



BOTTLES AND SIX PACKS of sports drinks were piled in a bucket outside the Decatur Community High gym on Monday as admission payment to the volleyball scrimmage, which was going on inside.



SENIOR ELISHA JONES prepared to serve during the volleyball scrimmage on Monday at the high school gym. She is the daughter of Jeff and Belinda Jones, new teachers at Decatur Community High. — Herald photos by Cynthia Haynes

Girls scrimmage came early

Volleyball got served up on Monday with a scrimmage that came a day early for the Decatur Community High team.

The scrimmage, which was planned for Tuesday, had to be put forward a day because of conflict. A public assembly to help prevent drunk driving called "Where Is Your Life Headed," was scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the gym.

Head Coach Sherri Ruf has 26 girls out for volleyball this year, including two-time letter winners Jessica Fredrickson and Adrienne Pauls and letter winners Heather Ploussard, Brandi Diederich, Mary Olson and Jordan Dreher.

"We are returning four varsity starters and six

letter winners," Mrs. Ruf said. "This year we start with more experience than last year. We were substate runner-up last year."

Mrs. Ruf will be assisted by Melissa Dreher.

Playing for the Lady Red Devils this year are seniors Ploussard, Elisha Jones, Annamary Larue, Cherish Manning and Cindy Murray; juniors B. Diederich, Fredrickson, Olson, Pauls, Lakin Brown, Stephanie Bruggeman, Ashley Horton and Ashli Samson; sophomores Dreher, Nakita Bose, Jori Diederich, Katie Glading, Sara Kyte, Laysha Medina, Lacy Misesk and Carissa Wentz; and freshmen Samantha Anderson, Kiah Blau, Megan Huntley and Brianna Klima.

The girls will get their first taste of battle in Hoxie at 4:30 p.m. Friday as they meet up with the Hoxie Lady Indians and the Grainfield/Wheatland Shockers. Then right after Labor Day the girls will be in Oakley at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday to take on the Oakley Lady Plainsmen, Phillipsburg Panthers and Leoti/Wichita County Indians.

The first home matchup will be at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, when the St. Francis Lady Indians and the Colby Golden Eagles come to call.

The Decatur Community Junior High girls will play host to St. Francis at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 4. The younger girls are coached by Gina Witt.

THE OBERLIN HERALD — Sports

Squad needs sport drinks

Oberlin will be kicking off its football season at 7:30 p.m. Thursday when the Decatur Community High Red Devils hold their annual Soap Scrimmage.

This year, however, coaches are asking fans to donate a bottle of sports drink, like Gatorade, to the team effort since there is more than enough soap left in the locker rooms for the year.

Oberlin's new head coach, J.D. Johnson, will have his boys split into red and white squads to do battle as parents and friends get their first look at the team.

He will be assisted this year by Shane Bird, Ken Badsy and Jason

Anderson. There are 25 boys on the team this year including two-time returning lettermen Sam Stapp, Jacob Fortin, Lucas Juenemann, Everett Urban and Logan Fortin and lettermen Nathan Simonsson, Toby Peters, Wiley Farr, Donovan Baumann and Dakota Soderlund.

Team members include seniors Stapp, J. Fortin, Simonsson, Derek Chambers, L. Juenemann, Urban and L. Fortin; juniors T. Peters, Farr, Daniel Jordan, Kaden Macfee, Jaxen Alstrom, Cody Kane, Jordan Davenport and Baumann; sophomores Jacob Larue, Keithen Fortin, Nolan Peters, Soderlund,

Dalton Dolan, John Samson and Collin Hendrikson; and freshmen Garrett Berry, Lakota Dennis and Brent Juenemann.

The Red Devils' first game will be at home against the Osborne Bulldogs at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5. After that the Norton Blue Jays will be in town for a 7 p.m. matchup on Friday, Sept. 12.

Oberlin's junior varsity will play host to Oakley at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8, and the junior high team will play host to the St. Francis Indians at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4.

The junior high team is coached by Caleb Howland.

Runners ready to show off

The Decatur Community High cross country team will make its first appearance at the annual Soap Scrimmage and Run on Thursday at the football field.

This year coaches are asking attendees to bring sports drinks, like Gatorade, since the teams have more than enough soap to last the year but the athletes can always use more liquids.

The team had check out and first practice on Monday, Aug. 18. The annual scrimmage will feature the football team, which will divide up into red and white teams, and the runners, who will circle the

track then head into town to run a set course before returning to the stadium for another lap around the field.

This year Coach Dick Ahlberg will field 20 runners including seven, who have lettered in the past.

The team will include seniors Jay Wessel, Chris Larson, Cole May, Andrew Richards and Tamara Ketterl; juniors Hunter Nedland, Gatlin Reichert, Nolan Wasson and Ray Zoderow; sophomores, Jacob Helm, Tim Larson, Dalton Paul, Tiffany Anderson, Bret Ashley, Rhiannon Davies; and freshmen Dalton Jones, Shay McChesney,

Connor McHugh, Tyler Shields and Matt Wittman.

Two-time returning lettermen are Richards and Wasson. Other returning lettermen are C. Larson, May, Ketterl, Helm and Ashley.

"Our boys should be competitive at the state level," Coach Ahlberg said.

The first outing for the runners will be at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4, at the Norton Invitational.

The 41st Annual Oberlin Invitational will start at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 30, at the Country Club.

Teens plan games, dinner at park

Oberlin Teens for Christ plans to kick off its season with water games and dinner in City Park next month.

The teen group, which serves students in grades seven to 12, will meet in the park from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7.

Following the opening event, the group will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. Sundays at the Teens for Christ building, 118 S. Rodehaver.

Back by popular demand, the

building will be open for "fifth quarters" again this year after home football games on Friday nights, said Pastor Doug Mason, who heads up the group.

Over the summer, he said, volunteers helped with a redecorating and remodeling project, including Anita Hirsch, Joe Stanley, Chris Koerperich, Dr. Elizabeth Sliter and Kendal Carman. He said the work couldn't have been done without donations from relatives of Ken

and Henrietta Van Vleet, who used to live in Oberlin.

Also over the summer, said Pastor Mason, the group's van had some mechanical problems, racking up a \$600 bill, which left cash a little low. He said the group also needs some folding chairs and tables.

Sherri Kyte is in charge of organizing snacks for the group this year, he said, so anyone who wants to help can call her.

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