

THE OBERLIN HERALD —

Sports

Lady Devils lose 53-32

The Ellis Lady Railroaders took advantage of their speed and quickness in the back court to defeat the Decatur Community High Lady Red Devil basketball team 53-32 in the first round of the Class 2A Substate Tournament in Ellis last Monday.

Ellis took charge of the game in the first quarter out scoring Oberlin 21-10.

The Railroaders strong press defense gave the Lady Red Devils fits throughout the second quarter as Ellis built a comfortable 42-16 lead at the end of the first half.

Even though the Lady Red Devils struggled shooting the ball on offense, they out rebounded Ellis 28-20 in their last game of the season.

The second half was no better as Ellis out scored the Lady Red Devils 12-5 in the third quarter before Coach Perry Mick rested his starters which allowed Oberlin to outscore Ellis 11-1 in the final period.

Ellis shot 49 percent from the field hitting 24 of 49 shots; Oberlin shot 25 percent going 12 for 48 from the field. Oberlin committed 21 turnovers, Ellis turnovers were not recorded.

The Red Devils ended the season with a 5-16 record.

"Ellis is a really good, fast and athletic team," said Coach Terry Ream. "We didn't match up well with them. We played okay once we got them slowed down, but we fell too far behind at the beginning of the game."

Helping over Oberlin were Adri-

enne Pauls, eight points, five rebounds and two steals; Jordan Dreher, eight; six rebounds, two assists, and a steal; Cindy Murray, 5 points and five rebounds; Lacey Ream, 5 points, four rebounds, four assists, and four steals; Mary Olson, 4 points and two rebounds; and Nikki Wessel, 2 points, two rebounds and a steal; and Erin Jones, four rebounds, one blocked shot; Heather Glodt finished with three steals and one assist.

The Railers were led by Danielle Pfeifer with 21 points followed by Whitney Taylor, 14; Haley Wolf, 12; Courtney Waldscmidt, 6; and Bethany Polifka, 2.

"This was the last game for our seniors, Lacey, Heather and Nikki," Coach Ream said. "We will really miss their leadership, hard work and their individual personalities, which we got used to seeing everyday in practice and in games. They really helped in improving their younger teammates and preparing them for the future. We all want to wish them all the luck in the world as they finish with their high school careers, and head towards college."

"This team's future is looking bright as we will have a lot of experience coming back next year. I know that they will continue working hard, and once they get a little confidence they will begin playing at the level we have been working hard towards."

Ellis advanced to the Class 2A Substate Tournament with a 14-6 season record.

Trego and Ellis advance to finals

By JIM MERRIOTT

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The Ellis Lady Railroaders and the Trego Community High boys basketball teams advance to the Class 2A State Basketball Tournament next week at Bramlage Coliseum in Manhattan after winning the substate finals in Oberlin on Saturday.

The Ellis girls knocked off the defending state champion Oakley Lady Plainsmen 51-40 in a game that was much closer than the score indicates.

After half a dozen changes in the lead, the Railers took over for good in the closing minutes when Oakley was charged with a technical foul for having six players on the court.

With the Oakley fans screaming and Lady Plainsmen Coach Randall Rath fuming, Ellis hit both ends of the two-shot technical, then proceeded to drain the life out of the spirited defending champs in the final two minutes.

Ellis raised it record to 16-6 and Oakley ended the season 19-4. The Railers will face St. John-Hudson (21-2) today at 4:45 p.m.

Other girls teams at state are Elbing-Berean Academy (22-1), Blue Rapids-Valley Heights (17-7); St. Marys (17-5); Sublette (17-6);

Osborne (21-2); and Pittsburg-Colgan (16-6).

On the boys side, the Trego Community High Golden Eagles soared over the Rawlins County Buffaloes, 55-44, in a game Saturday in Oberlin.

It was an nail biter down to the wire until the Golden Eagles took control in the last minute and a half.

WaKeeney heads into the state tournament with a 20-2 record while Atwood ended the season 16-6.

WaKeeney will play in the quarterfinals against Bennington (17-6) at 3 p.m. Thursday.

Other boys teams in the state tournament are Frankfort (20-2); St. Marys (15-7); Syracuse (19-3); St. John-Hudson (19-4); Pittsburg-Colgan (19-3); and Elbing-Berean Academy (18-5).

In earlier games at the Oberlin gym:

• The Rawlins County boys team defeated Hill City 72-66.

• Trego downed the Plainville Cardinals 72-56.

• The Ellis Lady Railroaders beat the Rawlins County Lady Buffaloes 56-40.

• The Oakley Lady Plainsmen came out on top of the Trego Community Lady Eagles 62-39.

Three youth wrestlers bring home first places

Just five Oberlin youths wrestled in the Scott City Kids Wrestling tournament Saturday, but three brought home first-place medals and one took second.

Tabor Erickson, Dalton Paul and Rex Diederich brought home the gold, while Max Diederich brought home a silver medal:

- 79 pounds, 10 and under, Erickson, first.
- 150 pounds, 14 and under, D.

Paul, first.

• 140 pounds, 12 and under, R. Diederich, first

• 67 pounds, 10 and under, M. Diederich, second.

• 110 pounds, 12 and under, Kolton Paul wrestled.

The club will split for tournaments Saturdays, with part of the squad traveling to the Phillipsburg tournament and others to the Wichita area for the Park City Classic.

Student to jump in Australia

Tate Bruggeman, a junior at Golden Plains High School, plans to compete in the high jump at the eighth annual Down Under Track and Field Meet in Australia on June 30.

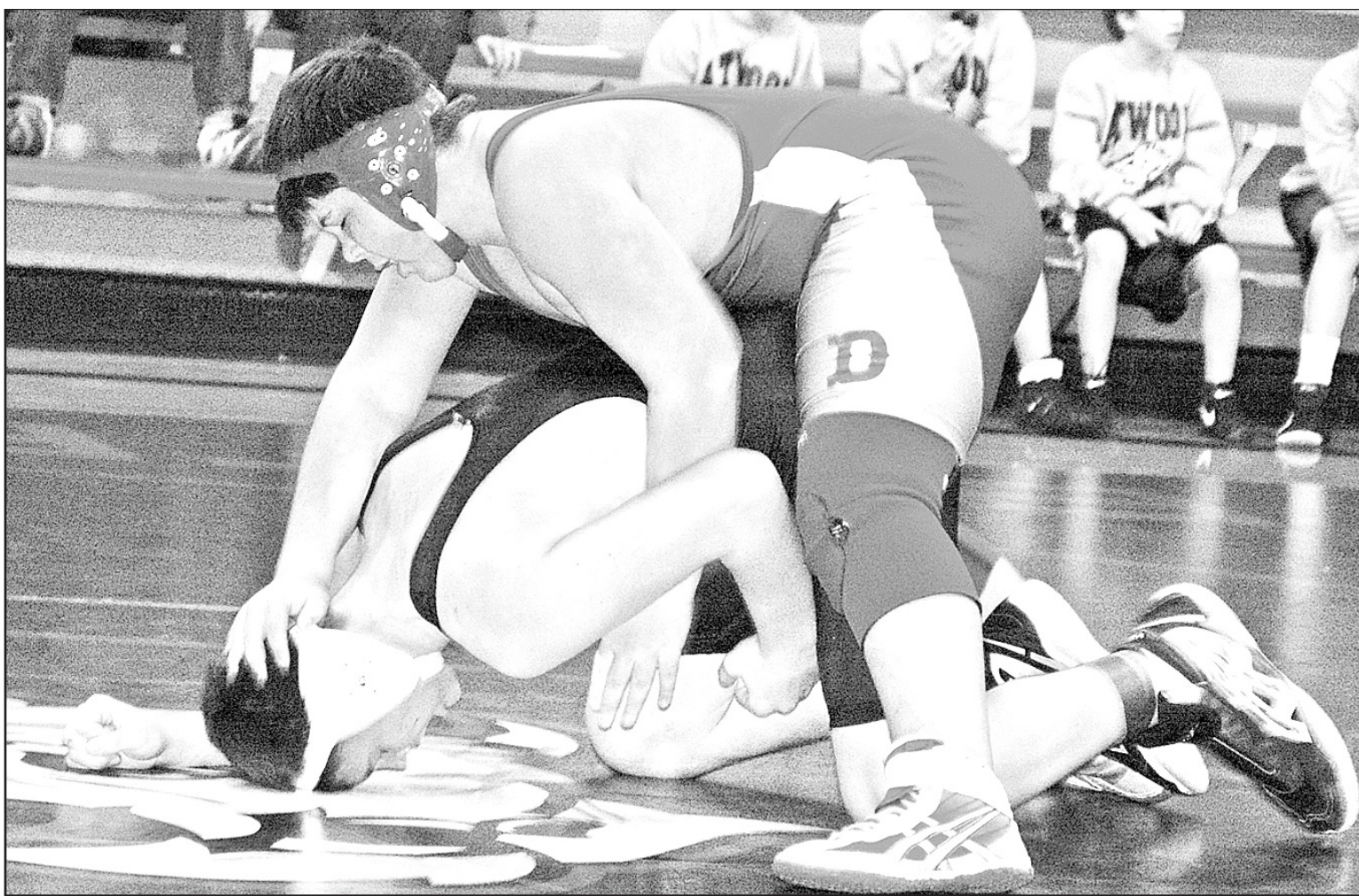
Tate is one of 16 Kansas high school students to be selected to participate in the games.

Between 2,000 and 3,000 athletes will compete in the games that also include tours and activities in both

Australia and Hawaii.

"I can't wait to go. I will work as hard as I can to up my jumps this track season," said Tate.

Tate and his family have been asking family, friends, and business sponsors for donations, and are planning fundraisers to help cover the \$4,000 cost of the trip. He can be contacted at (785) 687-4136 or at the high school at (785) 687-3265.



OBERLIN'S CHANNING FARR displayed the techniques that helped him take a second place at the Northwest Kansas League junior high wrestling championships last week. Farr

went 1-1 in the 182-pound weight class.

— Herald photo by Susan May.

Junior high wrestlers finish seventh

Kade Brown and Brent Juenemann led the Decatur Community Junior High Wrestling team to a seventh-place finish at the Northwest Kansas League Tournament.

Brown and Juenemann both finished the tournament with perfect 3-0 records to bring home first-place medals at the tournament, which was held in Hoxie on Feb. 19.

Oberlin's seven junior high wres-

tlers fared well against larger squads such as Colby and Goodland.

- 86 pounds, Jon Rorick, 0-2.
- 92 pounds, Ryan May, 1-2.
- 104 pounds, Brown, 3-0, first.
- 110 pounds, Juenemann, 3-0, first.
- 122 pounds, Zach May, 1-2, fourth.
- 138 pounds, Lakota Dennis, 0-2.

• 170 pounds, Cody Wurm, 0-2, third.

• 182 pounds, Channing Farr, 1-1, second.

"This season was pretty good for the junior high," said Coach Shane Bird.

"With just seven wrestlers, I thought the kids did quite well.

"The two eighth graders, Brent and Lakota, were good leaders and

I look forward to seeing them at the next level.

"The seventh grade will have some good leadership next year. They will be able to step it up next season because they now have the knowledge. Hopefully, next season we will have more kids out for the program because our numbers were low this year."

Red Devils lose to Hill City in tourney

The Decatur Community High boys basketball team ended the season in the first round of the Class 2A Substate Tournament losing to Hill City 87-41 last Monday.

Oberlin ended the season with a 5-16 record, much improved over 2007's 1-19.

Hill City took a 24-10 early game lead into the second quarter.

The Ringneck defense put a strangle hold on the Red Devils offense cutting off their fast-break offense, which has kept them in

many games this season.

Oberlin also had trouble with Hill City's quick guards and the Ringnecks had a comfortable 48-19 lead at half time.

Hill City kept pouring it on in the third quarter scoring another 25 points to Oberlin's 15 to lead 73-34 after three quarters.

Oberlin was only able to score seven points to Hill City's 14 in the fourth quarter.

Oberlin was lead by junior Sam Stapp with 13 points, followed by

Toby Peters, 11; Jacob Fortin, 8; Logan Fortin, 6; Cody Haas, 2; and Lucas Juenemann, 1.

Hill City junior Alex Van Loenen was the game's top scorer with 23. He was followed by Dylan Vap, 18; David Gerstner and Chris Miller, 10 each; Seth Thompson, 8; Reggie Jordan, 6; Blake McKeever, 3; Christian Covington, 2; and Ryan Pfeifer, 1.

"Hill City played a very good game and put on a shooting clinic," Coach Greg Olson said. "They hit

51 percent from the field and 77 percent from outside the three-point arch. They also were 80 percent from the free throw line.

"Our team played a good game and fought hard to the very end. I am pleased and proud of the team, they never gave up without a fight all season. I believe we can all be optimistic about next year, although Cody and Cameron will be missed."

Devils look for improvement next year

With the high school basketball season coming to an end, the Oberlin Red Devils finished in the basement of the Northwest Kansas League for the second straight season, but they can see a light at the end of the tunnel.

Not only did the boys improve on their 2007 record of 1-19, they played one more game than last year and had four more victories. The only lose two seniors to graduation this year.

Statistics do not win a game and teams are judged on their won-loss records, but statistics can tell you if a team is improving.

In the Northwest Kansas League, Rawlins County and Colby have the top four individual scorers but Oberlin had three of the top 10.

Lucas Juenemann finished fifth in scoring in the league with 14.0 points per game.

Jacob Fortin, who had limited playing time due to injuries, finished ninth with 10.4 per game.

His cousin Logan Fortin finished 10th, averaging 10.1 points per game.

Others who finished in the top 25 were Toby Peters with 6.8 points per game and Sam Stapp, also was injured during the season, with a 6.0.

Of the 50 top scorers in the league, Cody Haas was 27th with 4.4; Dakota Soderlund, 36th, 3.3 average; Josh Ritter, 41st, 1.5; Chad Williams, 44th, 1.1; Cole May, 48th, 0.7; and Nolan Wasson, 49th, 0.7.

Except Haas, all these kids are returning to the team next season and most of them played on the junior varsity this season.

J. Fortin finished third in the league, hitting 21 three-pointers for an average of 1.5 per game. L. Fortin and Juenemann tied for 12th, hitting 16 each; Peters was 19th with five;

Ritter, 20th with three; and Stapp, 23rd with three three-pointers.

When it came to blocked shots, Oberlin finished with seven of the top 10 jumpers.

L. Fortin was second with 23 blocks; J. Fortin, third, 16; Juenemann, fifth, 13; Haas, sixth, 11; Peters, seventh, nine; Stapp, eighth, 8; and May, 10th, five. Williams and Wasson finished tied for 18th with one apiece, while Soderlund was 20th with two, but Soderlund he played in twice as many games as Williams and Wasson.

In rebounds, L. Fortin finished third in the league, averaging 7.4 per game. Stapp was eighth with 6.4; Haas, ninth, 5.3; Peters, 13th, 4.9; Juenemann, 14th, 4.5; J. Fortin, 23, 3.1 per game; Soderlund, 29th, 2.2; May, 37th, 1.4; Williams, 43rd, 1.0; Wasson, 45th, 0.7; and Ritter 50th, at 0.5 per game.

The Red Devils did fairly well in the steal department. L. Fortin finished 11th in the league with 1.7 per game; Stapp, 12th, 1.6; Juenemann, 15th, 1.4; J. Fortin, 18th, 1.3; Peters, 24th, 0.9; Ritter, 31st, 0.6; May, 33rd, 0.5; Haas, 40th, 0.3; Williams, 42nd, 0.2; and Soderlund, 44th with 0.2.

In assists, L. Fortin finish 13th in the league with 1.2 per game; Juenemann, 16th, 1.1; J. Fortin, 25th, 0.7; Stapp, 27th, 0.6; Peters, 33rd, 0.5; Ritter, 43rd, 0.1; and Soderlund, 44th, 0.1.

Taking the Charge: Juenemann was No. 1 in the league with four; Peters, second, 4 (two fewer games); L. Fortin, fourth, three; Stapp, sixth, three (three fewer games); and Haas, seventh, two.

Even though the boys finished last in the league, this was a young team with little experience and depth, as the majority of the boys were underclassmen.



The Jayhawker

By Jim Merriott

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Now I don't claim to be a Bobby Knight or Dean Smith, but I did coach for 27 years and my oldest son is a basketball coach at Silver Creek High School in Longmont, Colo.

What I do know is that in Colorado, basketball players play year around and attend individual and team camps and clinics during the summer, playing in AAU and MAYB leagues.

Most successful programs also start their players at a young age. It is not uncommon to see feeder teams learn the exact same offense and defense that the high school is running in elementary school. True, they do not learn all the program, but they are gradually feed the information starting in kindergarten.

When I coached at Pittsburg-Colgan in 1976-1979, the kindergarten boys were learning the basic plays that the high school teams ran in football and basketball, playing in city and YMCA leagues and tournaments. If Oberlin can find some

stability, and alumni who will help scout games, and the boys hit team camps such as the ones at Colorado State University in Fort Collins or the University of Wyoming summer camp, they will continue to improve the program.

Turning around a program takes patience, hard work, teamwork and self sacrifice.

Hopefully, whoever coaches the Decatur Community High Red Devils next year will get the backing of the alumni and community. There is no reason why the Oberlin gym cannot be just as it was when Rawlins County played Hill City on Friday night, loud with fan support.

Hats off to Greg Olson and Tim Thornton for teaching our boys that it is possible to get better through dedication, teamwork and determination this year. Five more wins in the 2008-2009 season would mean 10 wins, and six more wins would put Oberlin over the .500 percentage mark. Good Luck, Red Devils.

Graduate wrestles at college

Oberlin's Scott Miller wrestled in the Junior College National Wrestling Championships for the second year in a row for Colby Community College the weekend of Feb. 21-24 in Mason City, Iowa.

The former Decatur Community High wrestler finished 1-2 in the 174-pound class.

He defeated Sean Seru of Niagara County Community College, Sanborn, N.Y., 7-0; lost 21-8 to Glenn Rhees, North Iowa Area Community College, Mason City; and lost 16-3 to Cory Greene, Northwest College, Powell, Wyo.

Scott is the son of Carolyn Miller of Oberlin.

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