

# Red Devils scorch Syracuse 55-6

The Decatur Community High Red Devils offense burned up the field Friday night in a 55-6 road victory over Syracuse.

While the Oberlin boys had some trouble getting the ball over the uprights when it was time to make points after, they had no trouble running the ball down the field for touchdowns—eight of them including one with only four seconds left to play in the first half.

Coach J.D. Johnson said he was happy with what he saw on the field.

“The guys did a better job with tackling and overall playing together,” he said.

Oberlin took the kickoff and moved the football down the field, with sophomore Chris Anderson making the last two-yard run into the end zone on the Red Devils’ first set of downs.

Sophomore Dayton Dreher ran the two-point conversion and just minutes into the first quarter, the Red Devils were up 8-0.

Oberlin kicked off to Syracuse, but after only two plays, the Bulldogs fumbled and the ball was recovered by Oberlin senior Brent Juenemann. On the next play, Juenemann ran the ball 32 yards for Oberlin’s second touchdown of the quarter.

Dreher’s kick was good and the Red Devils led 15-0.

Midway through the second quarter, Oberlin scored again. This time the Red Devils got to within 10 yards of the goal line, but the Bulldogs got tough. It took all four downs to move the ball across the line. Finally, on fourth and one, junior quarterback Zach May took the ball in.

The kick was off line, but with 7:02 to go in the second quarter, Oberlin was up 21-0.

Junior Tyler Bruggeman kicked off and the Bulldogs took the ball on their own 32. After three plays, however, the home team had to punt. The ball only went to the Syracuse 45 and Oberlin took over with great field position.

Juenemann took the ball and broke tackle after tackle as he headed back across the goal line for Oberlin’s second touchdown of the quarter and fourth of the night.

The kick after was blocked, but with 4:51 left in the second quarter,



**PROTECTING THE BALL CARRIER**, Dayton Dreher (No. 3), Oberlin offensive players Zach May (No. 7), Chris Anderson (No. 27) and Cody Wurm (No. 61) took down a Syracuse defender on Friday. — Herald photo by Roger May

Oberlin was ahead 27-0.

On the kickoff, the ball went to the Syracuse 27, Fortin got the ball and took it into the end zone. However, both teams received penalties and the officials declared that the down should be replayed.

Oberlin started the next drive on the Syracuse 20 and after a missed pass, the ball was handed to sophomore Kennedy Fortin, who took it into the end zone for Oberlin’s third touchdown of the quarter and the second in under half a minute.

The kick was no good and the score was 33-0.

The kickoff sent the ball to the Syracuse 43, but the Bulldogs couldn’t move it and after a personal foul on third and nine, the home team punted again.

Oberlin started out on its own 43. May overthrew a pass on the first down but got it to Juenemann on the second. A face-mask penalty hurt

the Bulldogs, and with Oberlin on the Syracuse 27, Fortin got the ball and took it into the end zone. However, both teams received penalties and the officials declared that the down should be replayed.

Oberlin was only able to move the ball six yards on its first three plays. However, on fourth down and four yards to go, May took the ball into the end zone on a quarterback keeper, running over the Syracuse defenders..

Again the kick was blocked. However, with 22 seconds left to play in the half, Oberlin led 39-0.

It was not time to go for popcorn and a soda, however, Syracuse took the kickoff and wowed the fans as the receiver just kept going until he had run all the way into the end zone to put the home team on the board, 39-6, with just 10 seconds left in the half.

Oberlin, not to be outdone, returned the favor and quarterback May took the Syracuse kickoff 68 yards for a score.

May passed to Dreher for the two-point conversion and with 4 seconds left, Oberlin was ahead 47-6.

Because of the large difference in the score, the 35-second rule went into effect in the second half. A continuous clock shortened up the second half considerably.

Coach Johnson let the younger players have a chance, as he brought out many of his starters and put in the freshmen.

Oberlin kicked off and Syracuse took the ball on its own 32. However, after four tries the Bulldogs had to turn over the ball and Oberlin was in business again on its own 49.

Oberlin slowly moved the ball down the field this time, getting some help from Syracuse, which

was caught offside on two occasions

With 5:24 to go in the quarter, Oberlin added another 8 points with a touchdown and a two-point conversion to take the score to 55-6.

Syracuse took the next kickoff on its own 10 and ran it out to the 32. Freshmen Kelden Breth and Troy Juenemann helped keep the Bulldogs from moving the ball, and on fourth and 11, Breth intercepted a pass and ran more than 70 yards into the end zone.

It was for naught, however, as a flag on the play negated his touchdown.

Oberlin, however, had the ball on the Syracuse 48 as the fourth quarter began.

Breth took over as quarterback, but the young Red Devils were unable to move the ball and at fourth and 12, Grant Gilliam punted the

ball. Syracuse was likewise unable to move the ball and with 5:40 left in the game, the Bulldogs fumbled. Oberlin took over in their own territory.

Sophomore Konner Fortin and junior Ryan May tried to move the ball but the red team just couldn’t quite make it and with 1:22 left, they punted.

Syracuse only had time for a couple of plays before the clock ran out, and the Red Devils won 55-6.

This week, the boys will play the LaCrosse Leopards for the annual Homecoming game starting at 7 p.m. Friday at Smick Field. LaCrosse is 2-0 with victories over Larned and Christ Prep Academy of Kansas City, Kan.

“This week will be a better test to see if what we got what worked on this past week,” Coach Johnson said, noting that LaCrosse has not faced any tough competition so far.

“They haven’t really struggled with any team yet,” he said.

Johnson said his team should do OK unless the players allow themselves to get distracted with all the Homecoming activities.

Top players for Oberlin against Syracuse were:

Rushing – Juenemann, 13 for 228 yards; Z May, five for 98; Dreher, eight for 44; Kennedy Fortin, 3 for 30; C. Anderson, six for 17; Gabe Anderson, two for 8; and Breth one for 7.

Kickoffs – Bruggeman, eight for 364 yards.

Tackles – Bruggeman, seven tackles; Kennedy Fortin, six tackles and an assist; Rex Diederich, six tackles; Channing Fortin, Konner Fortin and Z. May, five tackles each; Dreher, four tackles and an assist; Matt Glading, four tackles; Gilliam and Conner McHugh, three tackles and an assist; B. Juenemann, two tackles and two assists; Troy Juenemann and Regent Erickson, two tackles and an assist; Shane McEvoy, a tackle and an assist; Barron Green and Ben Glading, one tackle each; and R. May and Garrett Berry, an assist each.

Touchdowns – Z. May, three; B. Juenemann and Kennedy Fortin, two each; and C. Anderson, one.

## Runners place at meet

The Decatur Community High Red Devils’ boys cross country team came in second and the girls third at the Quinter Invitational on Thursday.

Seniors Tyler Shields, Dalton Jones and Nolan Henningson; junior Matthew Helm; and freshmen Winter Polivka and Caitlin Shields earned medals for the Oberlin teams.

“Our teams are competitive,” Coach Dick Ahlberg said. “Our gap times are going the right direction, closing down.”

“Our freshman girls, Winter and Caitie, had solid performances. Tyler ran a very nice race.”

Holcomb won the boys race with 24 points, followed by Oberlin 37, Hill City 49, Victoria 54, Plainville 72 and the Colby junior varsity 115.

Oakley won the girls race with 32 points, followed by Holcomb, Oberlin, Hill City and Wheatland/Grinnell, all 48.

Scoring for the boys were:  
 • Shields, 17:35, second.  
 • Jones, 19:12, 10th.  
 • Henningson, 19:16, 13th.  
 • Helm, 19:28, 15th.  
 • Freshman Ganon Henningson, 21:07, 26th.  
 • Sophomore Caleb Koerperich, 22:12, 31st.

Scoring for the girls:  
 • Polivka, 17:15, fifth.  
 • Shields, 18:17, 11th.  
 • Kayla Jones, 19:45, 21st.  
 • Sophomore Brittany Urban, 19:53, 25th.  
 • Sophomore Emma Borton, 20:29, 29th.

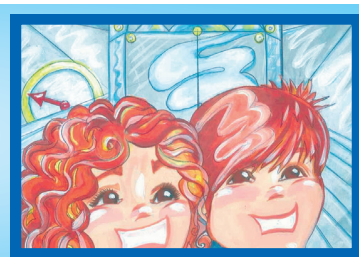
Scoring for junior varsity boys:  
 • Freshman Timothy Helm, 27:33, 32nd.  
 • Sophomore Jude Walinder, 31:09, 36th.

“The competition gets a lot harder next week,” Coach Ahlberg said.

The Oberlin teams will run at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the McCook Invitational.

## There’s No Place Like Home

By Eunice Boeve  
 Illustrated by Michelle Meade



### Chapter 4

#### The Great Depression

*Last Chapter: Jack and Mollie are surprised to find themselves transformed into Indians in a Kansa village during the 1620s. Finding 3-D looking glasses in leather cases, they put them on and are immediately sent back to 2011 as themselves, and, off to their right, sets the time machine. Taking the glasses off puts them back in the Indian village as Indians, with the time machine nowhere in sight.*

They stood on an empty road that looked like it stretched on forever. Overhead, the sun was a pale ghost in a hazy sky and small whirlwinds of dust skittered across the road and out into barren fields.

“I don’t know where we are, but it’s not home,” Mollie said.

“I don’t know either.” Jack raised a ragged shirt sleeve and wiped sweat from his forehead. “But I know it’s hot and we’re not Indians anymore.”

“And you’re right in style.” Mollie pointed at his jeans ragged and full of holes. “The older kids buy them new that way, but no one would buy this dress.” She looked down at her knee-length faded blue print, patched in several places, and back again at Jack. “Looks like we’re poor.”

“Not much different than home,” Jack said. “But that’ll change when we get back.” Suddenly they remembered the glasses and both checked their pockets. They were empty.

Now a shadow fell across them and they looked to see a cloud cover the sun and a dark mass rising up on the horizon. Jack felt his heart leap with fear as Mollie cried, “It’s a tornado!”

A gush of wind whipped around them, showering them with dust and sandy grit.

“Just in case, we’d better lie down in that

ditch,” Jack said. “I’ve heard you’re supposed to do that if a tornado catches you out in the open.”

A horn blared just as they started for the ditch. They swung around, squinting through the blowing dust, to see an old black truck pull up and stop beside them. The door opened and a woman jumped out. “Get in!” she yelled. “There’s a dust storm coming!”

They filled the front seat of the truck. “Like sardines in a can,” the man said and then fell silent as the storm battered the truck, shaking and rocking it as dirt and dust sifted into the cab, making them cough. Outside, daylight vanished into darkness and soon all they could see of each other were hazy outlines.

Later, Jack told Mollie, he was sure the time machine had malfunctioned and they were going to suffocate in that truck along with those strangers, and never see home again.



“We’re lucky it only lasted a few hours,” the man said when the storm finally passed. “They can last for days.”

As they stepped out of the truck, the twins stepped in dirt piled up to the running board.

When the couple introduced themselves as Jim and Mary Clayberg, the twins gave their real names and explained that they were headed for Liberal where they had relatives who would take them in. “Cousins,” Mollie said.

They were amazed that they were given the words that in their regular life would be lies. “But these words are for this time and this place,” Mollie said when they talked about it

later. “So they’re not really lies.”

The Claybergs told the twins they had left their farm just south of Great Bend.

“Our crops were smothered in dust,” Mrs. Clayberg said. “The government men came and took the cattle that could be saved to feed the hungry. The others they shot and buried where they fell.”

“I’ve got bad lungs,” Mr. Clayberg said. “So we’re heading to California. We’ve heard there is work there picking field crops.”

“Mr. Clayberg can’t take the dust,” his wife said. “He can get dust pneumonia and folks can die from that.”

Because they had seen a film at school about the Great Depression of the 1930s when thousands were hungry and homeless and dust storms plagued the Midwest, the twins knew they were in that time period, even if they didn’t know the year.

The dust storm had blown dirt and dust across the road in drifts like snow. Mr. Clayberg had to shovel some of it away before the truck could plow through and they could go on.

Jack shuddered when he saw the ditch he and Mollie thought would protect them. It was filled level with dirt and dust.

When Jack told him what they’d planned to do, Mr. Clayberg said, “You’d have died in that barrow pit. Covered over and suffocated.”

“Now, Jim.” Mrs. Clayberg put her arm around Mollie. “No need to scare the children.”

The cab of the truck was a tight fit, so Jack rode in the truck bed high atop the Claybergs’ belongings. But even without Jack, Mollie had to keep her legs over against Mrs. Clayberg’s so Mr. Clayberg could work the gearshift sticking up out of the floorboards.

The hot air, blowing through the open windows, made Mollie vow never again to take their air-conditioning for granted. Although in their efforts to save money for the time machine, their parents had quit using their air-conditioner even on the hottest days. She smiled, imagining their faces when she and Jack returned and they realized the time machine worked and their money worries were over.

They camped at dusk on the open Kansas prairie, the locusts setting up a constant din and a few fireflies flitting about. The Claybergs shared a meal with Jack and Mollie of canned beans and tomatoes heated over an open fire.

A little later, a family with six children

This is an original serial story that is written and illustrated by two Kansas women. To learn more about them, go to their websites: [www.euniceboeve.net](http://www.euniceboeve.net) and [www.michellemeade.weebly.com](http://www.michellemeade.weebly.com)