

# Boy runners take first

The Decatur Community High boys team took first place at the Hill City Invitational Cross Country Meet on Thursday while the girls came in fourth.

Senior Tyler Shields and freshman Winter Polivka were the only Red Devils to finish in the top 10. He came in second and she finished eighth.

"Tyler continues to run well," said Coach Dick Ahlberg. "Nolan Henningson and Caleb Koerperich had a good day."

"Our girls are close to running well, just a fraction off. Their pack time is OK, just back a little too far early in the race."

The Oberlin boys got 47 points, followed by Victoria with 49, Colby 66, Phillipsburg 80, Plainville 128, Stockton 140 and Osborne 155.

Oakley won the girls' race with 50 points, followed by Colby with 60, Wheatland/Grinnell 65, Oberlin 65 and Hill City 87.

Running for the boys were:  
• Shields, 17 minutes, 35 seconds, for second.

- Henningson, 19:40, 13th.
- Jones, 19:51, 14th.
- Matthew Helm, 19:53, 15th.
- Caleb Koerperich, 21:19, 28th.
- Ganon Henningson, 21:54, 38th.

Running for the girls were:

- Polivka, 17:35, eighth.
  - Catie Shields, 18:42, 16th.
  - Kayla Jones, 19:52, 23rd.
  - Brittany Urban, 20:03, 25th.
  - Emma Borton, 20:29, 29th.
- Running junior varsity were:  
• Tim Helm 27:25, 39th.  
• Jude Walinder, 30:52, 41st.

The runners were to be at home this week for the annual Oberlin Invitational Cross County Meet and Northwest Kansas League Meet, set to run simultaneously starting at 5 p.m. Tuesday at the Oberlin Country Club.

Next week, the teams will be back on the road at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, in Phillipsburg.



**RUNNING THE BALL**, Bryson Wesley (No. 18) helped Oberlin beat St. Francis on Thursday.



**RUNNING IN THE HILL CITY** Invitational on Thursday, Dalton Jones (right) took 14th and Matthew Helm ran 15th.  
— Herald photo by Dick Boyd

## Junior High beats Sainty

The junior high Oberlin Red Devils took their record to 3-1 with a win over St. Francis on Thursday.

The boys from Decatur Community Junior High downed the young Indians 26-8 in Oberlin.

Coach Joe Dreher reported that the game started off slowly, with both teams punting on their first possessions. However, the Red Devils' punt coverage gave Oberlin good field position.

Eighth grader Bryson Wesley scored the first touchdown on a 23-yard run. The two-point conversion failed, but Oberlin was on the board 6-0.

St. Francis answered by scoring and making the conversion to take an 8-6 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Seventh grader Jeff Juenemann ran hard to set up the next score, the coach said. Late in the second quarter, eighth grader Noah Nelson found fellow eighth grader Myles Sheaffer for a touchdown on a 10-yard pass play.

Again, the conversion failed but, Oberlin was back on top 12-8.

The defense held St. Francis on its next possession, forcing a punt, which Wesley took back to the end zone with a 50-yard run.

The conversion failed and Oberlin led 18-8 at half time.

In the third quarter, Nelson connected with eighth grader Keagan Blau on a 56-yard pass play. The two-point conversion pass from Nelson was caught by seventh grader Tabor Erickson.

The Red Devil defense continued to play well, keeping the Indians out of the end zone.

"We had a slow start but a good end result," Coach Dreher said. "We need to convert our two-point conversions and be more consistent."

The young Devils also won the fifth-quarter contest, scoring twice—once by seventh grader Cade Wurm and once by Erickson—while keeping St. Francis out of the end zone.

The junior high team has also beaten St. Francis on the road, and Dundy County while falling to Plainville.

This week, Oberlin will play host to Rawlins County at 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

## Junior high girls lose four

The Decatur Community Junior High volleyball girls lost to St. Francis on Thursday, then played in a tournament Saturday in Hoxie.

On Thursday, the Oberlin girls A- team fell 25-19, 25-20 to the young Lady Indians in Oberlin.

"We had a good serving night, making 34 of 40 for 85 percent," said Coach Gina Witt. "We struggled with serve receive and communication, but the girls worked hard at setting up the ball."

100 percent servers were Kaitlynn Fisher, Bailey Fassler, Kassidie Jensen, Jakobi Blau and Jenna Long.

Saturday in Hoxie, Oberlin lost 25-8, 25-5 to Hoxie in the first round of the tournament.

"Confidence and communication plagued us throughout the entire day," Coach Witt said. "The girls work very hard trying to set up the ball, but some mental hitting errors hurt us. We served well again, making 15 of 17 for 88 percent."

100 percent servers were Ara Marine, Fisher, Fassler, Jensen and Blau.

In the second round, the Oberlin girls won their first set 25-20 but lost the next two 25-8, 15-7 to WaKeeney.

"The girls came out fired up and played a fantastic first set," Coach Witt said. "They were communicating, moving and hitting the ball. We got into some serve-serve problems in the second set and stopped communicating. We had our best game of serving, making 38 of 40 for a 95 percent."

100 percent servers were Marine, Alexandra Waterman, Shylo Shields, Jensen and Blau.

In the third round, Oberlin again met St. Francis, losing this time 25-20, 25-14.

"The girls came out playing much better in the first set," Coach Witt said. "Confidence and communication are something we need to work on."

100 percent servers were Fisher and Shields.

The Oberlin junior high girls will be at home at 4:30 p.m. Thursday to take on the Rawlins County Junior High Lady Buffaloes.

## Second Annual Flamingo 5K Run/Walk planned in Hays

The second Annual Flamingo 5K Run/Walk will be held Saturday, Oct. 15, in Hays to promote awareness of breast cancer and raise money for breast cancer programs.

The run begins at 8 a.m. with

registration starting at 7:30 at the Fort Hays State University Memorial Union.

The 3.1-mile course will wind through areas near the campus.

Deadline for registration is Fri-

day, Oct. 7. The fee is \$20 for those 14 and older. Adonation is requested for younger runners.

Participants are encouraged to "Pink Out." They also may bring photos to be displayed as a trib-

ute to someone affected by breast cancer.

Registration forms are available at [www.haysmed.com/flamingo](http://www.haysmed.com/flamingo) or the Dreiling/Schmidt Cancer Institute, the Center for Health Improve-

ment and the HaysMed Breast Care Center and Imaging Center.

For information, call (785) 623-5900.

# There's No Place Like Home

By Eunice Boeve  
Illustrated by Michelle Meade



## Chapter 6 Indian John

*Last Chapter: The Claybergs leave the twins in Liberal. Jack discovers he had pushed a time delay button in the time machine and the glasses now work. This time the twins are sent to Council Grove where they meet Susan Magoffin, the first white woman to travel the Santa Fe Trail and see the Post Office Oak, a tree where letters are left to be carried back east.*

When the twins were again aware of their surroundings, Jack was bent over coughing so hard he was nearly gagging. They were in front of a ramshackle old house set out on the prairie, a hot gusty wind swirling around them. Mollie saw that this time, Jack had on a blue shirt and she wore a blue print dress that fell just below her knees. She gasped as an old man with long, flowing white hair stepped out of the house. Instinctively she patted her dress looking for pockets and her glasses. She had neither and felt a cold chill.

The urge to run swept over Mollie. As the old man placed a hand under Jack's chin and lifted it to peer into his eyes, she thought of a picture in the "Hansel and Gretel" book she'd had as a little girl. In the picture, the witch's bony finger has lifted Hansel's chin, studying him to see if he was yet fat enough to eat.

"Come inside, boy," the old man finally said. "I'll have you fixed up in no time."

As Mollie followed Jack and the old man inside the house, the warnings she'd heard about such situations echoed in her ear. Never go with strangers, or take candy, or in this case, medicine, and certainly don't go into their homes.

She shivered as the old man took a jar of dark brown liquid down from a shelf and pouring some in a cup, handed it to Jack.

Certain Jack had been poisoned when he sputtered and gasped for breath, Mollie felt both helpless and angry. But both feelings eased, as the old man said, with a twinkle in his eyes, "I know, son. It tastes awful, but it'll fix you up in no time."

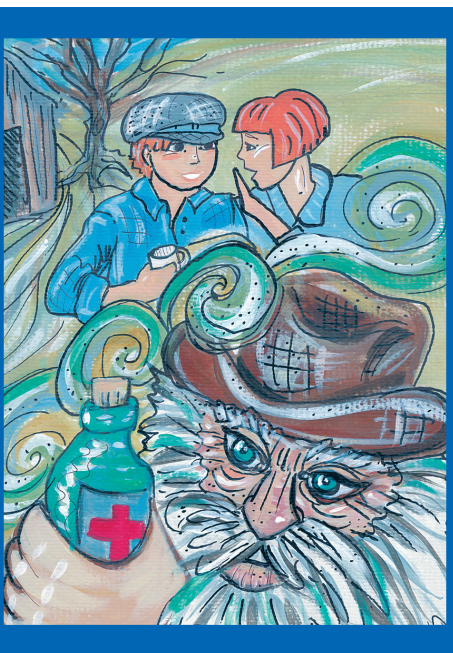
Now dismissing them, he said, "I have medicine outside cooking that I need to tend."

"Could we watch?" Jack asked, paying no attention to Mollie's mouthed, "No!"

"Suit yourself," the old man said. Out behind the house, a kettle of dark liquid bubbled over an open fire. The old man stirred the mixture with a long stick until, muttering a satisfied sound, he wrapped a rag around the handle and lifting the kettle off the fire, set it on the ground.

"I was raised up by the Indians and taught by their medicine men," the old man said when Jack asked where he'd learned to make his medicine. "That's why folks call me Indian John. Although my real name's John Jacob Derringer."

"What did you cook in the kettle?" Jack



asked. "Some burr weed, sage, and shoestring weed. Goldenrod is real good, too. And there's some others that work good to calm the belly and keep the blood rich and strong."

At those words, Mollie relaxed. That evening, her fears completely faded when several people showed up for his medicines and she saw how he treated them all with gentleness, peering deep into their eyes as he had Jack's.

Realizing no one had paid for their medicine, when the last of his patients left, Jack asked if he doctored people for free.

"I do, son. It doesn't seem right for folks to pay for what the good Lord put on this earth to use and gave me the knowledge to use it."

The old man fed them soup and bread for supper and at bedtime brought them blankets to lay on the floor in the main room.

"Isn't it odd that he never asked about us showing up out of nowhere with no grownups in sight?" Mollie whispered to her brother after the old man had gone into another room and they had settled down on their blankets.

"Maybe the time machine shuts his mind to that," Jack said.

"He's different though," Mollie said. "Sometimes I think he knows more about us than we think." Jack laughed. "Mollie, you know he can't."

"I know. Still ..." She thought awhile and said, "Maybe he can read minds."

"Maybe," Jack said. "He seemed to know what was wrong with those people tonight, just by looking at them. Unless he's fooling them."

"I heard some of them say he's cured them before." She smiled at Jack. "By the way, your cough's gone."

"Guess he cured me, too," Jack said.

The next morning, Indian John told them he had medicine to deliver in Clay Center and at some farmhouses along the way. The twins' glasses had appeared in the pockets of Jack's pants, and knowing they'd soon be leaving the old man, they rode along in his lightweight canopied buggy, pulled by a small gray horse.

Indian John told them he'd been a nurse in the Civil War, and if he'd been allowed to give the sick and wounded soldiers his medicines, he could have saved many lives. A member of the Mormon Church, he said he treated people of all faiths, but not if they cursed or lived sinful lives.

The old man also told them he was born in 1832 and was 91 years old. He asked Jack and Mollie's birth year, and raised an eyebrow at their confusion when they almost gave their real year of birth. With even the simplest of math deserting them, Jack finally said, "We're almost ten."

This only confirmed Mollie's belief that the old man suspected they were different from normal children, but Jack still scoffed at the idea.

In Clay Center, a few cars traveled the streets along with the wagons and buggies. Jack thought they were Model Ts or Model As, or both.

Here, the twins left Indian John with a story about meeting relatives.

On the computer inside the time machine, the twins learned that the story that Indians raised Indian John may not have been correct. Much of his history was clouded, but his ability to cure illnesses appeared to be true. Among the cures credited to him was one of a young girl who lived to be an old woman after being cured of what the doctors had considered a hopeless liver disease.

There was also a photo on the internet of his tombstone in the Idylwild Cemetery, northeast of Clay Center. It was engraved with his real name, his Indian John name and his date of death.

"Look," Mollie said, "he's going to die next year."

Jack frowned. "I guess so. But in real time he'd been dead for years."

"And if we aren't real in his time," Mollie said, "Then I guess he'll just forget those two red-headed kids who were with him."

*To Be Continued.*

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