

Girls lose 2 at state

Undefeated Red Devils fall in pool play

By JIM MERRIOTT

The Decatur Community High volleyball girls ended their season at the Kansas State Tournament, finishing the season 32-2.

The undefeated Lady Red Devils put their 31-0 record on the line at the Bicentennial Center in Salina and lost the first two matches in pool play but came back to win the third round.

Oberlin lost to Osage City 17-25, 26-24, 25-17 in first round in Pool A.

In round two competition, the Red Devils were eliminated from title hopes as they lost to Wellsville 23-25, 25-19, 25-27.

Playing on pride, Oberlin defeated the Frontenac Raiders, 25-10, 25-12 in their final round.

"We had high hopes of finishing in the top four at the state 3A tournament," said Coach Pat Dorshorst. "Our hopes were dashed after the two defeats in match pool play."

"It was not the Oberlin team that fans had watched all season that showed up to play Friday. Our defense was sluggish and a few of our hitters were cold. We had played solid volleyball all season and just happened to have our off day at the worst time."

"Osage City was an extremely scrappy team that found our weakness, picking up directed tips, in the second set. We did not adjust well; instead of pulling together, we got rattled and lost our team composure."

"The Wellsville match was a close battle. Wellsville blocked us well and dug up everything that we hit past them. Our girls kept fighting, jumping to a nine-point lead in the third set. Some missed serves and poor serve receive let Wellsville back into the match late in the final set."

"Serves were critical in both of these matches."

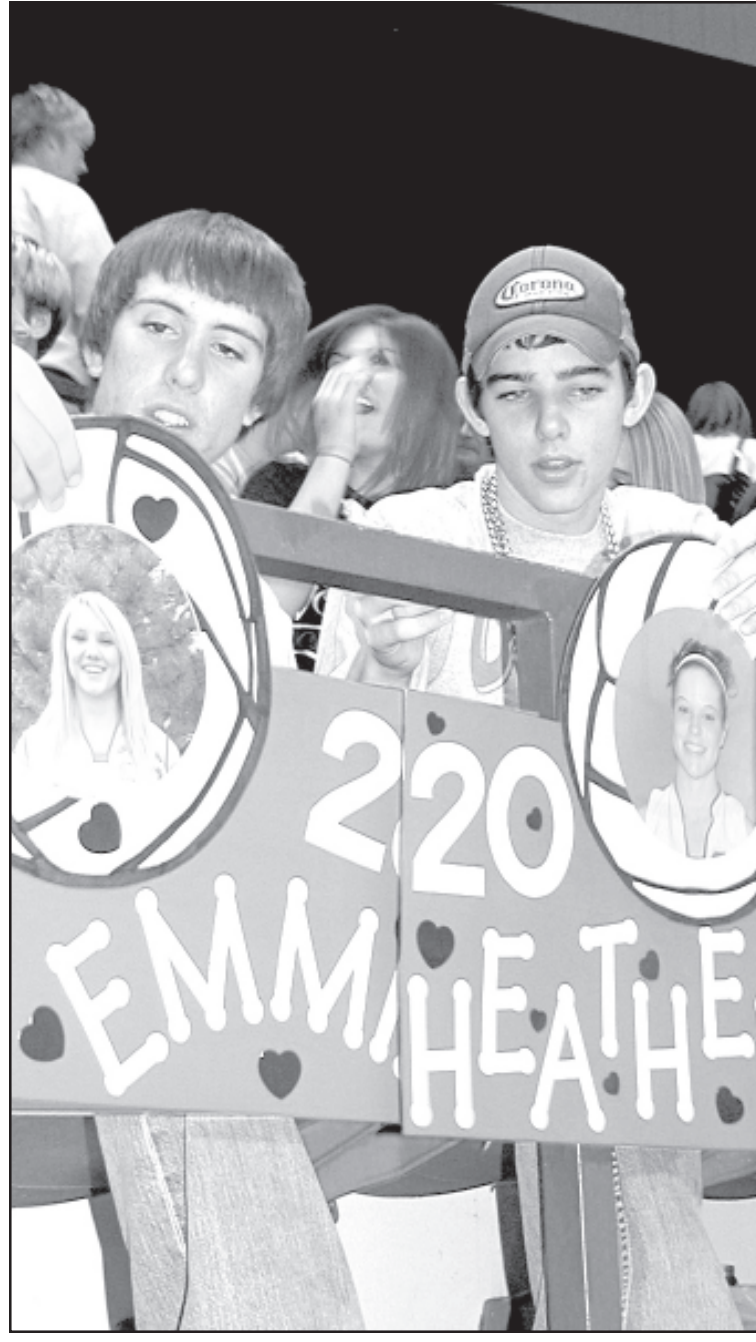
"Our last match against Frontenac was for our pride. We dominated the entire match. It was the final showing for the majority of our team and they went out in style. It was great to see them play like they could at least one match of the state tournament."

"I am extremely proud of every one of our team members. Our strength all season was our team unity and the leadership of a fine bunch of seniors that will be greatly missed. Thanks to all that supported the team throughout the season. The Oberlin crowd was the largest at the state tournament. You were terrific!"



TWO RED DEVIL FANS (above) donned masks as they supported the Lady Red Devils. Seniors Seth Ritter and Jobey Black (below) decorated the safety rails at the Bicentennial Center in Salina prior to the girls' first match.

— Herald photos by Sarah Fredrickson and Jim Merriott



Silver Lake wins tournament

The Silver Lake Eagles (28-10) were crowned the Class 3A volleyball champions Saturday after being dethroned last year in substate. It was the school's third title in the past four years.

The Eagles defeated Wellsville 25-21, 18-25, 25-23 to re-

gain the title.

In the semifinals, Wellsville won over Hillsboro 25-21, 25-18 and Silver Lake knocked off Osage City 25-9, 25-22.

Hillsboro defeated Osage City 25-27, 25-23, 25-23 in the consolation game to take third place.

• Against Osage City, Oberlin had 95 percent serves, 2.28 serve receive average, 57 digs, 31 assists, a 14.9 percent kill rate, 84 percent hitting and 10 point blocks.

• Against Wellsville, Oberlin had 94.7 percent serves, 2.02 serve receive average, 28 digs, 33 assists, a

29.3 percent kill rate, 89 percent hitting and 25 stuff blocks.

• Against Frontenac, Oberlin had 94.9 percent serves, 2.36 serve receive average, 21 digs, 20 assists, a 34.7 percent kill rate, 93.9 percent hitting and seven stuff blocks.



SENIOR TRICIA DORSHORST slammed a kill shot against Frontenac in the match win over the Raiders Friday evening at the Bicentennial Center in Salina at the Class 3A State Volleyball tournament.

Osage City first to beat Devils

By JIM MERRIOTT

The top-ranked Decatur Community High volleyball team returned to action Friday afternoon, as the Lady Red Devils took on eighth-seeded Osage City in the first game of pool play in the state tournament.

The eighth seed Osage City Indians (24-10) stunned the No. 1 Lady Red Devils and ended Oberlin's 31-match winning streak.

Decatur Community came out on fire in the first set and downed the Indians, 25-17.

In set two the Indians regrouped,

and finding the Lady Devils out of position at times on defense, they dropped the ball inbounds just out of Oberlin's reach.

Kill shots from spikes that normally landed inbounds during the regular season sailed out of bounds for Oberlin. The set could have gone either way, but tough breaks caused the Red Devils to fall in a heart-breaking 26-24 second set.

In the final set of the match, the Lady Devils dug themselves a hole they never could quite escape. Trailing 11-3 midway through the set,

Oberlin rallied to bring the score within one at 11-10 as Emmie Pauls sparked Oberlin with strong serving.

Miscommunication, then a run of poor serving and deflections plagued the Lady Devils, who desperately tried to regain their composure.

Osage City came back and reeled off 10 straight points running the score to 21-10.

Oberlin regrouped after a timeout but could not come up with the points and the Indians won, 23-17.

Wellsville takes close match

With hopes of rebounding after their loss to the Osage City Indians, the Red Devils hit the floor against the Wellsville Eagles in match two of the state volleyball tournament.

In a rematch of last season's battle against the Eagles, the Red Devils rebounded with a quick start in set one leading 5-1. Momentum quickly changed as Wellsville tied the set 8-8.

The Red Devils rallied coming from behind six times tying the score at 12-12, 13-13, 14-14, 17-17, 18-18 and 19-19.

The Red Devils fought back, trailing 24-23, before the Eagles took the

first set 25-23.

In set two, the Lady Devils turned the tables on the Eagles defeating them 25-19 behind a powerful offensive game. Emmie Pauls, Sarah Murray, Tricia Dorshorst and Lauren Fortin found the target with key shots that the Eagles were unable to return.

In the final set, Oberlin jumped out to a 6-1 lead.

The Lady Devils kept the pressure on the Eagles leading 18-9 before a momentum switch that allowed Wellsville to score eight unanswered points bringing them within one at 18-17.

Oberlin scored, then the Eagles hit two in a row tying the set at 19-19.

The Red Devils took the lead again, but Wellsville tied them again, 22-22.

Oberlin took the lead 23-22 when Dorshorst spiked a violent shot off an Indian forehead, shooting the ball out of bounds.

The Eagles fought back tying the score at 24-24 and again at 25-25.

A Wellsville kill shot just out of the reach of an Oberlin defender and a Red Devil kill shot that rocketed out of bounds ended the set to give Wellsville a 27-25 overtime win.

Oberlin saves pride with win

In the final match, the Decatur Community High volleyball team regained their Devil Pride, dumping the Frontenac Raiders in two sets.

Both teams, eliminated from the opportunity of a state title, played for a shot at fifth place.

The Lady Devils took command from the start, hitting amazing shots the Raiders never could handle.

Time after time, Frontenac found itself on its heels as Oberlin settled into a comfort zone slamming blazing kills across the net.

Emmie Pauls took charge with her skillful serving, scoring 13 straight points on her serve run and running the score to 16-4 in set one.

The Raiders made an attempt to score after another Red Devil run but were trailing 21-9 and couldn't find the formula to stop Oberlin's aggressive play.

As the match continued the Lady Red Devils let all of their frustration out on the poor Raiders.

The Oberlin girls regained the poise they had lost in the first two

matches and played like champions as they crushed Frontenac, 25-10.

In the second set Frontenac attempted to match their skills against the highly motivated Red Devils, but Oberlin was too much for the Raiders as they lost the match 25-12, ending their season losing all three matches in the tournament for a 30-6 record.

Oberlin ended the season 32-2 with a 97.8 winning percentage, the highest in Class 3A Kansas competition.

Blue Jays down Red Devil boys

By JIM MERRIOTT

The Decatur Community High football team fell, 36-6, to the Norton Blue Jays Thursday night in the last game of the season.

Norton got on the board first after the second play of the game when senior fullback Chris Davis ran 60 yards for a touchdown. Davis kicked the extra point and the Blue Jays led 7-0.

Norton scored again with 8:08 left in the second quarter when senior tailback Blake VanEaton broke off left tackle for a 92-yard touchdown. Davis kicked the extra point and the Blue Jays led 14-0.

When Oberlin fumbled just after receiving the ensuing kickoff, junior quarterback Logan Kats hit junior wide receiver Wes Georgeson on a 25-yard touchdown strike with 6:36 left in the first half, running the score to 21-0 after Davis' extra point kick.

Norton led 21-0 at halftime.

Senior Garrit Peters put the Red Devils on the scoreboard at 7:51 in the third when he bolted for a 75-yard touchdown. Oberlin went for the two-point conversion but failed as Lucas Juenemann was just short of pay dirt.

Norton led 21-6.

The Blue Jays countered at the 6:41 mark when junior halfback Todd Bolt went 54 yards for a Norton touchdown, extending the lead to 28-6 after Davis kicked.

Oberlin struggled trying to put together offensive drives during the second half but never was able to get the passing game to click.

With 3:37 left in the game Kats scored Norton's final touchdown on a one-yard plunge. Davis ran in the two-point conversion ending the scoring at 36-6.

"The big runs we gave up early in the game, were the difference," said Coach Trevor Williams. "I felt the guys on defense started to play hard, except for the big running plays. Our offense sputtered in the mud all night. Peters had a nice run tonight."

"This year's team was a lot of fun to coach. These seniors were a great group of kids who all have a bright future ahead. They will be missed."

"I want to thank everyone for their help and support during the season. The team really enjoys the support."

Oberlin offense: rushing — Peters, six carries, 88 yards, one touchdown; Jace Robinson, 13 carries, 48 yards; Juenemann, 12 carries, 52



RED DEVIL DEFENDERS Brock Euhus (55), Garrit Peters (47), Jacob Unger (57) and Chet Ely (24) finished their football

yards; Seth Ritter, one carry, 12 yards; Breck Simonsson, one carry, three yards;

Passing — Simonsson, one out of seven attempts for 25 yards and one interception; Robinson, one out of two for nine.

Receiving — Kyle Glodt, one re-

ception for 25 yards; Kurt Olson, one for nine.

Oberlin defense: Terry Urban, eight assisted tackles, two solos; Jacob Unger, five assists, five solos; Olson, three assists, four solos; Chet Ely, six assists, two solos; Glodt, two assists, three solos; Simonsson,

three assists, two solos; Ace Manning, one assist, three solos; Ritter, two assists, two solos; Andy Gilliam, three assists, one solo, and a fumble recovery; Royal Fisher, three assists; Juenemann, Regan Badsy and G. Peters, two assists each; Toby Peters, Sam Stapp and

Mitchell Hitt, one assist each; and Riley Cochran, one solo.

Punting — G. Peters, six punts for 186 yards.

Kick offs — G. Peters, two for 81 yards.

— Herald staff photo by Jim Merriott