

# Coach's love for athletics continues

**By AMIE RITTER**  
 Joe Dreher, a stand-out high school athlete from Plainville, teaches and coaches in Oberlin and is the high school athletic director. He is head wrestling and track coach, Weight Club sponsor, and teaches high school and junior high physical education. This year he added activities director to his responsibilities and gave up coaching football. In the summer, he and his family run the softball/baseball program. "Coach Dreher is one of the most dedicated people I have ever known," said assistant coach and science teacher Caleb Howland. "He truly cares for the athletes and students of this school." In high school Coach Dreher was a two-time state wrestling champion, a state runner-up, an all-state running back in football and a state placer in the 300 hurdles in track. In the summer time, he played baseball. After high school, he went to LaBette Community College and Fort Hays State University. He majored

in physical education with a minor in health and science. While at college, he took seventh at nationals in wrestling. Mr. Dreher said growing up he looked up to his teachers and coaches, who inspired him to become one himself. He started his career substitute teaching in his hometown and in Hays. He has been living in Oberlin and teaching at Decatur Community High for 13 years. His wife Melissa is a secretary and coach at the junior/senior high school. Their daughter, Jordan, is a freshman, and their son, Dayton, is a sixth grader. They also have two dogs. Mr. Dreher said his favorite part of the job is working with kids, but his least favorite part is the paper work. "My favorite part of coaching is watching the kids' willingness to work hard and watching them improve," said Coach Dreher. "Make life fun, or life's not fun living," is a quote he lives by each day, and he tries to instill in that in his athletes and students.



**OBERLIN WRESTLING COACH JOE DREHER (right)** and assistant coach Caleb Howland watched as the Red Devils work the mat during a wrestling meet in 2006. —Herald staff photo  
 "Mr. Dreher pushes all of us in practice," said senior wrestler Gage Reichert. "He makes us tougher and better."

Voice of Decatur Community High School

# Decatur Dictator

By the DCHS Dictator Staff

## Penny Wars won by Seniors

**By KAITLYN GILLESPIE**  
 45,283 pennies! — That's \$452.83 worth and the total count just in pennies the students contributed to the Penny War sponsored by the yearbook staff. Overall, the staff earned \$785.63 in the Penny War, which was won by the senior class. The seniors collected \$112.29 in pennies, followed by the juniors with \$87.96 in pennies.

The class gets to keep half while the rest goes toward the 2008 yearbook. The juniors, who were behind in the totals until the very last day, came in second with \$66.22. The freshmen were third with \$25.54, followed by the sophomores with \$14.34. The seventh graders with \$6.83 beat the eighth graders who finished with \$1.17.



The idea for a penny war came from yearbook staff member Andy Dempe-wolf, who got the idea from 4-H. The yearbook staff would like to thank Culligan's for the use of the water jugs and the area banks for helping count the money.

Once the yearbook staff deducted the silver and bills from the senior's penny total, the class ended up with \$89.25, but when all the money was counted, the senior jug held

## Speech team places third at Hill City

**By DANYEL JEFFREY**  
 The high school speech team took third at its first tournament. Sixteen teams competed at the Feb. 2 invitational in Hill City. Juniors Anna Larue and Alyssa Rippe and sophomore Ashley Horton placed first in their events. Alyssa scored 24 points in serious solo, Ashley scored 24 in prose and Anna scored 23 in informative speaking. Junior Jacinta Carter also scored 23 points in humorous solo. She placed second. Amber Mason also placed second and earned 22 points in prose. Anna, Alyssa, Ashley, Jacinta and

Amber are now qualified for the State Speech Championships later in the spring. Jacinta and Chenny Langness qualified for State Festival with a fourth in duet acting. Also qualifying for festival were Emma Merrill with a fifth in poetry and Ethan Merrill with a sixth in prose. Whitney Wright placed fifth in original oration. Other competing for Oberlin were Jasmine Pearson and Whitney in poetry; Kassia Bryan and Chenny, Jay Wessel and Haley Barrett and Anna Larue and Makenzie Nelson in improvised duet acting; Hunter

Nedland in extemporaneous speaking; and Ethan Merrill in humorous solo.

"Bravo, team," said Coach Leigh Davis. "What a wonderful way to begin a speech season."

## School Menus

**February 18-22 OBERLIN SCHOOLS**  
**Monday:** No school (teacher workday). **Tuesday:** Breakfast: yogurt, muffin. Lunch: sloppy Joe, French fries. **Wednesday:** Breakfast: pancake, ham. Lunch: chicken-fried steak, mashed potatoes, corn, broccoli. **Thursday:** Breakfast: apple or cherry turnover.

Lunch: tacos, refried beans, carrots, frozen berries. **Friday:** Breakfast: French toast sticks. Lunch: tomato soup, grilled cheese, cauliflower and broccoli, strawberries. Milk served with all meals. Choice bar served with all lunches.

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**February 2008**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Cardiac Rehab Dr. Rubowitz Hematology/Oncology	<b>5</b> McDonald Clinic - p.m.	<b>6</b> Diabetic Clinic Echocardiograms Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Nuclear Stress Test MRI Mobile Unit Vasc Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Cardiac Rehab	<b>12</b> McDonald Clinic - p.m.	<b>13</b> Diabetic Clinic Echocardiograms Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Dr. Frankum Surgery	<b>14</b> Dr. Reeves Podiatry	<b>15</b> MRI Mobile Unit Vasc Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Nuclear Stress Test Dr. Reeves Podiatry	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Cardiac Rehab	<b>19</b> McDonald Clinic - p.m.	<b>20</b> Diabetic Clinic Echocardiograms Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Dr. Curtis Cardiology	<b>21</b> Dr. Saba Orthopedics	<b>22</b> MRI Mobile Unit Vasc Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Nuclear Stress Test	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Cardiac Rehab	<b>26</b> McDonald Clinic - p.m. Dr. Miller Cardiology	<b>27</b> Diabetic Clinic Echocardiograms Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Nuclear Stress Test MRI Mobile Unit Vasc Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	
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