

Oberlin downs Atwood

Red Devils deal Buffaloes 27-8 loss

The Decatur Community High Red Devils football team won its second straight district game on Friday, defeating the Rawlins County Buffaloes 26-8 in Atwood.

The Red Devils rolled into Atwood after a 27-6 victory over the St. Francis Indians in Oberlin the week before.

"This was another good showing by our defense and our offense is starting to make things happen," said Coach J.D. Johnson. "We're getting more balance with running and passing."

Like the week before, the game was pretty even at first, as each team made a touchdown. Then Oberlin made another touchdown in the second quarter. Neither team was able to score in the third, but the Red Devils tacked on two more in the fourth.

The Oberlin boys probably drew more penalties in this game than they have in the first five they played. Both teams were dogged by fouls, and as one commentator put it, "There was dirty laundry all over the field" as the referees threw flag after flag.

Oberlin took the opening kickoff, but was unable to move the football

and had to punt. Rawlins County took over but gave the ball back with a fumble on fourth down.

Oberlin started a drive at the Atwood 40-yard line, but fumbled within a few yards of the goal.

The Buffaloes took over on their own five, but fumbled on the first play. Oberlin recovered and took only two plays to score. Brent Juenemann ran a quarterback keeper in for 6 points. Dayton Dreher's kick was good and the Red Devils led 7-0 with 3:09 left in the first.

The Buffaloes started off their drive on their own 38. On third down, Joe Leitner caught a pass and ran 62 yards to put Atwood on the board with 1:23 to go in the quarter. The Buffaloes made a successful two-point conversion and took an 8-7 lead.

Oberlin went four and out on its next set of downs and Atwood took over. As the second quarter began, the officials' flags came out. In the Atwood drive, both teams were penalized for everything from pass interference to a face-mask call.

After the Buffaloes got down to the Red Devil 18, they fumbled again. Garrett Berry recovered for Oberlin.



WITH BLOCKING FROM TEAMMATE Kennedy Fortin (No. 44), Oberlin Red Devil Zach May (No. 7) was headed for

the goal line during the football game Friday against Rawlins County in Atwood.

— Herald photo by Roger May

It took most of the second quarter for the Oberlin boys to get the football back to the other end of the field. Finally, however, with the ball on the 1/2-yard line, Juenemann pulled another quarterback keeper to score again.

The two-point conversion try was no good but Oberlin was ahead 13-8 with just 58 seconds left in the half.

Atwood took the ball but couldn't go anywhere in the little time left.

In the second half, the Buffaloes took the kickoff.

The teams traded the ball back and forth without either getting across the goal line. However, during one set of plays, Zach May ran more than 60 yards and the boys in red got to a fourth and one on the Buffaloes' nine. Oberlin went on it on fourth down but came up short.

The ball belonged to Atwood as the third quarter ended.

On a third down with 13 yards to go, the Buffaloes threw the ball into the arms of May, who turned and ran. He didn't stop until he had gone 71 yards for a touchdown.

Again, the two-point conversion try was no good, but with 9:53 left in the game, Oberlin was ahead 19-8.

Atwood took the kickoff but turned the ball back over after four plays.

Getting the ball deep in Buffalo's territory, the Red Devils didn't let the opportunity escape them. With a first and goal on the Buffalo three, Juenemann passed to Conner McHugh for a touchdown.

Dreher's kick was good, and with 6:38 left in the game, Oberlin lead 26-8.

After that, neither team was able

to score, although Oberlin was again within five yards of the goal line when the clock ran out.

This week, the Oakley Plainsmen will be in Oberlin for a 7 p.m. kickoff on Friday.

"This week will be a big game," Coach Johnson said. "Winning would make us front runners for district, and we would capture the league championship."

The Plainsmen have a 5-1 record with victories over Syracuse, Sublette, Hugoton, Leoti and St. Francis and a loss to Phillipsburg.

Oberlin's record is now 3-3, with victories over Syracuse, Atwood and St. Francis and losses to La-Crosse, Norton and Cambridge, Neb.

Top passers for Oberlin were Juenemann, four for 40 yards, and May two for 45 yards.

Top receivers were Dreher, three for 66 yards; May, one for eight; Kennedy Fortin, one for five; and Juenemann and McHugh, both one for two.

Top rushers were May, 28 carries for 188 yards; Juenemann, 14 for 39; Chris Anderson, eight for 15; and Fortin, one for two.

Top defenders were Rex Diederich, three tackles and 14 assists; Kennedy Fortin, three tackles and seven assists; Z. May and Berry, three tackles and an assist each; Konner Fortin, two tackles and two assists; Tyler Bruggeman, a tackle and five assists; Dreher and Juenemann, one tackle and one assist each; Regent Erickson, a tackle; Channing Fortin, eight assists; Anderson, six assists; Ryan May and Cody Wurm, one assist each.

Oberlin boys play good, clean football

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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After watching and/or listening to Red Devils football games this year, I'm struck by a couple of things.

Our boys aren't the strongest, biggest or best of the teams we have faced, but they never give up and they believe in themselves.

We've made some boneheaded errors — like having touchdowns called back in not one but two games because of illegal blocking — but these have been rare. In five out of the six games we have played so far, we've had, by far, the fewest penalties of any football team I've ever watched.

The exception was the game against Atwood, where the officials pulled their flags out for almost every play, it seemed. I can't remember a single unsportsmanlike-conduct by an Oberlin player or coach and only one unintentional face-mask call.

"They've played pretty clean football," Coach J.D. Johnson said after being asked about the team's lack of foul calls. But doesn't a lot of

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that reflect on their coaching?

The team has had some tough games against some good schools. The boys have also had at least one game where almost every man on the team got on the field because we were so far ahead. They played the same in all of them — as hard as they could.

I guess the bottom line is these guys seem to be listening and learning. They are disciplined and well coached.

Thanks to Coach Johnson, and all his assistants, for a great year of football. And thanks to the guys for some great games.

And thank you to Joel Janeczek, Mick Barth and KFNF Radio for broadcasting the games, both home and away, so we can follow the team even if we can't always be there.

Oberlin junior high beats Rawlins County

The Decatur Community Junior High football team creamed the Rawlins County boys 47-0 in Oberlin, giving the young Red Devils a 4-1 record.

In the game Sept. 29, Oberlin took the ball on the kickoff and drove 66 yards for the first touchdown. when Noah Nelson connected with Keagen Blau on a 13-yard pass play, said Coach Joe Dreher. The two-point conversion try failed.

Then Blau recovered a Buffaloes' fumble on the Rawlins County 48-yard line. On the next play, Quinton Cook shot through the middle and went in for a score.

The two-point conversion failed again, but Oberlin was ahead 12-0. Tabor Erickson scored next on a 20-yard fullback trap. Bryson Wesley ran in the two-point conversion and the Red Devils were ahead 20-0.

The Red Devils struck again when Nelson connected with Wesley on a six-yard pass. Jeff Juenemann ran in

the two-point conversion and at half time, Oberlin was ahead 28-0.

On Oberlin's first possession in the second half, Wesley ran through a nice hole for a 55-yard touchdown, Coach Dreher said.

The extra point attempt failed. The Red Devils' sixth touchdown occurred when Blau took a handoff from Nelson and scooted 46 yards for the score. Nelson kicked the extra point.

Oberlin's final touchdown came in the fourth quarter, when Myles Sheaffer put heavy pressure on the Atwood quarterback. Wesley intercepted his pass and ran 70 yards for the touchdown. The extra-point attempt failed, but Oberlin was up 47-0.

"The team had a good night," Coach Dreher said. "We were more consistent and disciplined on both sides of the ball. The defense again played great, getting their third shutout of the season."

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