



**SAFELY ON SECOND BASE**, Kaine Fredrickson (right) prepared for the next play while Teacher Jeff Jones threw the ball back to the pitcher. Wesley Geihlsler (above) took off towards home while Caitlin Shields (below) pitched the kick ball during the game Thursday at the grade school.



## Teachers win game against sixth graders

Five boys jumped the chain link fence, backing up in anticipation.

They stood ready on the grassy slope off of Cass Avenue, waiting as the man at the home plate prepared to kick. The pitcher rolled the ball softly to the plate. The man's foot hit the kick ball with a thud, sending it flying. Foul ball! yelled one of the sixth graders, and the man prepared to kick again. This time, he sent the orangish red ball flying through the air toward the fence.

The outfielders worked as a team to stop the ball and throw it to second base.

It was the annual sixth-grade-versus-teachers kick ball game Thursday at Oberlin Elementary School, traditionally held the afternoon before the last day of school. The sun was high in the sky and it was warm, but that didn't keep the sixth graders from trying their



hardest.

The kick ball game has been a part of the grade school's tradition for over 13 years, said Principal Duane

Dorshorst. It's a fun way to end the year. The teachers' team included a majority of the grade school staff, and a few parents and one graduate from Decatur Community High School as well. This year there was one participant, Jacob Fortin, who served as teacher's aide for gym class.

This year, the teachers beat the sixth graders 9 to 5, taking the lead early and keeping it throughout the game.

The rest of the students, kindergarten through fifth grade, and teachers who didn't play, sat on the hills near the field cheering both sides. Some students waved signs they made boosting their teachers or the sixth graders. Others just cheered.

Some students would just cheered for the team up to kick, no matter who that was.



**WITH A FLICK** of the wrist, Logan Berry (above) sent the kick ball rolling. Carol Dixon (right above) snapped a few shots while Tim Thornton passed the ball over the fence to Mardi Lohofener.



— Story and photos by Kimberly Davis