tiller steering friction fittings on outboards. Tighten them if they are loose.

- Clean the backfire flame arrester on inboard engines with carburetor cleaner.

- Clean your boat inside and out and cover it when in storage, even if it is indoors, but allow for air circulation under the cover to prevent mildew.

- Drain water from the bilges and

leave the transom drain plug out. Just remember to make a note to replace the plug prior to putting the boat in the water in the spring, to avoid an embarrassing moment at the boat ramp. Nobody wants a boat full of water to start the season off; this is another lesson I have learned over the years.

- It is a good idea to hang all life jackets and other preservers out of reach of your dogs or cats if left in the garage. I once had a Brittany spaniel that ruined all my equipment one year.

- Prior to storage, check your trailer and its tires, and grease the wheel bearings. This is the time to replace them if

necessary. Check all the bulbs, wiring, and contacts. Lubricate what is needed and wrap electrical tape around wires, sockets, and areas that moisture might get in, especially the electrical socket areas. Again, I learned the hard way; that Brittany pup chewed up the electrical wiring on a \$23,000 bass boat I once owned.

- If at all possible, put the trailer on blocks and remove the tires to prolong tire life. This also prevents boat and trailer theft.

- Finally, check the owner's manuals for tips that pertain to your specific brand of boat, engine and trailer.

If you are uncomfortable doing these tasks, go to a qualified marine technician at your local boat dealer or storage place.

Oberlin boys pound Sainty

By JIM MERRIOTT

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The Decatur Community Junior High seventh-grade boys checked in their football gear just under two weeks ago, then checked out their basketball gear in time for their home opener against St. Francis on Thursday.

With nine practices under their belt, the young Red Devils proved to the junior Indians that they are a team to be reckoned with, whipping the visitors 43-7.

Strong ball handling, rebounding

and lights-out shooting led by Zach May, Kade Brown, Ryan May and Tyler Bruggeman deflated Sainty just minutes after the tip-off.

Oberlin jumped out to a quick 13-3 lead, then continued to pour it on the befuddled Indians, who left the court with puzzled faces.

Zach May led the Red Devils with 13 points and four rebounds; Brown had 10 points and three steals; R. May, 10 points, six steals; Bruggeman, eight points and 10 rebounds; and Channing Farr two points and three rebounds.

"I have never had a group play so well so early in the season," said Coach Jason Ketterl. "Everything just clicked. It always helps when your team shoots the ball at a 45 percent rate."

Tuesday, the Red Devils were to play the Plainsmen in Oakley. Thursday, Oberlin will host the Quinter Bullpups starting at 4:30 p.m. in the junior high gym.

Scoring:	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Sainty	3	0	2	2	7
Oberlin	13	10	8	12	43

Two Devils head team for league

The Northwest Kansas League's 2007 All-league volleyball team is headed by two Decatur Community High players, LeAnna Sheaffer and Adrienne Pauls.

The Hoxie Indians placed three players, Corinna Hoyt, Megan Ochs and Kendra Spresser, on the team; Oakley High had Brea Teeter, Kimber Weiser, and Megan Baalman; Colby, Lissa Manzanee and Tasha Wagoner; and Rawlins County, Sydney Carlson and Sara Miller.

Oberlin freshman Jordan Dreher received an honorable mention.

Other honorable mentions went to Holly Keller, St. Francis; Macy Migchelbrink, Rawlins County; Leah Cox, Colby; Chandra Spillman, Hoxie; Ashley Christians, Goodland; Alecia Cooksey, Oakley; and Deresa Stover, Quinter.

Eighth graders win by one

By JIM MERRIOTT

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Thursday, the Decatur Community Junior High eighth-grade boys basketball team won a nail-biting home opener 21-20 against the St. Francis Indians.

The young Red Devils led the entire game, but the scrappy Sainty club roared back in the final quarter, falling just short at the buzzer.

Oberlin was up 19-13 going into the fourth quarter, but turnovers due to erratic ball handling and passing hindered the team's chances of blowing out the Indians.

Strong rebounding on the defensive end of the court from Shane McEvoy and Garret Berry kept St.

Francis at bay.

On the offensive side of the ball for the Red Devils, Saeger Grafel flashed some ball-handling skills learned from his two older brothers, both of whom play basketball in college.

Sainty rallied late in the final quarter, outscoring the Red Devils 7-2, but the boys hung on to win the contest.

Grafel led the Red Devils with six points, six rebounds and four blocked shots; McEvoy had six points and 10 rebounds; Brent Juenemann, five points and five steals; Tyler Shields, four points; and Berry, 10 rebounds.

"The game shouldn't have been

so close," said Coach Tim Breth. "We only shot 21 percent for the game. We held onto a St. Francis charge to get the win. I'm proud of their effort. We will improve."

The Red Devils were to travel to Oakley to play the Plainsmen on Tuesday, and will host the Quinter Bullpups at 4:30 Thursday in the junior high gym.

Scoring:	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Sainty	3	4	6	7	20
Oberlin	7	8	4	2	21

— Basketball —

Junior High Boys

Nov. 6	Oakley	Here	4:30 p.m.
Nov. 8	Quinter	Here	4:30 p.m.
Nov. 9	B Team Tourney at Colby		4 p.m.
Nov. 12	McCook/St. Patrick's	There	4:30 p.m.
Nov. 15	Hoxie	Here	4:30 p.m.
Nov. 19	Atwood	There	4:30 p.m.
Nov. 29	Goodland	There	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 6	Colby	There	4:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	Northwest Kansas League Tournament	TBA	
Dec. 13	Northwest Kansas League Tournament	TBA	

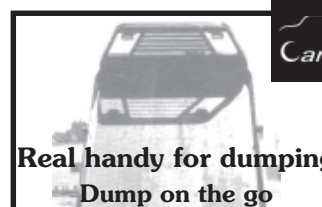
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— Wrestling —

Decatur Community High

Nov. 30	Oakley	Here	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 1	Hoxie Tournament		9 a.m.
Dec. 1	Goodland JV Tournament		10 a.m.
Dec. 7	Colby Tournament		2 p.m.
Dec. 8	Colby Tournament		8 a.m.
Dec. 14	St. Francis	There	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 15	Oberlin 9th-10th Invitational		9 a.m.
Jan. 3	P-burg/McCook	Here	5 p.m.
Jan. 5	Dundy County Tournament	There	10 a.m.
Jan. 11	Quinter	There	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 12	Oberlin Invitational	Here	10 a.m.
Jan. 18	Beloit Tournament	There	2 p.m.
Jan. 19	Beloit Tournament	There	9 a.m.
Jan. 25	Goodland	There	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 26	League Tourney	Colby	9:30 p.m.
Feb. 1	Colby	There	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 2	Southwest Tourney	There	9:30 a.m.
Feb. 8	Hoxie	There	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 9	Colby Novice	There	9 a.m.
Feb. 15-16	Regional Tournament	TBA	
Feb. 22-23	State Tournament	TBA	
Head Coach: Joe Dreher			
Assistant Coach: Caleb Howland			

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