

Sports

Football announcer hangs up his mike

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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He's a big man, but at 65, his knees are going and his hearing isn't what it used to be. His laugh, however, is as big and booming as ever, and his memory is as sharp as it was when he enlisted in the Army at the height of the Vietnam war.

John Stanley has been the voice of the Red Devils at Smick Field for the last 10 years. Before he took over, he helped with spotting the plays for the announcer. He has also spent many years announcing Oberlin wrestling matches.

Two years ago, he said, he retired from the wrestling job because his back just wouldn't stand spending that much time sitting on bleachers anymore.

Now, he has called it quits for football, too. The steps to get to the announcer's box at the top of the stadium are just too much for him these days, he said.

With a grin, he said that he had suggested that the school put in an elevator, but he hasn't gotten very far with that idea.

While he has never taken any money for his announcing, he did note that he has gotten six hats out of the deal.

He said he's always done it for the fun of it.

"That's fun for me because I'm kind of a show off anyway," he said. That grin again.

He said that he has mostly always gotten along with the coaches, players and officials but did remember a couple of incidents.

Sometimes, he said, his mouth got him in trouble.

One time several years ago, Oberlin was playing Norton. A Norton player intercepted an Oberlin pass but landed out of bounds by several feet — right in front of the announcer's booth. The officials called it a catch despite the cries of disapproval and complaints from the Oberlin coach.

During halftime, after giving the score for the Atwood game, Mr Stanley said, he remarked that all the good referees must be over there.

"I thought I'd shut my mike off," he said, but the officials were not amused.



JOHN STANLEY announced his last football game Oct. 25.

— Herald staff photo by Susan May

He apologized. Principal Gordon "Buzz" Matson apologized. It did little good.

"I almost got tossed out of the game," he said sheepishly.

Mr. Stanley has also umpired softball and baseball in Oberlin for 25 years, something in excess of 1,000 games.

He said one thing he can't abide is cheating by coaches or players.

"The rules are there for a reason," he said. "Coaches, players and students need to be accountable."

While he was born in Wisconsin, he said, his family moved to Norton and then Oberlin when he was a boy. He went through grade and high school here, graduating from Decatur Community High in 1965.

He said he got his love of sports from his father.

"I wanted to be an umpire," he recalled, "because I watched my dad do it when the baseball field was up by the fairground in front of the bleachers."

He said that people would yell and curse his dad, and he just loved it.

He also said that he remembers Oberlin's old swimming pool. The round pool was southwest of the football field. He said he remembered the water got just disgusting and the state closed it down. Oberlin didn't have a pool for several years.

He's glad the sales tax for the new pool passed, he said, because it'll be good for the kids and the town.

While he has had many jobs in his life, he said his favorite was working at the former Sappa Valley Youth Ranch. He said that that was a great 8 1/2 years, adding that he realized then that he should have a teacher, but he never went to college.

While Oberlin football and wrestling fans will miss him, Mr. Stanley says he's not exactly going away, since he still drives a school bus.

"I really love that job," he said. "I almost feel guilty getting paid, but I still line up for it."



ONE OF OBERLIN'S top wrestlers, junior Dayton Dreher, worked to turn his father, wrestling Coach Joe Dreher, over during a preseason alumni and father-son dual last Monday.

— Herald photo by Sarah Fredrickson

Wrestlers make early poll

Northwest Kansas is well represented in the preseason rankings by the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association.

Oberlin's team, led by long-time coach Joe Dreher, is ranked fifth in the state in Class 3-2-1A while Hoxie comes in second and Norton fourth in the poll.

Decatur Community High wrestlers the coaches expect to do well this year include junior Dayton Dreher, ranked No. 1 at 126 pounds; senior Kade Brown, sixth at 145;

senior Matt Glading, sixth at 152; and senior Channing Fortin, fourth at 220.

Other area wrestlers ranked by the coaches include:

- Norton junior Branson Addington, sixth at 106; senior John Risewick, second at 120; junior Alec Hager, second at 126; and junior Cole Renner, fourth at 160;
- Atwood senior John Solko, third at 113.
- Smith Center junior Clint Rogers, fourth at 113, and senior Kyler

Atwood, first at 182.

- Phillipsburg senior Caleb Studley, second at 132, and junior Michael Dusin, fourth at 138.
- Hoxie senior Calvin Ochs, first at 138; senior Steve Yergey-Dible, third at 160; senior Brandon Salmans, second at 182; and senior Kane Washington, fifth at 220.
- Oakley senior Jason Berggren, first at 170.

The Decatur Community High boys will open their season Thursday in Goodland.

Jump, ladies, jump



BOTH THE RED AND WHITE TEAM Oberlin girls went for a jump ball during the annual Food Scrimmage last Tuesday. The boys and girls basketball teams play their first games starting at 6:30 and 8 p.m. Friday at home.

— Herald photo by Abby Hissong

Players named all league

After completing a hard schedule and coming in second in Class 1A-2A District 7, eleven Oberlin Red Devils have been named to the all-Northwest Kansas League teams by the league coaches.

Six players made the first team, some for more than one position, while four made the second team and one received honorable mention.

- Senior Zach May was named to the first offensive team as running back and first team punter.
- Junior Dayton Dreher, first defensive team as a defensive back and punt/kick returner and second offensive team as quarterback.
- Senior Tyler Bruggeman, first offensive team tackle and first team kicker.
- Junior Kennedy Fortin, first defensive team as a linebacker and honorable mention as an offensive running back.
- Senior Channing Fortin, first defensive team as a tackle.
- Sophomore Rex Diederich, first defensive team as a linebacker.
- Junior Konner Fortin, second team defensive end, honorable mention as a tight end.
- Junior Chris Anderson, second offensive team running back, honorable mention as a defensive linebacker.
- Senior Cody Wurm, second offensive team guard.
- Senior Matt Glading, second team defensive end.
- Senior Ryan May, second team defensive back.
- Junior Grant Gilliam received honorable mention as a defensive back.

"The football team would like to thank everyone for their support throughout the season," said Coach Joe Dreher.

Junior high boys lose a pair

The Decatur Community Junior High boys basketball teams both lost to St. Francis last Monday in their last games before the Thanksgiving break.

The St. Francis eighth graders beat the Red Devils 43-15.

"It was easy to see that they had the better team," said Coach Tim Breth, "but we had too many turnovers, which made them look good. St. Francis shot the ball really well, also. What a good time for a break, so we can regroup and get healthy."

The Indians outscored the Red Devils in every quarter except the fourth, 11-2, 11-6 and 15-1. In the fourth, both teams scored 6.

Scoring for Oberlin were:

- Quinton Cook, 4 points, four rebounds and three steals.
- Dayton Kempt, 4 points.
- Tabor Erickson, 3 points and six rebounds.
- Dante Robertson, 2 points and three rebounds.
- Gatlin Hissong, 2 points and two rebounds.

The seventh graders lost 30-28.

"We must have a more balanced scoring attack," Coach Breth said. "Relying on just a few to do most of the work makes it hard on all. The team continues to stay very competitive, which I'm very proud of."

Both teams scored 5 points in the first quarter. St. Francis took the lead in the second, outscoring Oberlin

10-6 to take a 15-11 lead at the half. St. Francis also outscored Oberlin 6-5 in the third quarter. However, in the fourth, the young Red Devils made a 12-9 run but came up 2 points short.

Scoring for Oberlin were:

- Kole Breth, 1 points six rebounds, seven steals and two blocks.
- Kel Grafel, 8 points, four rebounds and four steals.
- Quinter Cook, 4 points.
- Bailey Duvall, 1 point and nine rebounds.

The junior high boys have no games this week, but will be at home again at 4:30 p.m. Monday as the Hoxie Indians come to visit.

Sports Schedule

Thursday: Golden Plains middle school basketball vs. Palco, all day at Rexford.

Oberlin junior high boys and girls basketball, 4:30 p.m. vs. Rawlins County, at home.

Oberlin high school wrestling, 6:30 p.m. at St. Francis.

Friday: Golden Plains high school basketball vs. Western

Plains, all day at Rexford.

Oberlin high school basketball, 6:30 p.m., vs. St. Francis at home.

Saturday: High school wrestling, Hoxie Tournament, 9 a.m.

Monday: Oberlin junior high basketball, 4:30 p.m., at Hoxie.

Tuesday: Golden Plains, Castle Rock basketball tournament, all day at Quinter.

Oberlin at McCook Basketball Tournament, times to be announced.

Thursday, Dec. 6: Oberlin junior high basketball, 4:30 p.m., vs. Quinter at home.

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

Dr. Dan McGowan
will be seeing patients at the
Decatur County Hospital

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