

Golf team wins state berth

The Decatur Community High varsity golf team finished second Monday in the Class 3A regionals in Phillipsburg to qualify for the state tournament in Hesston on Monday.

The Red Devils were led by senior Jonathon Richards, who finished second with a four-over-par 74.

Phillipsburg won the regional on their home course, shooting a team total of 317 strokes. Oberlin finished second with 332; Norton, third, 343;

Hoisington, fourth, 362; Ellinwood, fifth, 370; and Beloit, sixth, 379. Ellsworth and Lyons received no team scores as they did not have enough players to make a full team.

This is the first Oberlin team to qualify for state since 1997-'98, said Ahlberg.

Senior Dane Krizek, a four-year letter winner from Norton, won the tournament with a score of 73.

Richards shot a 39 on the front

nine and 35 on the back side. Besides his second-place medal, Breck Simonsson brought home a fifth-place medal, shooting 39-40=79. Phillipsburg only released the top 10 qualifying scores. Other Oberlin team member's scores were: Jobey Black, 42-45=87; Andy Gilliam, 45-47=92; Corey Cook, 48-48=96; and Nolan May, 51-55=106.

"We played a pretty good back nine, but I think we really can play

better," said Coach Dick Ahlberg. "I am really proud of these guys qualifying. We have a pretty good little team, and we will be more competitive on a longer, neutral course. Earlier this month, we beat Phillipsburg when we played them in Hays on the long course."

Oberlin will compete against the likes of Hillsboro, Marion and Lakin, which had the top golfer in the state last year.

Team takes third in Phillipsburg

The Decatur Community High golf team kept up the pace needed to qualify for the state meet Monday as the Red Devils finished third at the Phillipsburg Invitational.

Strong performances from senior Jonathon Richards and junior Breck Simonsson paced the boys to a team score of 159. Both players received medals; Richards finished fourth,

shooting a one-over-par 36, and Simonsson was eighth with a 38.

"It is money time now," said Coach Dick Ahlberg. "We need to play well to reach our season goals heading in to the league tournament Friday."

Phillipsburg's "A" squad won the tournament, shooting 148. Trego Community finished second at 150;

Oberlin, third, 159; Norton, fourth, 160; Phillipsburg "B," fifth, 164; Hill City, sixth, 173; Osborne, seventh, 174; Plainville, eighth, 176; Stockton and Ellis, ninth, 182; Smith Center, 11th, 183; Phillipsburg "C," 12th, 188; Thomas Moore Prep junior varsity, 13th, 191; and Russell, 14th, 199.

Oberlin scores: Richards, 36;

Simonsson, 38; Jobey Black, 42; Andy Gilliam, 43; Corey Cook, 46; and Nolan May, 48.

A junior varsity match at Hoxie was rained out before the players could finish nine holes.

"I want to thank Jim Andersen for taking our young players to Hoxie," Ahlberg said.



OBERLIN SENIOR ANDY INMAN showed the skills needed to excel against Red Devil opponents as he drove for a lay-up.
— Herald photo by Jonna Inman

Boys take third at league meet

The Decatur Community High boys finished third at the Northwest Kansas League meet in Quinter last Friday, qualifying six members for the Regional track meet in Ellsworth this Friday starting at 3 p.m.

Teryn Grafel, Denton Bailey, Joe Mondero, Jacob Fortin, Brett Marietta, and Chet Ely will represent the Red Devils.

Grafel continued to lead the Red Devils, winning the triple jump, 110-meter hurdles and 300-meter hurdles, and helping the 4x 100-meter relay team take first.

Bailey, who will be heading to his appointment at West Point June 26, won the javelin toss.

The 4x100 meter team of Grafel, Mondero, J. Fortin and Marietta brought home the gold for Oberlin.

Rawlins County took the meet, scoring 110 points. Oakley finished second with 80, edging out Oberlin by just half a point; Oberlin, third, 80.5; Hoxie, fourth, 77.5; Quinter, fifth, 68; St. Francis, sixth, 61; Colby, seventh, 58; and Goodland, eighth, with 22 points.

Individual results for Oberlin:

- Grafel, triple jump, first, 41 feet, 1 inch; 110-meter hurdles, first, 15.39 seconds; and 300-meter hurdles, first, 40.6.
- Bailey, javelin, first, 161-1.
- 4x 100-meter relay, first, 44.50.
- J. Fortin, 400-meter dash, second, 52.61.
- Mondero, 200-meter dash, second, 23.66.
- Chet Ely, triple jump, fourth, 36-6.
- Riley Cochran, fifth, 107-1.
- Jesse Juenemann, pole vault, fifth, 11-0.
- Lucas Juenemann, high jump, tie, fifth, 5-6.



JUNIOR CHET ELY practiced his steps down the runway in preparation for the triple jump.

— Staff photo by Jim Merriott

- 4x 800-meter relay team (Ace Manning, Kyle Glodt, L. Juennemann and Seth Ritter), sixth, 9:24.73.

The top four placers in each event will qualify to compete in the state meet at Wichita State University next weekend.

Girls place second at Quinter league meet

The Decatur Community High girls track team finished second to Class 4A Colby at the Northwest Kansas League track meet in Quinter last Friday, the first time the girls have finished other than first all year.

Oberlin will be sending Whitney Beinke, Lauren Fortin, Tricia Dorshorst, Sara Murray, Lydia Karnopp, Christa Hardy, Heather Glodt, Emmie Pauls, Lacey Ream, Tamara Ketterl and Lora Marietta to the Class 3A Regional meet in Ellsworth at 3 p.m. Friday.

Colby finished first with 117 points; Oberlin, second, 109; Rawlins County, third, 99; St. Francis, fourth, 70; Oakley, fifth, 57; Hoxie, sixth, 55; Goodland, seventh, 44; and Quinter, eighth, 6.

Oberlin results:

- Beinke, 400-meter run, first, 1 minute, 2.63 seconds; 4x400-meter relay, first, 4:12.62; and 4x800-meter relay, second, 10:24.15.
- Fortin, javelin, second, 109 feet, 11 inches; 100-meter dash, second, 12.39; 4x 100-meter relay, first, 51.33; and 4x400-meter relay, first, 4:12.62.
- Dorshorst, high jump, second, 5-2.

- Murray, javelin, third, 104-6; 4x100-meter relay, first, 51.33; and discus, sixth, 99-2.

- Karnopp, triple jump, third, 32-11.75; 4x 100-meter relay, first, 51.33; and 4x400-meter relay, first, 4:12.62.

- Hardy, 100-meter hurdles, third, 17.62, and pole vault, fourth, 7-6.
- Glodt, 100-meter dash, third, 12.86; 200-meter dash, fourth, 27.60; and 4x 100-meter relay, first, 51.33.

- Ream, 800-meter run, fourth, 2:35.89; 4x400-meter relay, first, 4:12.62; and 4x800-meter relay, second, 10:32.40.

- Rory Wendelin, shot put, fifth, 32-7.25.

- Tamara Ketterl, 800-meter run, fifth, 2:40.95, and 4x800-meter relay, second, 10:32.40.

- Marietta, 4x800-meter relay, second, 10:32.40.
- Pauls, triple jump, fourth, 31-7.5.
- Kaitlyn Stapp, high jump, sixth, 4-8.

- Kim Wessel, pole vault, sixth, 6-6.
- The top four placers in each event Friday will qualify to compete at the state meet next weekend at Cessna Field on the Wichita State University campus.

Eighth-grade girls take second place

The Decatur Community Junior High eighth-grade girls brought home the silver for second place while the seventh-grade girls snared a bronze for third at the Northwest Kansas League junior high track meet Thursday in Atwood.

The Colby eighth-grade girls won the league meet with 117 points. Oberlin finished second with 101.5; Goodland, third, 68.50; Rawlins County, fourth, 65; St. Francis, fifth, 53; Oakley, sixth, 38; Quinter, seventh, 26; and Hoxie, eighth, 16 points.

The Colby seventh-grade girls also finished first, scoring 155 points, Oakley, second, 101; Oberlin, third, 99; Rawlins County, fourth, 42; St. Francis, fifth, 31; Quinter, sixth, 21; Goodland, seventh, 6; and Hoxie, eighth, 3.

"We did a very nice job of competing at our top level," said Coach Keith Grafel. "We just needed to place a couple of places higher in a few events to have won it all."

For the eighth graders, Brandi Diederich took first in the pole vault; Kortnie Fisher finished first in the discus; and the team of Diederich, Erin Russ, Ashli Samson and Adrienne Pauls won the 4x100-meter relay.

In the seventh-grade competition, Jordan Dreher finished first in the 100-meter dash. The 4x200-meter relay team of Rachele Scott, Sydney Grafel, Dreher and Carissa Wentz also took first.

Eighth-grade results:

- Diederich, pole vault, first, 7 feet; 4x 100-meter relay, first, 57.77 seconds; and long jump, second, 13-9.75.
- Fisher, discus, first, 84-5; shot put, fifth, 29-8.25; 4x200-meter relay, fourth, 2:17.54; and 4x400-meter relay, fifth, 5:47.74.
- Pauls, second, high jump, 4-2; triple jump, fourth, 26-7; and 4x100-meter relay, first, 57.77.
- Mary Olson, shot put, second, 32-2.5, and discus, third, 69-9.
- Stephanie Bruggeman, discus, 80-6; shot put, third, 30-1.75; 4x200-meter relay, fourth, 2:18.46; and 4x400-meter relay, fifth, 5:47.74.
- Alex Ortiz, 2-mile run, third, 16:38.01.
- Samson, 100-meter dash, fourth, 14.42; 200-meter dash, sixth, 30.68; long jump, fifth, 12-11.5; and 4x100-meter relay, first, 57.77.
- Russ, 400-meter dash, sixth, 1:12.27; 4x100-meter relay, first, 00:57.77.
- Ashley Horton, high jump, tie, sixth, 4-0; and 4x200-meter relay, fourth, 02:18.46.
- Mackenzie Carmen, mile run, sixth, 8:04.05.
- Jessica Weaverling, 4x400-meter relay, fifth, 5:47.74.
- Jessica Fredrickson, 4x200-meter relay, fourth, 2:18.46, and 4x400-meter relay, fifth, 5:47.74.

Family sports fever helped player excel

Family sports fever helped player excel

By JIM MERRIOTT

This is the third in a series of articles on Oberlin athletes who attended Decatur Community High School and are heading off to college, designed to let younger athletes understand what it takes to be a success in a sport.

What does it take to be an all-league basketball player?

Six-foot, 2-inch Oberlin senior Andy Inman was a first-team Northwest Kansas League player for 2005-'06. He was the Red Devils' leading scorer, averaging 12.8 points per game; first in free-throw with a 77.1 percent average; second in three-point shooting with a 34.3 percent average; and third in assists, steals and field goal shooting.

He will be attending the University of Kansas in Lawrence this fall.

What got him to that point?

"I played as much basketball as I could," said Inman. "My family got me interested in Kansas University basketball when I was young. I became a fan and started playing basketball with my brother."

Inman said his father, Patrick, is a big Jayhawk basketball fan.

"We would get together as a family and watch the Jayhawks on TV," he said.

Inman said he has always loved basketball.

"Basketball was fun to watch and fun to play," he said. "I was inspired by Michael Jordan and studied his moves."

Inman said he worked on his fundamentals at an early age.

"I would recommend to all the young Red Devils to practice the fundamentals and play as much as you can," he said. "Learn to play with a team and shoot around whenever you can."

Inman recalled only one injury during his high school career.

"I had a stress fracture in my leg when I was a freshman," he said. "I believe it had something to do with my growth at the time, but other than that, I consider myself lucky as I didn't have any major injuries that set me back."

"This fall when I attend Kansas University, I plan on playing intramural basketball. I am undecided on my major at this time, and I am not sure what I will do or if I will live in Oberlin after I am finished with college. It's a possibility I will return; it depends on the job market."

Inman said he started playing basketball at age 7. He didn't use the weight room to improve his basketball skills.

"I felt it was more important working on skills rather than the weight room," he said. "Anywhere there was a basketball hoop, I played."

"I do believe that bigger, faster and stronger is important. A player needs to be bigger, faster, and stronger than his opponent each year. I just didn't work in the weight room so much."

"What I would say to younger players is work hard to reach your goals and don't give up. Always do your best and dream big."

"Another thing I would say is build a rec center that is open for kids to play at. The Gateway is nice, but it isn't used the way it should be for Oberlin kids to come in and work out, play pick-up basketball games, and it is never open when kids need to be there in the evenings. There is always a meeting going on in the big gym area, and the floor is not designed for basketball."

"Our community needs a year-round pool, too. It would help the community get more exercise. It could be used for kids and adults, especially for the older adults who need physical therapy. I am just afraid the community will go downhill in the next 50 years if something isn't done."

In his spare time, Andy said, he likes to listen to music.

"I can say that without basketball, I probably would've gotten into trouble. Sports are a positive thing and they help develop your outlook on life."

He said he wants to lifeguard this summer at the Oberlin pool before heading off to college.

Track meet canceled

The track meet scheduled for Tuesday, May 8, in Hill City was canceled due to foul weather and

will not be made up, school officials said.

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