



JORDAN DREHER worked on her technique in the javelin toss during practice on Monday. Dreher, a freshman, will compete in her first high school meet Friday in Goodland.

— Herald staff photo by Jim Merriott

Golfers ready to tee up

By JIM MERRIOTT
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 The Decatur Community High School Golf team is at work preparing for its first match at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, at Sugar Hills Golf Club in Goodland.

"We are pretty young this season," said Coach Dick Ahlberg. "We only have eight or nine on the team, but we have potential."

Ahlberg, a recent addition to the Oberlin Country Club Golf Association Committee, has been working through spring break with other volunteers to prepare the course for the upcoming season.

"This season we are all pitching in as a committee to work on the course," Ahlberg said.

"Our President, Preston Pratt, has done a fine job of organizing the committee, setting up work schedules, and the like. Connie Rydell is organizing mowing, Carol Brown has been working hard on the club house, Herschel Betts has been hard at work working on the golf carts and shed, Brian Simonsson, Kurt Vollertsen and Rick Pauls have been cleaning up broken branches along with planting new trees to beautify the course. It truly is a team effort. I will be cutting the greens this

summer."

The Red Devils will be led by returning lettermen Jordan Tally and Nathan Simonsson.

"I look for Goodland and Colby to be tough, we will have to step-it-up. Not only are the Cowboys and Eagles strong teams, Rawlins County and Hoxie will be tough, too. It is a shame that St. Francis is not fielding a team this season, as they have one of the finest courses in northwest Kansas."

Oberlin will be holding its annual invitational meet at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 12. The public is invited.

Players make all-league team

Decatur Community High senior Lacey Ream and junior Lucas Juenemann were the only Red Devil basketball representatives to receive all-league honors for the 2007-'08 season.

Players were picked by the Northwest Kansas League basketball coaches.

Juenemann was picked for the first team and Ream for the honorable mention team.

The Colby Lady Eagles placed five girls on the first team; Rawlins County, four; Oakley, two; Goodland, two; Oberlin, Quinter, and St. Francis one each.

Colby players include Lissa Mazanec, Paige Stephens, April Gee, Tasha Wagner and Aubrette Stephens. Rawlins County players were Sara Miller, Macy Migchelbrink, Laura Wolters and Sydney Carlson. Goodland representatives were Sammie Raymer and Jade Herl. Oakley girls were Kimber Weiser and Brea Teeter. Quinter placed Jacee Coberly and St. Francis, Sidney Crabtree.

On the boys side, Goodland placed four boys on the all-league team; Colby and Quinter, three each; Rawlins County, two; St. Francis, Hoxie, and Oberlin, one each.

Goodland Cowboys included, Greg Farris, Tanner Smith, Brandon Rome and Preston Dautel. Quinter Bulldogs were Matt Bird, Edward Machen and Brady Reed; Atwood Buffaloes were Drew Basgall and Elijah Kastens. The Indians of St. Francis had Ted Crabtree and of Hoxie, Matt Weis.

Ready to run



JUNIOR HIGH RUNNER SERENA STACY finished up her last lap for the day last week. The junior high will open up competition in Atwood next Thursday.

— Herald staff photo by Jim Merriott

Track, field athletes ready for first meet of year on Friday

By JIM MERRIOTT
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 The Decatur Community High School Track team will be in Atwood on Friday to take on the Quinter Bulldogs and the Rawlins County Buffaloes at 3 p.m.

The Red Devils had a couple of practices under their belt prior to the spring break last week. This week, they've been training and deciding on who will compete in which events.

Six state qualifiers return to the

squad — seniors Heather Glodt and Lacey Ream; juniors Annamarie Larue, Tamara Ketterl and Jacob Fortin; and sophomore Brandi Diederich.

"The hardest thing as coaches, will be finding out which events the athletes excel at," said Coach Joe Dreher. "We have a good group of kids."

Oberlin will not have a home meet until its annual invitational meet on Tuesday, April 29, at Smick Field.

Seven kid wrestlers qualify for state meet

The Oberlin Kids Wrestling Club qualified seven wrestlers for the state tournament at the regional meet in Hays on Saturday.

Nicholas McDonald, Kelly Brown, Kade Brown, Channing Farr, Dalton Paul, LeRay Zodrow and Jaxen Alstrom were able to come in the top four of their divisions to win berths to the state tournament, which will be held at the Kansas Expo Center in Topeka on Saturday and Sunday.

Regional results:
 • 55 pounds, 8 and under, McDonald, third.
 • 58 pounds, 8 and under, Kaden Van Pelt, wrestled.
 • 79 pounds, 10 and under, Tabor Erickson, fifth

- 100 pounds, 10 and under, Kelly Brown, second.
- 92 pounds, 12 and under, Dayton Dreher, fifth.
- 105 pounds, 12 and under, Kade Brown, second.
- 190 pounds, 12 and under, Farr, second.
- 115 pounds, 14 and under, Brent Juenemann, fifth.
- 150 pounds, 14 and under, Paul, fourth.
- 145 pounds, 16 and under, Zodrow, fourth.
- 185 pounds, 16 and under, Alstrom, second.
- 185 pounds, 16 and under, Jacob Larue, fifth.

There are a few rules when going fly fishing

By JIM MERRIOTT
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 Over the years, I have read a lot of how-to books on fly-fishing.

The majority of the authors just muddied the waters with their attitudes.

The so-called experts enjoyed putting me down because of my supposed lack of knowledge on the subject.

When I attended their seminars, they proved their point with snobby arrogance.

Though I found their attitudes distasteful, I kept my mouth shut. I listened, but only heard 50-cent words that confused me.

Over a period of years, I realized that these so-called purists were mostly using smoke and mirrors, pulling the wool over my eyes to make a simple sport seem out of reach and difficult to learn.

As the season passed, I just improving my skills through trial and error. What I did do was make a notebook on what worked and what didn't work.

This is what I learned through the school of hard knocks:

- Keep your hooks sharp and learn to tie knots correctly.
- Always fish with the current in your face.
- Work on your cast until it is smooth as silk.

• Wear earth tones.
 • Learn the waters you fish. It is better to fish the same pond or stream 10 times than to fish 10 different streams or ponds one time.

• When at all possible, fish standing in the shadow.

• Have the eye of an eagle. Keep a sharp eye on your fly and eliminate as much line drag as possible.

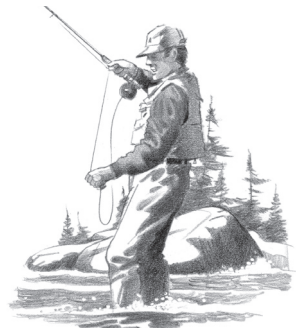
• Have a strategic plan prior to fishing your area. Look for oxygenated water such as riffles, large rocks and deep holes.

• Set the hook quickly, but gently.


• Keep the environment green, pick up your trash and any other that you find.

• Finally, cut down any strange movement and vibrations, such as tromping through the stream like a horse would.

It's important to avoid spooking fish. The fewer you scare, the more you catch.



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