

Girls Rule

Lady Red Devils on road to state

The Lady Red Devils volleyball team is headed for state after sweeping their Class 2A substate tournament in Leoti on Saturday with two-set victories over Syracuse, Atwood and Oakley.

The girls started the day with a 25-5, 25-20 win over Syracuse, a team they had not played this year.

After that, the girls met the Lady Buffaloes, whom they have beaten several times, and fought to a 25-22, 25-21 victory.

Then in the finals, Oberlin downed Oakley, another team they have handled this year, 25-12, 25-15.

"The girls had an awesome day of volleyball," said Coach Sherri Ruf. "We started the day with the match against Syracuse. The girls received a lot of free balls and stayed aggressive on offense.

"In the semifinals, we met up with Rawlins County. Rawlins County played a very good match against us, the best I had seen them play all year. Our girls stayed consistent at the net and played some very good defense.

"Oakley and Oberlin played in the championship match. The girls played lights out in that match. They played great defense and picked up Oakley's tips and returned them with power hits.

"I'm proud of all the girls. It takes the whole team to get to this level of play.

"The team really appreciates all the support from the parents, student body and community. This support has a great impact on the team and our success."

Top players against Syracuse were:

- Miki Dorsorst, three aces, five digs and 13 assists.
 - Jordan Dreher, an ace, five digs, three assists and seven hits.
 - Carissa Wentz, four digs and two hits.
 - Jori Diederich, four digs and a hit.
 - Rachelle Scott, two digs and three hits.
 - Kiah Blau, a dig and four hits.
- Top players against Rawlins County (Atwood):
- Dreher, 10 digs, 11 assists and 12 hits.
 - Dorshorst, an ace, five digs, 16

assists and two hits.

- Blau, six digs, an assist and 10 hits.

- Diederich, 14 digs and an assist.

- Scott, four digs, eight hits and a block.

- Taylor Macfee, a dig and an assist.

- Wentz, two digs.

Top players against Oakley:

- Dreher, two aces, six digs, seven assists and nine hits.

- Dorshorst, an ace, five digs, 11 assists and two hits.

- Diederich, 13 digs.

- Scott, four digs and four hits.

- Blau, five hits and six digs.

- Wentz, three digs, an assist and a block.

- Macfee, two digs and a hit.

The girls will be off to Emporia on Friday for the Class 2A State Tournament.

The games will be played in White Auditorium, just east of downtown Emporia on Sixth Street (Business U.S. 50). To get there, take U.S. 83 south to the Selden junction and K-23 south through Hoxie to Interstate 70. Take I-70 east to Salina, I-135 south to McPherson and U.S. 56 east to the K-150-U.S. 77 junction east of Marion. From



T THE REGIONAL Cross Country meet on Saturday Tyler Shields ran towards the finish line at the Oberlin Country Club. — Photo by Susan May

Sports

Cross country boys to head to Wamego for state meet

The Decatur Community High cross country boys are headed for state after taking third in the Class 2A regional in Oberlin on Saturday. The boys' highest individual placing was 10th, but they ran as a team and reduced their "gap" to take third overall.

"This is the first time in school history that we have hosted a regional cross country meet, and we were excited about that," said Coach Dick Ahlberg. "The top three teams and top 10 individuals, or top five individuals on nonqualifying teams, qualify for the state meet."

The Bennington boys came in first with 50 points, followed by Sacred Heart of Salina 90, Oberlin 98, Lincoln 103, Wichita County (Leoti) 103, Plainville, 117, Hill City 122, Rock Hills (Mankato) 210 and Osborne 211.

Leoti came in first for the girls with 59 points, followed by Sacred Heart 70, Lincoln, 82, Bennington, 90, Osborne 120, Oakley 1441??, Hill City 161 and Oberlin 171.

"This was a tough regional and our boys seized the opportunity and qualified for the state meet," Coach Ahlberg said. "Our guys are improving. We had our best gap time of the season when it counted the most, with Nolan Henningson, Kolton Paul, Matt and Jacob Helm and Caleb Koerperich all running their personal best races.

"We always felt like our team was a top-10 state team. Now we are proving it.

"Three girls ran their personal best times Kayla Jones, Bret Ashley and Lara Zodrow.

"A special thanks to our meet director, (High School Principal) Charles Haag, and our staff, parents and friends for helping us in this regional. It went very smoothly because we have experienced, good help. It was fun to host the regional at the Oberlin Country Club."

Headed for state with the Red Devil runners are:

- Tyler Shields, 17 minutes, 37 seconds, 10th.
 - Dalton Jones, 17:48, 11th.
 - Henningson, 18:30, 23rd.
 - Paul, 18:40, 27th.
 - M. Helm, 19:24, 32nd.
 - J. Helm, 29:43, 39th.
 - Koerperich, 21:07, 51st.
- Running on the girls team were:
- Jones, 17:36, 31st.
 - Tiffany Anderson, 18:32, 38th.
 - Emma Borton, 18:58, 40th.
 - Ashley, 19, 41st.
 - Kaylee May, 19:24, 45th.
 - Zodrow, 20:48, 58th.

State qualifiers not on the top three teams were Brady Johnson, Plainville, 15:56, first; James Farris, Lincoln, 16:12, second; Joshua Mohl, Leoti, 16:43, fifth; Shane Jones, Hill City, 17:12, eighth; and Nick Loder, Lincoln, 17:49, 12th. There were 61 boys and 60 girls in the regional competition.

The Class 2A state meet will start at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Wamego County Club.

Red Devils lose to Ellis Railroaders 35 to 8

The Oberlin Red Devils saw their district playoff hopes fade on Friday night as the Ellis Railroaders defeated them 35-8, leaving the boys with a 1-3 in district play.

Before the game, three teams were tied for the No. 2 spot in the district, as Oberlin, Ellis, Atwood and St. Francis all had 1-2 records. Oakley had a 3-0 record and was in the No. 1 spot.

On Friday, Oberlin was in Ellis for a non-league contest, which got off to a bad start for the Red Devils as the hometown Railroaders scored a touchdown on their opening drive.

With 9:56 left in the first quarter, the home team kicked a successful point after and was ahead 7-0.

While Oberlin was unable to advance on its drive and had to punt,

Dakota Soderlund intercepted a Railroad pass moments later, and with 5:17 left in the quarter, Oberlin again had the ball.

It looked good for the Red Devils as Oberlin but Ellis took over on downs. As the Railroaders moved back towards the other goal, they ran into a few problems of their own. A penalty pushed them back to first and 15 and Oberlin's Channing Fortin recovered a fumble at midfield.

As the second quarter began, Oberlin had the ball. However, by 11:05, the Red Devils again failed to make a fourth-down play and ended up turning the ball over. Ellis scored again with 5:13 left in the half. The kick was no good but, the home team was up 13-0.

Oberlin was not able to make any

headway and had to punt.

Ellis took the ball with 3:06 left and moved it quickly towards the goal. With 45 seconds to go, Ellis threw two incomplete passes into the end zone. Oberlin took over on downs with 17 seconds left to play and deep in their own territory.

Although Oberlin got the kick at the beginning of the second quarter, the Red Devils couldn't move the ball and had to punt.

It took Ellis about five minutes and five first downs, but they were able to score again. With 3:17 left in the quarter, Ellis lead 20-0.

Oberlin was unable to keep the ball, however, as Ellis grabbed an interception, and after a couple more first and 10s, scored again.

Oberlin took the ball on the 12 and had it as the fourth quarter

began. However, the Red Devils were not able to move away from the end zone. When a punt attempt was snapped over Zach May's head and landed in the end zone, the Railroaders got a safety and another 2 points.

Ellis got the ball but, with 7:45 left in the fourth quarter, turned it back over to Oberlin. Oberlin immediately passed and had the ball intercepted.

Ellis took the ball to first and goal on the 5 with 6:09 left to play. The Railroaders fumbled and the ball was recovered by Oberlin on the 4.

From deep in their own territory, the Red Devils took the ball 96 yards down the field to score. Nolan Peters took ran the last nine yards into the

end zone to put Oberlin on the board with 2:11 left.

Brent Juenemann pushed and shoved the football into the end zone and the score was 29-8.

The Railroaders scored again with 1:20 left. The kick was no good but the score was 35-8.

The Red Devils are now 2-6 with wins over St. Francis and Syracuse. Oberlin is 1-3 in district play after beating St. Francis and losing to Oakley, Ellis and Atwood.

The Red Devils will be at home this Thursday as the Wichita County (Leoti) Indians (2-6) come to call in another nonleague district contest. Kickoff will be at 7 p.m.

Oberlin seeded No. 2 for the state tourney

Oberlin (32-2) is seeded No. 2 in the state volleyball tournament at White Auditorium in Emporia on Friday and Saturday.

In pool play, the Lady Red Devils will play Sacred Heart of Salina (27-10), which is seeded No. 7, at 11 a.m. Friday. Sacred Heart will have just finished a 10 a.m. game with Plainville (27-9), the No. 6 seed.

At 1 p.m., Oberlin will play Plainville, and at 3 p.m., Seneca-Nemaha Valley (36-5), seeded No. 3.

In the upper bracket, Greensburg-Kiowa County (37-2), is seeded No. 1; Inman (32-7), No. 4; Oskaloosa (31-10), No. 5; and Howard-West Elk (28-13) No. 8.

The semifinals will start at 10 a.m. Saturday, with the consolation and championship matches to follow.

The games will be played in White Auditorium, just east of downtown Emporia on Sixth Street (Business U.S. 50). To get there, take U.S. 83 south to the Selden junction and K-23 south through Hoxie to Interstate 70. Take I-70 east to Salina, the go right on I-135 south to McPherson and left on U.S. 56 east to the K-150-U.S. 77 junction east of Marion. From there, go east on K-150 and U.S. 50 to Emporia, following the business route downtown.

Coaches name four girls to all-league team

Northwest Kansas League coaches named four Oberlin volleyball players to the all-league team and gave honorable mention to another last week.

The league coaches chose 12 girls for all-league honors. Of those, one-third were from Decatur Community High, which won the league tournament earlier in the month.

Seniors Jordan Dreher, Kiah Blau and Rachelle Scott and sophomore Miki Dorshorst all made the all-league team. Senior Jori Diederich received honorable mention.

Other all-league players were senior ShayLinn Kaus, Hoxie; seniors Dayna Kuhlman and Jill Dennis, Oakley; seniors Jodi Hilt and Mikaela Grace and junior Kaitlin Figgins, St. Francis; senior Taylor Blackwill, Quinter; and junior Hilary Chvatal, Atwood.

Others receiving honorable mention were senior Audrey Basgall, Atwood; senior Alyson Marin, St. Francis; junior Mackenzie Mense, Hoxie; junior Carrie Pilkington, Oakley; and junior Lexie Woolf, Quinter.

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