

# Sports

## Springtime means return of major league baseball

It happens every spring, that sudden urge to dig into the clothes closet and find the old baseball gear.

Each February, major league prospects make the trek to spring training in Arizona or Florida.

Over the cold, blustery winter months, a Senate investigating committee has stirred up more controversial storm clouds over the illegal use of human growth hormone and anabolic steroids than the menacing snow and ice assaults on the tri-state area.

As senators continue their rhetoric in search of negativity in major league baseball, there still remains optimism and hope for the upcoming season just around the corner.

With the anticipation of another bountiful crop of rookie prospects, baseball fans around the world will crowd around televisions to watch their favorite teams and their seedlings blossom.

As the bright spring sunlight warms the earth, and the westerly breeze fills the air, fans from around the country will rush through the turnstiles with the same optimism that farmers have over their freshly planted crops.

Major league baseball will again survive another deadly attack on its players just as the farmers have been bombarded by severe weather and pests.

Both will survive. Be it a blizzard, tornado, drought or a hurricane, Americans will



### The Jayhawker

By Jim Merriott

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continue to weather the storm and continue their love of the game, participating in some form of baseball or softball.

This isn't the first time major league baseball has dealt with serious problems and it won't be the last.

As long as there is the human factor involved, players will continue to try and find an edge to get the upper hand on their opponents.

Since its inception over the 150 years, baseball has survived such misconduct as the 1919 Black Sox World Series scandal, spitball ball, pine tar incidents, and corked bats, just to name a few.

Just as the stubborn farmer refuses to give up on the land that his ancestors homesteaded, baseball will continue to thrive because it is still the No. 1 participating sport among its population.

Some will argue that football has become America's favorite pastime, but I would be willing to bet that more citizens in this country participate in some form of baseball or

softball than any other sport.

Football may be the American couch potato's favorite pastime in the fall and winter, but Americans are an active culture, especially during the summer.

Practically every father and son across this great land have at one time or another put on the old mitt and played catch. It's an American tradition.

So dust off the old glove and loosen up that stiff arm this spring, because the sun will rise again, and so will baseball.

Parents, play catch with your children, and let them dream the dreams that you dreamed when you were a kid.

Take them to a major-league game this summer, let them smell the aroma of fresh-popped corn and hot dogs.

Let our overpaid elected officials fight it out. You go enjoy a game with your kids, because baseball will always be the No. 1 American pastime. It is the American thing to do.

## Phillipsburg downs Devils

President's Day was no holiday for the Decatur Community High boys basketball team, which lost 101-60 to the Phillipsburg Panthers.

Oberlin fans had to watch as the hometown crowd shook the Phillipsburg High School gym as they watched the Panthers score their 100th and 101st points.

The Panthers' consistent offense scored 26 points in the first quarter, 22 in the second, 27 in the third and 25 in the fourth.

Phillipsburg outscored Oberlin 26-14 in the first quarter.

The Red Devils managed to score 20 points in the second but trailed 48-34 at half time, then scored 12 and 14 points in the last two quarters.

Phillipsburg out rebounded Oberlin 42-24 and committed 18 turnovers to the Red Devils 22.

The Panthers were 36 of 66 from the field for 46 percent. Oberlin was

21 of 64 for 32 percent. "Phillipsburg shot the ball very well," Coach Greg Olson said. "They played a good aggressive game."

Dylan Franz put up 41 points for the Panthers, exactly the number by which Phillipsburg won.

"I did not recognize that they had one player scoring so many points, because nobody on their team missed a shot very often," Olson said. "I should have coached a better game. I am very proud of our team and excited about our chances going into substate tournament."

Lucas Juennemann led the Red Devils with 18 points followed by Sam Stapp, 12; Logan Fortin, 9; Toby Peters, 8; Jacob Fortin and Dakota Soderlund, 5 each; Cole May, 2; and Chad Williams, 1.

Other Panthers who scored were Tanner Thompson, 16; Zach Wood, 9; Trevor Smith, 8; Clint Jarvis, 7; Justin Hoft, 6; Bradley Eller,

Chance Keiswetter and Charles Ellis, 4 each; and Skye Long, 2.

On Tuesday, the sixth seeded Red Devils were to travel to Hill City to face the third seeded 11-7 Ringnecks in the first round of the substate tournament.

If the Red Devils won, they would advance to the semifinals in Oberlin on Friday night to face the winner of the Rawlins County/Oakley game. If they lost, their season comes an end.

Decatur Community High will host the Class 2A substate semifinals and finals starting with the girls competition Thursday at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.. Friday night the boys will play at the same times.

Saturday the girls will have finals starting at 6 p.m. and the boys follow about 7:30 p.m.

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Oberlin	14	20	12	14	60
P-burg	26	22	27	25	101

## Junior varsity beats Rexford

By JIM MERRIOTT  
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The Decatur Community High junior varsity boys basketball team defeated the Golden Plains Bulldogs 61-49 in Oberlin.

It was a wild and woolly first quarter as both teams cut loose, ending with Oberlin on top 23-22.

In the second quarter, the Red Devils kept the heat on, scoring an additional 19, as the boys from Rex-

ford cooled off. Oberlin led 42-30 at half time in the Feb. 12 game.

Both teams traded points in the third and fourth quarters, but the Bulldogs could not catch the Red Devils.

Dakota Soderlund had a season breakout game leading the young Red Devils with 17 points followed by Jacob Fortin, 12; Nolan Wasson and Chad Williams, 7 each; Kade Macfee, 6; Cole May, 4; Josh Ritter,

3; and Cameron Weishapl and Jeff Isbell, 2 each.

Rilee Spreser was top scorer for Golden Plain with 13 followed by Dylan Moss, 11; Aaron Emigh, 8; Isaac Brockelman, 7; Jarrett Marker and Devinn Ritter, 4 each; and Casey Gould, 2.

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Golden Plains	22	8	9	10	49
Oberlin	23	19	10	9	61

## Young Devils defeat Phillipburg

The Decatur Community High junior varsity boys ended their season strong, defeating the young Phillipsburg Panthers 57-44 in Phillipsburg last Monday.

Oberlin jumped all over the young Panthers, taking a quick 21-12 lead in the first quarter.

The Red Devils kept the offense in high gear adding another 13 points in the second taking a 34-16 lead into half time.

The third quarter Phillipsburg

found its groove and outscored the Red Devils 11-10, but still trailed 44-27 heading into the fourth.

With a 17 point lead, Coach Tim Thornton cleared the bench, letting everyone finish the season with floor time.

Phillipsburg outscored Oberlin 17-13 in the final quarter, but the lead was too much for the young Panthers to overcome.

Oberlin's Chad Williams finished the season with a strong game scor-

ing 16. He was followed by Kade Macfee and Dakota Soderlund, 12 each; Josh Ritter, 10; Cole May, 4; and Nolan Wasson, 3.

The top scorers for the Panthers were Charles Ellis, 10; Justin Hoft, 7; and Kurtis Jarvis, 6.

"The kids came a long way this season," said Coach Thornton. "Thanks to everybody that supported our boys."

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Oberlin	21	13	10	13	57
P-burg	12	4	11	17	44

## Football player to go to Dodge City

Oberlin's Colt Diederich has signed to play football at Dodge City Community College, a two-year Division I junior college.

The 6-foot, 1-inch, 285-pound Diederich will play a line position for the Conquistadors.

He will receive a scholarship that pays for his books and tuition, the maximum that junior colleges can offer.

Diederich was a two-year letterman for the Red Devils in football and wrestling.

He was a two-year starter at offensive tackle and started one year on the defensive line.

Last fall, he was named to the Northwest Kansas League second team.

Diederich had a career 21 solo tackles on defense and 36 assisted tackles, along with two fumble recoveries.

He is the son of Steve and Marilyn



C. Diederich

Diederich, and has a sister Brandi, who is a sophomore at Decatur Community High School.

Diederich signed on Feb. 6, national letter of intent day.

"Colt was a very good player for us throughout high school," said Coach Trevor Williams. "He was a very good offensive tackle, and I really think he will be very successful in

## Panthers stop Oberlin girls

The Lady Panthers basketball team defeated the Decatur Community High Lady Devils 64-51 last Monday in Phillipsburg.

Oberlin started out with a 15-11 first quarter lead but the Lady Panthers chipped away taking a 35-24 lead at half time.

Oberlin fought back, outscoring Phillipsburg 12-11 in the third quarter, but still trailed 46-36.

During the fourth, the Oberlin girls continued to keep pace with the Lady Panthers but never could make up the difference from Phillipsburg's scoring spurt in the second quarter.

Jordan Dreher led the Lady Devils with 13 points, five rebounds, two assists and a blocked shot followed by Adrienne Pauls with 10 points, eight rebounds, four assists and three blocked shots; Erin Jones, 10 points, nine rebounds and a steal; Lacey Ream 8 points, eight assists, five rebounds, five steals and a blocked shot; Cindy Murray, 5 points, a rebound and an assist; Heather Glodt, 3 points, four rebounds and two assists; Mary Olson, 2 points, five rebounds and a blocked shot; and Ashley Horton and Carissa Wentz, one rebound each.

Lindsay Dusin led the Panthers with 30 points followed by Makenzie Weinman, 13; Toma Griffey, 6; Alex Orr, Emilie Coca and Jordan Redinger, 4 each; Kayla Jarvis, 2; and Shelbie Robertson, 1.

Oberlin out shot the Lady Panthers hitting 20 of 56 shots for 36 percent. Phillipsburg shot 32 per-

cent hitting only 19 of 59 shots, but out rebounded Oberlin 41-37.

On Monday, Oberlin traveled to Ellis for regional play-offs. The girls lost 55-32 to end their season with a 5-16 record.

Oberlin will play host to the Class 2A substate regionals with games starting at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Oberlin	15	9	12	15	51
Phillipsburg	11	24	11	18	64

In the junior varsity game, the young Lady Panthers outlasted Oberlin 45-42.

Oberlin came out on fire in the first quarter out scoring Phillipsburg 18-7. However, the Lady Red Devils could only muster 11 points in the second and third quarters combined, which allowed the Lady Panthers to pass them taking a 35-29 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

Oberlin managed to out score Phillipsburg in the fourth quarter 12-9 keeping the game interesting, but fell three points short as time ran out.

Wentz was Oberlin's top scorer with 10, followed by Brandi Diederich, 8; Jessica Fredrickson, 7; Horton and Murray, 6 each; and Jori Diederich and Annamarie Larue 2 each.

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Oberlin	18	5	6	12	42
Phillipsburg	7	12	16	9	45

## Junior high teams win pair

The Decatur Community Junior High seventh- and eighth-grade girls basketball teams had a sweet-heart of a night on Valentine's Day as they swept the St. Francis Indians in Sainty.

The seventh graders thumped Sainty 28-13 and the eighth-grade girls edged the young Lady Indians 26-24 in the nightcap.

In the seventh-grade game, Mika Hackney led Oberlin with 12 points, followed by Miki Dorshorst and Keatra Fisher, 6 each, and Darbi Rouse

and Cassidy Shields, 2 each.

Oberlin jumped out to an 8-0 first-quarter lead as they caused nothing but trouble for the Indians.

Oberlin continued to apply pressure, upping the score to 16-2 at half time.

In the third quarter, St. Francis showed a spark of life matching Oberlin's bench point for point, 4-4 but still trailed 20-9.

The young Lady Red Devils continued to apply pressure in the fourth quarter easily taking the game.

"The team did a great job against St. Francis," said Coach Gina Witt. "They were able to press them most of the game. We had a lot of players come in off the bench and do a good job. They played aggressively on defense and hit the open man on offense. The girls also hit the boards hard and it paid off."

In the nightcap, Kiah Blau led the eighth-grade girls to victory with 12 points; followed by Serena Stacy, 9; Megan Wentz, 3; and Brianna Klima, 2.

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