

Girls take second place at Class 2A state tourney

It was heartbreaking and thrilling all at once as the Oberlin Lady Red Devils took second place at the state Class 2A volleyball tournament Saturday in Emporia.

Last year, the Decatur Community High team came in fourth and the year before, the girls went to state but didn't make it out of pool play.

This year, the Lady Red Devils took a 32-2 record into the tournament. By Saturday night, they had lost to Sacred Heart of Salina but beat Plainville and Seneca in pool play. They beat Kiowa County to advance to the finals and fell short by a few points in a three-set match to Oskaloosa to take second place.

"Although we didn't come away with the win, I couldn't be more proud of the girls for a great successful season," Coach Sherri Ruf said. "They played with all their hearts all season. A second-place finish at the state tournament is the best in school history. What an accomplishment!"

In pool play, Oberlin fell 25-23, 30-28 to Sacred Heart.

"We came out flat in our first match against Sacred Heart," Coach Ruf said. "We didn't move to the ball and made too many mistakes on our side of the net."

But one loss doesn't knock a team out in pool play, so Oberlin went up against Plainville and defeated the Lady Cardinals 25-13, 25-15.

"We regrouped and came out ready to play against Plainville," Coach Ruf said. "The girls were able to shut down the two middles and take them out of their game. We also hit well around their blockers."

Oberlin went on to down Seneca in two sets, 25-8, 25-23.

"We continued playing very well in our last match in pool play against Seneca-Nemaha Valley," Coach Ruf said. "We had nine ace serves in this match. Winning this match in two allowed us to finish pool play as the No. 1 seed."

Oberlin, Plainville and Sacred Heart finished pool play with 2-1 records, as Plainville downed Sacred Heart 25-18, 25-15 and Seneca 27-25, 25-17 and Sacred Heart de-

Three on all-state team

Three Oberlin volleyball players were named to the all-tournament team after the Class 2A State tournament on Saturday.

Senior Jordan Dreher received the honor for the third time. She was also named to the all-tournament team in 2009 after Oberlin took fourth place and in 2008.

Junior Kiah Blau and sophomore Miki Dorshorst made the team for the first time. Dorshorst was the only sophomore on the Class 2A team.

Twelve players were named to the team in each class — 6A to 1A.

Oskaloosa, which finished first in Class 2A, had three players on the team. Plainville, which finished fourth, had two. Kiowa

County, which finished third, and Inman, Nemaha Valley and Sacred Heart of Salina had one each.

In Class 3A, Goodland senior Ashley Archer and Phillipsburg juniors Haley Thompson and Raegan Vanderplas were named to the all-tournament team.

In Class 1A Division I, Hoxie senior Shaylinn Kaus and in Division II, Weskan seniors Hillary McKinney and Jori Mote and Grainfield-Wheatland senior Taylor Rathgeber, junior Megan Heier and sophomore Brooke Ostmeyer were named to the teams.

The teams are picked by the Kansas Volleyball Association, made up of coaches from across the state.

feated Seneca 25-13, 26-24 to give the three teams identical records. Since only two could go on to the finals, the tie breaker was checked — number of sets won. All three teams had beaten their opponents in two sets, so a second tie breaker, point differential, was used. Oberlin and Plainville won that one and advanced to the finals.

In the semifinal match, Oberlin beat Kiowa County 25-20, 25-22 and Oskaloosa beat Plainville, 25-18, 25-15.

"Their (Kiowa County's) key player was a good outside hitter," Coach Ruf said. "The girls were able to block her, and then when she went to tipping, they picked those up and returned them as powered hits. We were just a more powerful team than Kiowa County, and that hurt them in this match."

The championship match against Oskaloosa turned out to be the toughest of the two-day contest. The Lady Red Devils and the Lady Bears went at it for three hard-fought sets. Oberlin won the first by a point, 25-24, lost the second 24-26 and then dropped the third 21-25.

"The girls had 43 hits, 38 assists,

80 digs and nine blocks in the championship match against Oskaloosa," Coach Ruf said. "Those stats alone tell the story of an exciting and an intense match played by the two best 2A teams in the state. There were long volleys, power hits, good blocking and defense on both sides of the court. It was as good as it gets for a championship match."

The Lady Red Devils finished the season with a 35-4 record.

Top players against Sacred Heart were:

- Jordan Dreher, eight digs, eight assists, 11 hits and a block.

- Rachelle Scott, seven digs, 14 hits and three blocks.

- Miki Dorshorst, 10 digs, 13 assists, two hits and a block.

- Kiah Blau, six digs, seven hits and two blocks.

- Carissa Wentz, five digs, three hits and two blocks.

- Jori Diederich, an ace and 11 digs.

- Taylor Macfee, an ace and five digs.

- Cassidy Shields, a dig.

Top players against Plainville:

- Dreher, two serves, seven digs, six assists, 11 hits and two blocks.

- Blau, four digs, two assists, seven hits and two blocks.

- Dorshorst, two aces, five digs and 16 assists.

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

- Macfee, three digs, a hit and three blocks.

- Diederich, an ace and five digs.

- Wentz, two digs, two hits and a block.

Top players against Seneca:

- Scott, two aces, seven digs, four hits and a block.

- Dreher, five aces, eight digs, seven assists and seven hits.

- Blau, three digs, six hits and three blocks.

- Dorshorst, five digs, 10 assists and two hits.

- Blau, three digs, six hits and three blocks.

- Diederich, two aces and nine digs.

- Macfee, three digs and an assist.

- Wentz, a hit and a block.

Top players against Kiowa County:

- Dorshorst, an ace, eight digs, 14 assists and four hits.

- Dreher, an ace, seven digs, eight assists and 12 hits.

- Scott, three aces, seven digs, two hits and three blocks.

- Blau, six digs, six hits and five blocks.

- Diederich, an ace and 12 digs.

- Macfee, an ace, a dig, a hit and five hits.

- Wentz, a dig, a hit and two blocks.

Top players against Oskaloosa:

- Dorshorst, two aces, 10 digs, 24 assists, seven hits and a block.

- Dreher, two aces, 18 digs, 12 assists and 21 hits.

- Scott, 10 digs, an assist, eight hits and three blocks.

- Diederich, an ace and 25 digs.

- Blau, 11 digs, five hits and four blocks.

- Wentz, two digs, two hits and a block.

- Macfee, four digs and an assist.

"A big thanks for everyone that supported us throughout the season," Coach Ruf said. "This support helped us have a successful, fun season."



SHOWING LADY RED DEVIL STYLE, Kiah Blah (above) hit the ball back over the net while Taylor Macfee prepared for the next play. Miki Dorshorst (below) was ready for the ball to come to her during the state tournament in Emporia this weekend.

— Photos by Brenda Breth



Runners take 10th in state cross country

The Decatur Community High boys cross country team came in 10th at the Class 2A state meet in Wamego on Saturday.

"This was a very competitive state meet," Coach Dick Ahlberg said. "Tyler (Shields) ran a fine race."

Shields took 13th, running the course in 17 minutes, 52 seconds. He was also named to the all-state team.

Other Oberlin runners were:

- Dalton Jones, 19:44, 57th.

- Kolton Paul, 20:07, 64th.

- Nolan Henningson, 20:08, 65th.

- Matthew Helm, 20:42, 77th.

- Jacob Helm, 21:01, 82nd.

- Caleb Koerperich, 22:17, 94th.

"Our guys had a good season and a good team," Coach Ahlberg said. "(We were) Northwest Kansas League champs and state qualifiers."

"We will return six of our top seven runners, so next year we should be more competitive at the state level."

"We will need more runners so we have competition for varsity spots. That always makes you

better. And we need our returning runners to improve their times.

Ness City came in first among the Class 2A teams at state with 76 points, followed by Johnson-Stanton County 91, Bennington 99, Shawnee-Marathana Academy 137, Herington 146, Elbing-Berean Academy 155, Belleville-Republic County 164, Sacred Heart of Salina 181, Ellinwood 190, Oberlin 191, Alma-Wabaunsee 205 and Burden-Central 240.

While the Oberlin girls didn't send anyone to state this season, Coach Ahlberg said he looks for improvement in the future.

"It was a development year for our girls, with quite a few new faces," Coach Ahlberg said. "We need our young girls to build a stronger base through summer, running and find a friend to add to our squad size."

The Red Devils played host to both the league meet and the regional competition this year.

"We would like to thank everyone for their support this season," the coach said. "We had great families and friends at our meet."

Red Devils down Leoti 44-33

The Red Devils ended their football season on a high note Thursday, beating the Leoti Indians 44-33 in Oberlin during the last game of the year for both teams.

The Decatur Community High football team ended the season with a 3-6 record after beating Leoti, St. Francis and Syracuse and losing to Atwood, Norton, LaCrosse, Oakley, Ellis and Cambridge, Neb.

"This was a successful year," said head Coach J.D. Johnson. "With all the injuries we had, we never gave up and always competed. I am very proud of the leadership our seven seniors gave me."

"Even though our record was only 3-6, I feel that we played much better than what the end result was. We got a lot of young guys in on Friday night, so in the next years, we will be having some experience players coming up."

On Thursday, Oberlin outscored Leoti in all but the fourth quarter.

Leoti got a touchdown in the first quarter, but Oberlin made two.

Brent Juenemann ran Oberlin's first score one yard into the end zone, but the point-after attempt failed.

Keithen Fortin made the second Red Devils touchdown on a 51-yard pass play from Juenemann. Again the point after was no good, but the end of the first quarter, Oberlin was up 12-6.

In the second quarter, Leoti scored again and this time made a successful kick to take their side of the ledger to 13. Oberlin was quick to make two more touchdowns, however.

Fortin again crossed the goal line after a 50-yard pass, this time from Nolan Peters. Again the point-after try failed.

The last Oberlin touchdown of the quarter was one of the most exciting, as Fortin took the Indian kickoff in all the way back to score a 78-yard

touchdown.

Even though the point after was no good, Oberlin lead Leoti 24-13 at the half.

Leoti's one-touchdown per quarter quota continued in the third, as the Indians scored 6.

Oberlin also followed its two-touchdown rule with a 20-yard pass play from Juenemann to Peters and a 30-yard pass play from Juenemann to Fortin.

The two-point conversion attempt after the first touchdown was successful, and after three quarters of play, Oberlin lead 38-13.

In the final quarter, Leoti was able to score twice and was successful in getting two points after each one.

Oberlin scored once more when Josh Ritter took the ball into the end zone in a seven-yard run. The point-after attempt was unsuccessful

and the game ended with Oberlin ahead 44-33.

Juenemann was Oberlin's top passer, completing six of 14 for 163 yards and three touchdowns. Peters made his only attempt for 50 yards and a touchdown.

Oberlin's top rusher was Fortin with 69 yards on four carries. Peters was next with 30 yards on 10 carries, followed by Ritter, 35 yards on one; Zach May, 29 yards on three; and Juenemann, six yards on one.

Coach Johnson said that the defense was great, with Peters sacking the quarterback three times sacks and Ritter once. Juenemann also had an interception.

The Red Devils had 223 yards and four touchdowns from passing and 169 yards and two touchdowns from rushing, plus the touchdown on a kickoff return.

Junior high starts basketball

The Oberlin junior high boys basketball teams go up against their first opponents of the new season as the young Red Devils travel to St. Francis for a 4:30 p.m. start on

Thursday.

The Decatur Community Junior High boys will have their first home game at 4:30 p.m. Monday against St. Patrick's of McCook.

Congratulations to Jordan Dreher and to her teammates and Coaches Sherri and Melissa for their second place State Volleyball title. We enjoyed every exciting game you played. We are so proud of all of you.



Love, Grandma and Grandpa Fisher, Grandma and Grandpa Dreher and Aunt Melanie

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