

Work to be good

Dedication, love of sport pays dividends

This is the fourth in a series on Decatur Community High athletes who are heading off to college, designed to let younger kids understand what it takes to be a success in a sport.

By JIM MERRIOTT

What does it take to be a high school volleyball, basketball and track star?

Oberlin senior Lydia Karnopp, who recently signed a letter of intent to play volleyball at Fort Hays State University, knows.

"It takes dedication to the sports you love," she said.

Karnopp said she got started playing volleyball with her friends.

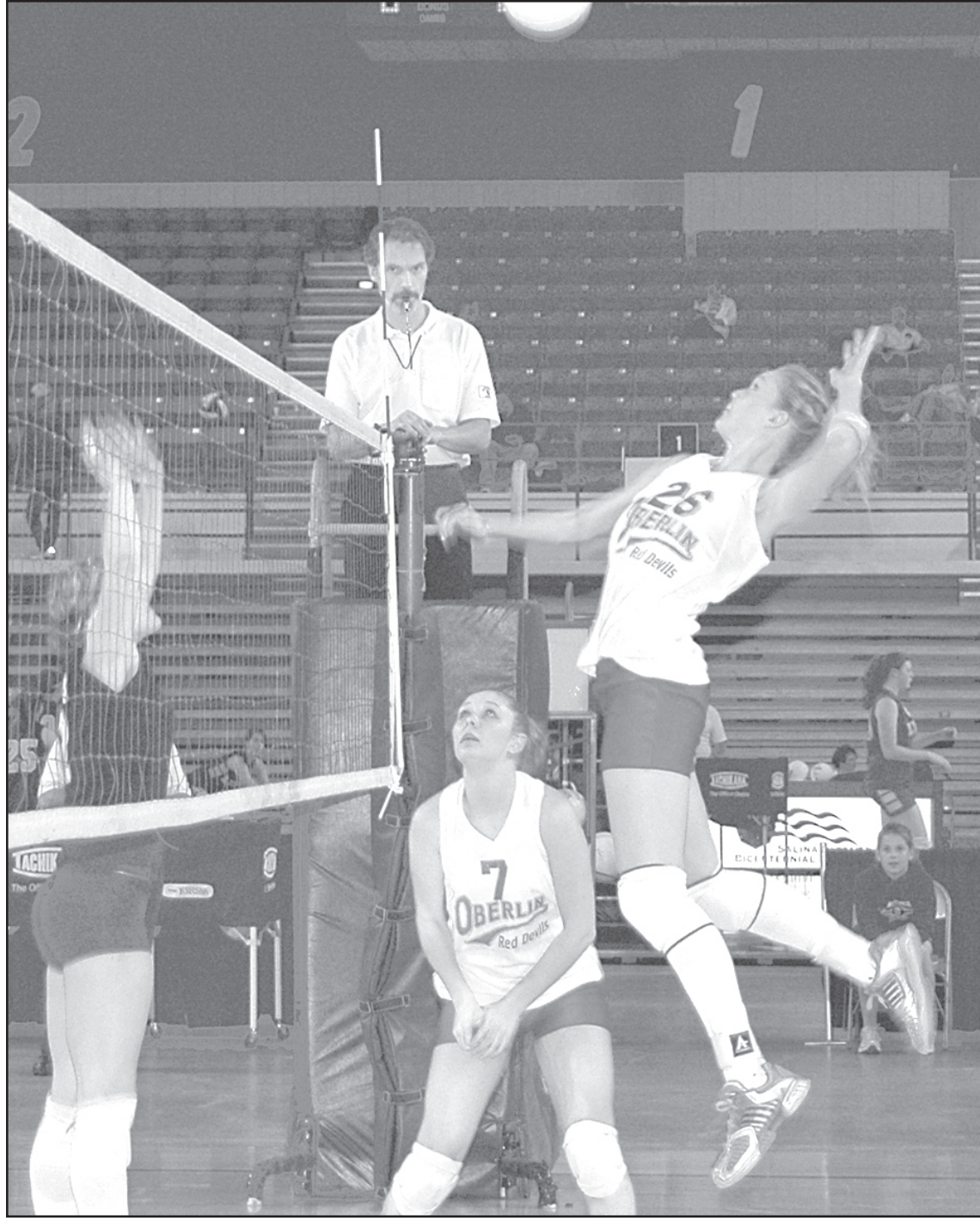
"Volleyball was different than other sports I had tried," she said. "I started to excel in it more than the other sports, so I immediately loved it."

Excel she did, lettering all four years; All Northwest Kansas League her junior and senior year; first-team *McCook Daily Gazette* and *Salina Journal* all area teams her senior year; all area and all state all-star team as a senior; and All-Northwest Kansas League all academic team her senior year.

Basketball-wise, Karnopp lettered three years; and was voted to the all academic Oberlin Invitational tournament team her senior year.

She lettered four years in track; was a member of the seventh-place 4x400-meter relay team at state her junior year; and a member of the third-place 4x100-meter relay team her junior year.

She qualified her senior year on the 4x100-meter relay team for the state meet in Wichita.



OBERLIN SENIOR LYDIA KARNOPP prepared to spike a shot at the Kansas All-Area Volleyball all-star game last winter.

— Herald photo by Jonna Inman

"I owe a lot to my dad," Karnopp added. "He was always pushing me to work harder. Secondly, my coach, Pat Dorshorst. She expected me to give my best on the court, and I tried not to let her down."

"I set my goal to play volleyball in college. I have stayed dedicated to volleyball by lifting weights and keeping in shape playing other sports."

"One thing I would recommend to younger players is attend as many summer camps as possible, keep working hard and don't get discouraged. Never quit."

Karnopp believes the best time to

get started playing sports is as soon as possible. She said sports is a good way for kids to develop social skills and learn to work hard.

She said the weight room is one of the big secrets to success.

"I started in junior high," she said, "and I believe it gave me a competitive edge."

"I believe bigger, faster and stronger applies to every athlete. To be competitive, you always have to strive to be bigger, faster, and stronger."

"I would love to see the City of Oberlin improve their recreation facilities for the general public,"

Karnopp added. "The best place for a young athlete to get started would be a recreation center like a YMCA."

"Oberlin needs better workout facilities for the general public with times that fit the average person's work schedule."

The Gateway hours just don't work at the present time.

"I think in the next 50 years Oberlin will shrink in size if something isn't done. I would like to be able to return to Oberlin after I graduate from college if the job markets fits."

Her parents are Richard and Helen Karnopp of Oberlin.

Girls take third at regional track

Ten head for state at Wichita

The Decatur Community High girls finished third in a field of 15 teams at the Class 3A regional track and field meet Friday at Ellsworth, with ten Lady Red Devils earning a trip to the state meet this weekend in Wichita.

The Lady Red Devils were led by junior Lauren Fortin who broke the 100-meter dash school record with a time of 12.03. The record had been set by Tara Cook at 12.4.

Oberlin individual qualifiers for the state meet at Cessna Field at Wichita State University on Friday and Saturday were:

- Heather Glodt, 200-meter dash, third, 27.2.

- Rory Wendelin, shotput, fourth, 31-6.

- Sara Murray, javelin, second, 114-11.

- Lauren Fortin, 100-meter dash, second, 12.3; and javelin, third, 112-9.

- Tricia Dorshorst, high jump, second, 5 feet.

Oberlin team qualifiers were:

- The 400-meter relay team of Fortin, Glodt, Lydia Karnopp and Murray, second, 50.4.

- The 3,200-meter relay team of

Lacey Ream, Tamara Ketterl, Lora Marietta and Whitney Beinke, fourth, 10:09.1.

The first four placers in each event qualified for state.

Beloit won the regional with 68 points. Norton finished second at 61.5; Oberlin, third, 59.5; Southeast of Saline, fourth, 54; Medicine Lodge, fifth, 46; Sacred Heart, sixth, 42; Holcomb, seventh, 41; Cimarron, eighth, 35; Ellsworth, ninth, 32; Ellinwood, 10th, 31; Hoisington, 11th, 29; Phillipsburg, 12th; Lyons, 13th, 19; Bennington, 14th, 12; and Lakin, 15th, three.

Other Oberlin finishes were:

- Christa Hardy, 100-meter hurdles, sixth; and pole vault, sixth, 8-0.

- Glodt, 100-meter dash, sixth, 12.1.

- Beinke, 400-meter dash, sixth, 1.2.20.

- Dorshorst, discus, sixth, 99-8.

- Emmie Pauls, javelin, fifth, 104-4.

- Karnopp, triple jump, sixth, 33-6.75.

"This was the toughest meet so far this season. It gives the kids an idea what to expect at the state meet," said Coach Joe Dreher.

Five Red Devils win berths at state meet

Senior wins gold, breaks records

The Decatur Community High boys finished sixth in a field of 14 teams at the Class 3A regional track meet at Ellsworth on Friday, sending five members on to the state championships this weekend.

The Red Devils were led by senior Teryn Grafel, who broke two individual and school records, in the 110-meter hurdles at 14.5 seconds (school and individual record was 14.6 seconds in 2005); and 300-meter intermediate hurdles, 39.90 (school and individual record was 40 seconds in 2005).

Qualifying for state were seniors Grafel — who won two gold medals — and Denton Bailey in individual events and the 4x100-meter relay team of Grafel, Joe Mondero, Garrit Peters and Bret Marietta.

"We had a pretty good day, this was one of the toughest regional track meets we ever competed in," said Coach Joe Dreher. "It was nice to see Teryn and Lauren set new school records."

Grafel finished first in the 110-meter high hurdles in 14.05 seconds, and the 300-meter intermediate

hurdles in 39.9. He was third in the triple jump at 42 feet, 3.5 inches.

Bailey finished fourth in the javelin with a throw of 159 feet.

The relay team finished fourth with a time of 44.3.

State powerhouse Beloit won the regional. The Trojans scored 118 points; Phillipsburg was second with 90; Southeast of Saline, third, 54; Lakin, fourth, 48; Holcomb, fifth, 39; Oberlin sixth, 38; Ellsworth, seventh, 36; Hoisington, eighth, 35; Norton, ninth, 31; Medicine Lodge, 10th, 21; Sacred Heart, 11th, 15; Bennington, 12th, 14; Lyons, 13th, 12; and Ellinwood, 14th, five.

The Oberlin qualifiers will be off to the state meet at Cessna Field on the Wichita State University campus Friday and Saturday.

Other Oberlin finishes were:

- Jesse Juenemann, pole vault, sixth, 11-6.

- Mondero, 200-meter dash, sixth, 23.50.

"We didn't do too bad," Dreher said. "We qualified five boys and 10 girls for state."

Oberlin drivers win at speedway

By MIKE HUGHES

Three hometown drivers were able to make their way to victory lane at Oberlin Speedway on May 7.

Caleb Peters of Oberlin won an exciting IMCA Stock Car feature that went caution-free all 15 laps. Jay Hachmeister of Lenora took the lead on the opening lap, but 3 laps later Norton's Dan Lauer took command. Then Peters worked his way past Lauer on lap 6 to take a lead he would not relinquish. Jason Schoenberger tried several times to get by Peters, but the teenager held his ground to pick up his first win of the season. Schoenberger settled for second, followed by Josh Hudson, Cory Struckhoff and Lauer. Schoenberger and Hudson won the two heat races.

David Murray Jr. of Oberlin won his third IMCA Modified feature of the season at the 3/8-mile oval. Robby Haines of Benkleman, Neb., led the first 7 laps of the 12-lap feature before Murray got under Haines in turn 2 to take the lead. Murray, who also won the heat race, led the remaining distance of the caution-free race, trailed by Haines, Jason Schoenberger, Brice Riley and Marty Clark.

Sarah Murray followed in her father's footsteps as she made it 3-for-3 at the hometown track in the Mini Truck division. Sarah led all 10 laps of the feature race, but was closely followed to the checkers by Cindy Murray and Josh Bopp. Heat race winners were Sarah Murray and Bopp.

Logan's Dustin McClurg took control at the halfway point of the 15-lap IMCA Hobby Stock feature for his first win at Oberlin this season. Veteran Jerry Hudson held off Justin Wagner for the runner-up spot, with Adam Balthazor and Kelly Karnopp rounding out the top five. Balthazor and Brady Schoen were victorious in the two heat races.

Karl Wickizer of Palisade, Neb., led from green to checkered in the Classic Modified 10-lap main event. Larry Pollmann made a late race challenge but had to settle for second, followed by Duke Ebert. Heat race victors were Devin Allen and Wickizer.

Wes and Chuck Eagleburger of Norton passed heat race winners John Annon and Josh Wonderly on lap 6 of the 8-lap Cruiser feature to notch the victory. Norman Wich-

man and Milo Lippelmann finished third.

Racing returns to Oberlin Speedway at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 3.

RESULTS

Classic Modifieds

Heat 1: 1. Devin Allen, 2. A.C. Werner, 3. Loren Pollmann, 4. Matt Caudillo.

Heat 2: 1. Karl Wickizer, 2. Larry Pollmann, 3. Duke Ebert.

Feature: 1. Wickizer, 2. Larry Pollmann, 3. Ebert, 4. Max Pollmann, 5. Loren Pollmann, 6. Larry Ayers, 7. Caudillo, 8. Werner, 9. Andrew Richards, 10. Troy Wentz (DNF), 11. Tony Miller (DNF), 13. Allen (DNF).

Mini Trucks

Heat 1: 1. Sarah Murray, 2. Cindy Murray, 3. Royal Fisher, 4. Topel Smith.

Heat 2: 1. Josh Bopp, 2. Dale Heyen, 3. Jason McClurg.

Feature: 1. S. Murray, 2. C. Murray, 3. Bopp, 4. Smith, 5. Heyen, 6. McClurg, 7. Treva Patterson, 8. Royal Fisher, 9. Curtis Richards (DNS).

Cruisers

Heat 1: John Annon/Josh Wonderly, 2. Wes Eagleburger/Chuck Eagleburger, 3. Norman Wichman/Milo Lippelmann.

Feature: 1. Eagleburger/Eagleburger, 2. Annon/Wonderly, 3. Wichman/Lippelmann, 4. Joe Carter/Jim Carter (DNS).

IMCA Hobby Stocks

Heat 1: 1. Adam Balthazor, 2. Brent Schoen, 3. Justin Wagner, 4. Jerry Hudson.

Heat 2: 1. Brady Schoen, 2. Dustin McClurg, 3. Kelly Karnopp, 4. Brian Conness.

Feature: 1. McClurg, 2. Hudson, 3. Wagner, 4. Balthazor, 5. Karnopp, 6. John Huffman, 7. Brady Schoen, 8. Phil Hinger, 9. Conness, 10. Jebb Tally, 11. Laura Hinger, 12. Bryon Smotherman, 13. Barry Brush, 14. Brent Schoen (DNF).

IMCA Stock Cars

Heat 1: 1. Jason Schoenberger, 2. Jason Rogers, 3. Cory Struckhoff, 4. Tyler Hahn.

Heat 2: 1. Josh Hudson, 2. Caleb Peters, 3. Jason Davis, 4. Dan Lauer.

Feature: 1. Peters, 2. Schoenberger, 3. Hudson, 4. Struckhoff, 5. Lauer, 6. Davis, 7. Hahn, 8. Jay Hachmeister, 9. Shawn Bigham, 10. Rogers (DNS), 11. Justin Bussell (DNS).

IMCA Modifieds

Heat 1: David Murray Jr., 2. Brice Riley, 3. Marty Clark, 4. Rick Schwab.

Feature: 1. Murray, 2. Robby Haines, 3. Jason Schoenberger, 4. Riley, 5. Clark, 6. Schwab, 7. Milo Lippelmann.

Track ready for sprint cars

The new United Rebel Sprint Series will be at the Oberlin Speedway on Saturday and Sunday along with veteran open-wheel driver Jon Johnson.

Joining the Sprint cars, the classic modifieds and mini trucks will be on tap both nights. Pit gates open at 4 p.m. and grandstands at 6 p.m. Admission will be adults, \$12; kids 6-12, \$6; and 6 and under, free. Races will start at 7:30 p.m. both nights.

Making his return to competition after a sprint-car fire two years ago, Johnson, from Utica, will be driving a 2003 Eagle chassis with a 305 Chevy engine.

Known as the "Kansas Tornado," Johnson is a three-time

NCRA Super Modified/Championship Dirt Champion, a two-time NCRA 360 Sprint Car Champion, a three-time IMCA Sprint Car Champion, and has numerous "A" feature wins.

He has competed with the World of Outlaws and the United States Auto Club. Along with running sprint cars and Dirt Champion cars, he drove in the Southwest Independent Midget Series/American Independent Midget Series.

His son C.J., also a past NCRA champion, will compete in the United Rebel Sprint Series with his Maxim chassis, owned by father-in-law Dennis Park, making it a true family affair.



Oberlin Swimming Pool

will open
Saturday, May 27

Regular Hours of Operation

(Pool hours subject to change)

Monday - Friday
11 a.m. - Noon Ladies' Swim
1 - 5 p.m. Open Swim
6 - 6:30 Lap Swim
6:30 - 8:30 Open Swim

Saturday 1 - 6 p.m. Open Swim
Sunday 1 - 5 & 6 - 8 p.m.

Admission Costs:
Daily- Adults \$2.00/Children under 12 - \$1.00
FREE Kiddie Pool
Season Passes Available at the Pool
Family \$60.00 - Individual \$30.00

Swim Lessons
Will be Announced Later

For More Information, Call:
Pool Manager Rusty Grafel at the pool (785-475-3112)

— 69th Annual —

Flint Hills Rodeo

JUNE 2, 3 and 4 • STRONG CITY, KANSAS
Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. • Sunday at 2 p.m.

Dances on Friday and Saturday following the rodeo performances • Rodeo Parade at 2 p.m. Saturday • Trade Show • Buckaroo/Buckaroo Rodeos • Growing of the 2006 Flint Hills Rodeo Princess • Reserve seating: \$10 in advance (until June 1), \$12 at the gate • General admission: \$7 for children under 12, \$9 for adults

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PRCA Approved Dodge Series Rodeo

For more information: (620) 273-6480 or www.flinthillsrodeo.com

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2nd Annual HIGH PLAINS SHOOTOUT

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RACES START 7:30

Adults \$12
12-7 \$6
6 and Under FREE

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OBERLIN, KS