

# Sports

## Brothers will coach at Colby college

By KAYLA CORNETT

colby.sports@nwkans.com

Oberlin native Rusty Grafel has been promoted to head the men's basketball program at Colby Community College following the resignation of Coach Dustin Pfeifer earlier this month.

The appointment was confirmed by the college board at a special meeting last Monday on the recommendation of President Steve Vacik, who said the college had conducted "a brief internal search." Coach Grafel will begin his duties immediately as the 14th head coach of the Trojans.

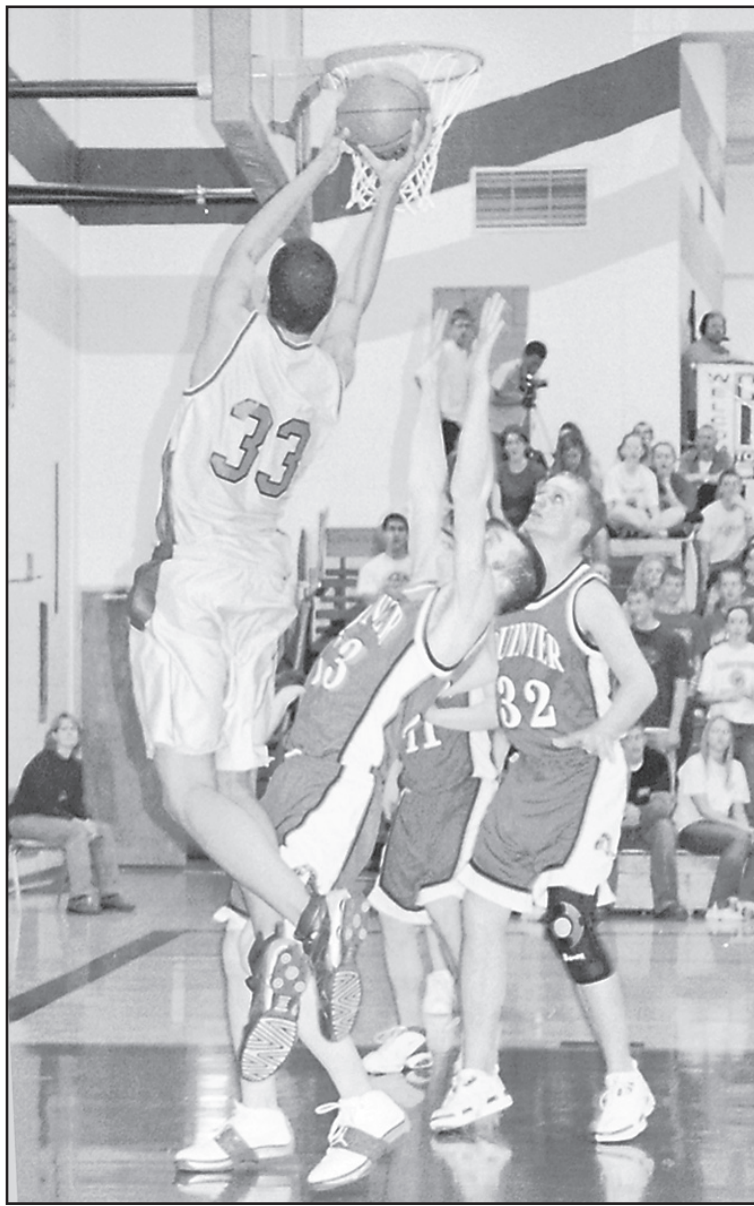
"We're really excited," Grafel, who had been the assistant coach, said of both himself and his players, who were set to show up in Colby on Saturday. "Obviously, we had so many sophomores last year, so we're bringing in a lot of new guys, but they're excited."

One of Grafel's first duties was hiring an assistant coach, and he said he's decided to bring in his brother, Egan. Both are graduates of Decatur Community High School, Rusty in 2002 and Egan in 2004. Both were stars for the Red Devils' basketball team.

Egan Grafel played at Cloud County Community College for two years, and then transferred to Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill., where he played basketball and completed his degree.

Rusty Grafel served as assistant coach for the men's program for three seasons.

"I am very pleased that Coach Grafel has accepted the head coaching job," said Athletic Director Ryan Sturdy. "He has an excellent record as a great recruiter for the program. His



IN 2003 Eagen Grafel went up for a shot during a tournament with Quinter. Mr. Grafel played for the Oberlin Red Devils throughout high school. — Herald file photo

performance over the past three years has proven he can handle all aspects of coaching. I know he will continue the college's commitment to excellence under his leadership."

Grafel played one year at Hutchinson Community College, helping the Blue Dragons to a Jayhawk West Championship in 2003-04. He transferred to Fort Hays State University, where he

played three years for the Tigers and was part of the 2005-06 Rocky Mountain Athletic Association Championship Team that was ranked No. 1 in the nation. Grafel stayed at Fort Hays as a graduate assistant coach for the 2007-08 and 2008-09 seasons.

When Dustin Pfeifer got the job as head coach at Colby in 2009-10, he hired Grafel as his assistant. Pfeifer didn't say why he was resigning, Grafel said.

"He just took a different route with his life," the new coach said.

The Colby men finished the 2011-12 season 19-12 overall and 7-10 in the Western Division of the Jayhawk Conference.

Coach Grafel earned bachelor's and master's degrees in health and human performance from Fort Hays.

He said it's always been in his plan to become a head coach.

"I've always wanted to be a head coach," he said. "When I first decided I wanted to be a coach ... I knew I kind of fell in that realm."

Rusty Grafel said this is his brother's first college coaching job. After graduating from Northern Illinois, his brother said, Egan was thinking about playing overseas and traveled to various cities before settling down in Colby.

The coaches' parents are Keith and Roma Grafel of Council Grove, formerly of Oberlin, and their grandparents are Don and Joan Grafel of Herndon. Both parents worked for the Oberlin Schools while they lived here.

A fun fact, Grafel said, is that his dad, a long-time coach and teacher, played on the men's basketball team at Colby before graduating in 1969.

# Sports Schedule

## Schedules to run here

At the suggestion of a reader, *The Oberlin Herald* will be running a sports schedule column each week.

All of the Decatur Community High and Junior High schedules will be found in this new feature, which will run on the sports page each week.

In addition, we would like to put all other sporting events here, including golf tournaments, horse shows, races at the fairground, footraces and community walks, ball games, gymnastic events, and elementary school and kid sports such as wrestling and football.

Anyone with information on an upcoming sporting event may call *The Herald* at 475-2206 or send the information to oberlin.editor@nwkans.com.

**Friday, Sept. 7:** High football vs. Phillipsburg, 7 p.m., Smick Field.

**Saturday, Sept. 8:** High school volleyball, 9 a.m. at Grinnell/Wheatland tournament in Grinnell and Grainfield.

Junior varsity volleyball, 9 a.m. at Quinter Tournament.

To add items to the community sports schedule, call *The Oberlin Herald* at 475-2206 or e-mail oberlin.editor@nwkans.com.

**Thursday:** Decatur Community Junior High volleyball scrimmage, 4:10 p.m., junior high gym; football scrimmage, 4:30 p.m., Smick Field.

Decatur Community High volleyball scrimmage, 5:15 p.m., high school gym; football scrimmage and cross country scrimmage run, 7 p.m., Smick Field.

**Friday:** High school volleyball vs. Hoxie and Wheatland, 4:30 p.m., high school gym.

Bob Salem Memorial Race, United Rebel Sprint Series, 7:30 p.m., fairground.

**Saturday:** Bob Salem Memorial race, 7 p.m., fairground.

**Tuesday:** High school volleyball vs. Oakley, Phillipsburg and Leoti, 3:30 p.m. in Oakley.

**Thursday, Aug. 30:** High school cross country, 4:30 p.m. Norton Invitational.

Junior high volleyball and football, 4:30 p.m., in Smith Center.

**Friday, Aug. 31:** High school football vs. Cambridge, Neb., 7 p.m., Smick Field.

**Saturday, Sept. 1:** Oberlin Community 5K Run/Walk and half-mile kids' fun run, registration 7:15 a.m., kids' run, 7:45 a.m., 5K, 8 a.m., City Park.

**Tuesday, Sept. 4:** High school volleyball vs. Colby and St. Francis, 4:30 p.m. in Colby.

**Thursday, Sept. 6:** High school cross country, 4:30 p.m., Quinter Invitational.

Junior high volleyball vs. Plainville, 4:30 p.m., junior high gym.

Junior high football vs. Plainville, 5:30 p.m., Smick Field.

## Memorial race set for long-time fan

A two-day United Rebel Sprint Series race in memory of Bob Salem will be held this Friday and Saturday at the Decatur County Speedway.

Mr. Salem's son Rick is promoting the race as one of the biggest in the track's history, with the largest payout and most cars ever to compete on the track at the Decatur County Fairground.

"It's tough for me to even talk about," Mr. Salem said. "It gets me choked up. Racing has been in our whole family, and all our family, and many of Dad's friends are coming back for it and are really looking forward to it."

Mr. Salem said he hopes to bring about 40 Sprint cars and 20 to 30 sport modifieds to town, along with some vintage race cars.

The Friday show will begin at 7:30 p.m. with a regular payout. On Saturday, racing will start at 7 p.m. with the feature a payout of at least \$1,000, Mr. Salem said.

Following Friday's action, there

will be a dance with a live band behind the grandstands and a beer garden, which the county commissioners approved for the event.

## UPCOMING EVENTS in Kansas

Brought to you in part by Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism

**Hoisington's 116th Annual Labor Day Celebration**  
August 30 - September 3, Hoisington  
Fun events for the entire family. 29th Annual Demotion Derby & outdoor dance. Car show, 5k race, carnival & parade.  
(620) 653-4311, hoisingtonkans.com

**Cowhand's & Corriente's Championship Ranch Rodeo**  
September 1-2, Dodge City  
The best of championship ranch rodeo! Real cowboys show off their skills. Family-friendly event. Live music by Hometown Truff. cvhorses.com

**Rail Fest 2012**  
September 1-3, Baldwin City  
Ride behind a steam locomotive on an 11 mile round trip & celebrate our 25th anniversary! Engine cab rides, motor car rides & more. A day of railroading for the whole family! Midland-ry.org

**Disney's THE LION KING**  
September 4-30, Wichita  
Gazelles leap as Disney's THE LION KING takes the stage at Century II. See the savanna come to life in this eagerly awaited production.  
(316) 219-4849, theaterleague.com

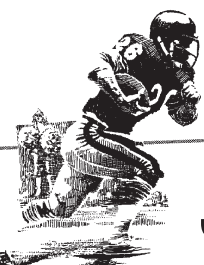
**Autumn & Art at Bradley Fair**  
September 14-16, Wichita  
A juried visual arts show with artists from across the U.S. Enjoy art from a variety of mediums. Hands-on children's art activities, food & music.  
(877) 934-3378, autumnandart.com

**Wagonmasters Chili Cook-Off**  
September 29, Wichita  
Public tasting, hot music and activities. Sanctioned International Chili Society event. Fun for everyone in Wichita's Old Town. (316) 264-6005 wagonmasterschili.com



Ads Work!  
Call Kim at 475-2206

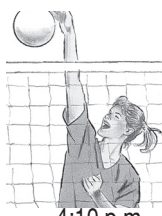
## 2012 Decatur Community Junior High Fall Sports Schedules



### Decatur Community Junior High Football

Thursday: Sports Drink Scrimmage.....	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 30: Smith Center — Away .....	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 6: Plainville — Home .....	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 13: Leoti — Home .....	4 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 20: St. Francis — Away .....	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 27: Rawlins Co. — Away .....	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 4: Goodland. — Home .....	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 11: Dundy Co. — Away .....	5:30 p.m.

### Decatur Community Junior High Volleyball



Thursday, Sports Drink Scrimmage.....	4:10 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 30: Smith Center — Away .....	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 6: Plainville — Home .....	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 13: Leoti — Home .....	4 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 20: St. Francis — Away .....	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 22: Hoxie Tournament.....	9 a.m.
Thursday, Sept. 27: Rawlins Co. — Away .....	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 11: Dundy Co. — Away .....	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 16: A team League — Dighton.....	9 a.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 16: B team League — Sharon Springs .....	TBA

"We love our job!"



As members of the Community Hospital surgery team, we assist in offering world-class surgical care to our friends and neighbors.

The advanced technologies used in our new surgery department rival what is found in large urban areas.

Two of the region's best general surgeons are right here in McCook, plus visiting specialists perform an array of sophisticated procedures.

Our new pre- and post-op rooms give patients more privacy and help them feel more at ease.

Should you ever need our services, you can rest assured we will provide attentive and compassionate care, in a setting that is unmatched in the region.



1301 East H Street | McCook, NE 69001  
308-344-2650 | www.chmccook.org

This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

## DECATUR CO. SPEEDWAY

Presents the

Ron's Tire

Bob Salem

Memorial

URSS SPRINT CARS  
IMCA SPORT MODS  
VINTAGE CARS

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

AUGUST 24TH AND 25TH  
RACES START AT 7:30

Admission: Adults \$12, 6-12 \$5, Under 6 Free

Stop in and say thanks to our sponsors

Ron's Tire, Crossroads Express, Raye's Grocery, Fredrickson Insurance, Steve Hilker Trucking, Myers Engine, Martin Farms, Decatur Co. Fairboard, Frontier Restaurant, Oberlin Concrete, Oberlin Automotive, Ward Drug, KFNE, KQHK, Home Range Realty, Stellar Sales, 1st National Bank, American Legion, Johnson Realty, Sappa Valley Construction, Lincoln Repair, Circuitech, Dust Cloud Construction, Ron's Applying Service, Dollar General, Metcalf Realty, Fine Spirits, Oberlin Herald, Custom Trophy, KQNK Radio, ASC Towing, R & M Service Center, Stanley Hardware