

Senior excels in wrestling and golf

By JIM MERRIOTT

This is the second in a series of articles on senior athletes who attended Decatur Community High School and are heading off to college to continue their athletic career. These articles are designed to let younger athletes understand what it takes to be a success in a sport they are interested in.

What does it take to be a high school state champion?

Oberlin senior Jonathon Richards, a state runner-up at the Kansas State Wrestling championship this spring and state-qualifier in golf, will be playing Division I junior college golf at Colby Community College this fall. So how did he get to this point?

"Hard work, that's how," said Richards.

Richards said he always loved wrestling and golf. "When I was a little boy, I would listen to stories my dad and my Uncle Gary told me about competing in high school wrestling, that got me excited," said Richards. "Dad got me started wrestling in kindergarten. Uncle Gary and Dad both wrestled at Oberlin, so it was a given. As far as golf, my friends got me started."

Richards' uncle, Gary Richards, was a state champion wrestler for Decatur Community High and later wrestled for Kansas State University in Manhattan.

Richards has always loved wrestling and golf. "I guess what attracted me to wrestling was the feeling I got when I won. It drove me," Richards continued. "This season, I went pretty good, it just didn't turn out at the end the way I wanted it to."

Richards ended his senior season



SENIOR JONATHON RICHARDS demonstrated the technique that has put him in the Class 3A State golf meet for the past three seasons. — Herald file photo

32-5 (career 94-41) during the 2005-06 season, finishing second in the state in the 140-pound weight class at the State Championships

held in Hays.

Richards love for golf has pushed him into a new direction as he will not wrestle in college at this point. "My goal for college is to play in some of the tournaments. I owe a lot to my parents, they helped me a lot. My dad has been my inspiration."

Summer camps work to the athletes advantage. "What I did to improve my skills was attend those summer camps. I went every summer. At about the end of sixth grade, I started learning how to lift weights. The key for me was to get stronger. I took weight training seriously and have worked hard at it in the off-season. I also think it has helped my golf game."

"I would recommend to the young guys here in Oberlin, get started wrestling in first grade, but don't get into too many tournaments. Work on the fundamentals and have a never-give-up attitude."

"I don't think you can ever be too big, too fast, or too strong. Young guys should work to be bigger, faster, and stronger each year."

"One thing I would say today is that Oberlin kids have it better today than I did and I had it better than my dad did, and I am sure he had it better than his dad."

"Here in Oberlin, the community now has lots of programs a kid can choose from," Richards said. "Just get out there and do it."

"Jonathon is a special kid," said his wrestling coach, Joe Dreher. "It was a pleasure to coach him."

On the golf front, Richards has an opportunity to be a state-qualifier again this season. "Jonathon has a gift," said Golf Coach Dick Ahlberg. "He is a true competitor."

THE OBERLIN HERALD —

Sports

Combined team puts junior high into second place

The Decatur Junior High girls track team combined efforts from the seventh and eighth grades at the Hoxie Junior High Invitational last Thursday to finish second in a field of six teams.

"This week, we only had two divisions, girls and boys," said Coach Keith Grafel.

Colby won the meet, scoring 156 points; Oberlin finished second with 133 points; Oakley, third, 80; Dighton, fourth, 45; Hoxie, fifth, 24; and Grinnell sixth, with 14 points.

Oberlin took all six places in the shot put. Jordan Dreher, first; Mary Olson, second; Rachelle Scott, third; Kortnie Fisher, fourth; Stephanie Bruggeman, fifth; and Ashley Horton, sixth.

The Junior Lady Devils also took the first three places in the discus throw. Fisher took first; Bruggeman, second; and Jori Diederich, third.

Oberlin also finished one-two in the 4x100 relay. Oberlin "B" (Diederich, Ashli Samson, Adrienne Pauls, and Erin Russ), first, and Oberlin "A" (Dreher, Scott, Rhiannon Davies and Sydney Grafel) finished second.

Dreher, Scott, Carissa Wentz and Grafel took first place in the 4x200-meter team relay.

Oberlin results:

- Dreher, 100-meter dash, second, 14.28 seconds; shot put, first, 34 feet, 7 inches; 4x100-meter relay, second, 58.40; and 4x200-meter relay, first, 2:06.62.
- Fisher, discus, first, 76-6; 4x200-meter relay, fifth, 2:18.84;

and shot put, fourth, 30-0.

- Tiffany Anderson, 400-meter dash, second, 1:07.59, and 800-meter run, third, 2:56.85.

- Scott, 100-meter hurdles, second, 19.46; shot put, third, 30-4.5; 4x100-meter relay, second, 58:40; and 4x200-meter relay, 2:06.62.

- Alejandra Ortiz, 3,200-meter run, second, 16:28.45.

- Mary Olson, shot put, second, 30-8.

- Pauls, triple jump, third, 24-11, and 4x100-meter relay, 58.31.

- Bruggeman, shot put, fifth, 29-10.5; 4x200-meter relay, fifth, 2:18.84; and discus, second, 72-3.

- Samson, sixth, 14.87, and 4x100 relay, first, 58.31.

- Diederich, 100-meter hurdles, sixth, 20.18; 4x100-meter relay, first, 58.31; and discus, third, 66-8.

- Russ, 4x100-meter relay, first, 58.31.

- Davies, 4x100-meter relay, second, 58.40.

- Mackenzie Carman, 1,600-meter run, sixth, 8:23.37.

- Wentz, high jump, sixth, 4-2, and 4x200-meter relay, first, 2:06.62.

- Grafel, 4x100-meter relay, second, 58.40, and 4x200-meter relay, first, 2:06.62.

- Horton, shot put, sixth, 27-8, and 4x200-meter relay, fifth, 2:18.84.

- Jessica Fredrickson, 4x200-meter relay, fifth, 2:18.84.

The Red Devils will compete next in the Northwest Kansas Junior High league meet at 10 a.m. Thursday in Atwood.

Devils finish sixth out of 10 teams here

By JIM MERRIOTT

It was tough times at Decatur High last Tuesday as the Oberlin Red Devil boys track team finished sixth in a field of 10 teams.

The Norton Blue Jays soared to a first-place finish with 109 points; Phillipsburg finished second, 89; Hoxie, third, 74; Rawlins County, fourth, 71; St. Francis, fifth, 66; Oberlin, tie, sixth, 45; Smith Center, tie, sixth, 45; Oakley, eighth, 33; Goodland, ninth, 19; and Grinnell, 10th, 8 points.

Seniors Teryn Grafel and Denton Bailey scored first-place finishes.

Grafel took the 110-meter hurdles and 300-meter intermediate hurdles, and Bailey won the javelin throw.

"It was a great day for a meet," said Coach Joe Dreher. "I want to thank everyone who helped make the meet successful."

Oberlin results were:

- Bailey, javelin, first, 158 feet.
- Grafel, 110-meter hurdles, first, 15.32 seconds; 300-meter intermediate hurdles, first, 41.07; 4x100-meter relay, second, 45.25; 4x400-meter relay, sixth, 3:41.90.
- Joe Mondero, 200-meter dash,

fifth, 23.47; 4x400-meter relay, sixth, 3:41.90; and 4x100-meter relay, second, 45.25.

- Jacob Fortin, 400-meter dash, fifth, 53.55; 4x100-meter relay, second, 45.25; and 4x400-meter relay, sixth, 3:41.90.

- Garrit Peters, 4x400-meter relay, 3:41.90; and 4x100-meter relay,

second, 45.25

- 4x800-meter relay team, fifth (Ace Manning, Kyle Glodt, Lucas Juenemann, and Seth Ritter), 9:49.25.

The Red Devils traveled to Hill City Monday, tuning up for the Northwest Kansas League meet at 3 p.m. on Friday in Quinter.



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