



TRICIA DORSHORST (above) took fourth in the high jump at the Class 3A state track meet in Wichita last weekend. Sarah

Murray (below) threw for a sixth in the javelin at Cessna Field. — Herald photos by Dick Boyd and Nikki Murray

Oberlin speedster take sixth at state

Decatur Community High sophomore Jacob Fortin brought home a sixth-place medal from the Class 3A state track championship in Wichita over the weekend. Fortin, the only Oberlin boy to make it to the state meet, finished the 400-meter dash in 51.3 seconds. "It was amazing, there were some excellent athletes competing," he said. "It kind of psyched me out seeing myself on the stadium Jumbo-

tron screen at first. "I was really nervous, especially during the finals. I think I could have done better than I did. I plan on hitting the weight room this summer." Fortin has two more years of eligibility to improve his time and finishing place. "Jacob has a great future ahead of him," said Oberlin Coach Joe Dreher.

Co-ed softball tourney gets underway tonight

There will be a two-day co-ed Arkansas-rules slow-pitch softball tournament today and Thursday in Oberlin. Games begin at 6 p.m. Arkansas tournament rules are a little different, said Decatur County Parks and Recreation Director Joe Dreher. All batters start with a one-ball, two-strike count. All hits inside the

park are fair balls. Fielding gloves are optional. All pitches must be between a 6-12 foot arch. Base runners do not have to tag up on fly ball outs. Teams must alternate sexes in the batting lineup. Fielding teams may position themselves anywhere on the field. If a team is ahead by 15 runs after four innings or an hour, the game is over.



Girls throw, run, jump well

Three seniors win medals

Tricia Dorshorst led the Decatur Community High girls track team with a fourth-place finish in the high jump at the Class 3A state track championship over the weekend at Cessna Field in Wichita. Dorshorst, a senior, jumped 5 feet, 2 inches for her medal. Seniors Lauren Fortin and Sarah Murray also finished their high school careers at the state meet and brought home medals. Fortin placed seventh in the 100-meter dash in 13.18 seconds. She then finished eighth in the 200-meter dash in 26.9. Murray took sixth in the javelin toss with a throw of 119-7. She also competed in the discus but did not reach the finals.

Oberlin's 4x100-meter relay team of Fortin, Heather Glodt, Lacey Ream and Murray did not qualify for the finals but recorded a respectable 53.04. The 4x800-meter relay team of Ream, Brandi Diederich, Tamara Ketterl and Anna Larue finished in 10:36, just missing the finals. "We had a pretty good season," said Coach Joe Dreher. "There is no question the seniors will be missed, it's nice they all medaled at state. "We have a great nucleus coming back for next season with six returning letter winners, who went to state." "I would like to thank everyone who helped and supported us throughout the season."

CO-ED SOFTBALL

Tonight:
 6 p.m. - Game 1: Fortins vs. Countryside Vet
 7 p.m. - Game 2: Sophomores vs. Waddell & Reed
 8 p.m. - Game 3: Purple Pack vs. Decatur County Health
 9 p.m. - Game 4: Diederich's vs. Pauls
 10 p.m. - Game 5: Winner of Game 4 vs. Fredrickson Dental

Thursday:
 6 p.m. - Game 6: Winner of Game 3 vs. winner of Game 5
 7 p.m. - Game 7: Winner of Game 1 vs. winner of Game 2
 8 p.m. - Game 8: Winner of Game 6 vs. winner of Game 7
 9 p.m. - Game 9: Loser of Game 6 vs. loser of Game 7
 10 p.m. - Game 10: Winner of Game 9 vs. loser of Game 8
 11 p.m. - Game 11: Overall winner vs. winner of Game 10

For information, call Joe Dreher at 475-2093.

Seventh graders take fourth

The seventh-grade Northwest Kansas League Basketball Tournament story from February was inadvertently left out of the paper. The Decatur Community Junior High seventh-grade girls finished fourth at the Northwest Kansas League Basketball tournament, losing to Rawlins County 35-25 in the third-place consolation game in Oberlin on Feb. 15. Oberlin knocked off Quinter, 19-16, in the first round of the tourna-

ment. The top two scorers for Oberlin were Serena Stacy, 9 points, and Kiah Blau, 6. Oberlin then lost to Oakley, 30-12, in the semifinals. No individual scores were kept. In the final game of the tournament against Atwood, Megan Wentz was the leading scorer with 17. All games were played in Oberlin. Oberlin finished the season with a 5-4 record.

Insects act like fish vitamins

The next time you go fishing and wonder why the fish aren't biting, think about this: Warm-water game fish will eat bait fish, leeches, small birds, fish eggs, worms, and the like, but the bulk of their prey consist of insects, crustaceans and smaller fish. Have you ever wondered how fish survive the winter months? Yes, their metabolism slows down when the water temperature cools, but it is much harder for them to locate food. So what do they live on in winter? Microscopic insects that are either floating in the waters or burrowed in the bottom of the lake. It is much easier for a fish to suck in the food as they breathe through their gills than it is for them to search for a meal. Fish use insects to supplement their diets just as humans use vitamins. Insects in the diet of warm-water fish may be either aquatic (live in water) or terrestrial (living on land and accidentally fall in). Bait fishermen will argue that there is no better way to catch a fish than using live bait. I think there is nothing more exciting than catching a fish with bait you have made yourself. True, it is much harder to catch them, but I guarantee there is nothing more satisfying than pulling in a fish on a fly or lure you have made over the winter. Several fishing plugs can be made



The Jayhawker
 By Jim Merriott
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from items purchased at the hardware store. One of my greatest thrills was catching sea bass in the Gulf of Cortez on a top water lure that I made out of a broom handle and screen door hook eyes. That same lure, which I made when I was in the Navy years ago, also worked well on one of my northern pike fishing trips to Canada. Flies that are called streamers are great lures that imitate leeches and bait minnows. Very few anglers have ever experienced the thrill of hammering a walleye using a leech imitation streamer. If you really want a kick try fishing for walleye using a fly rod. About 20 years ago, Barry Reynolds of Aurora, Colo., started fly fishing for northern pike. He was just starting his professional fishing career when I first interviewed him on my weekly fishing talk show in Denver in 1989. Over the years he has written books, been featured on film videos,

appeared on cable television and been an instructor at seminars throughout the Rocky Mountains. If you are looking for a real challenge, experiment with making your own lures. Remember if you are making homemade lures, the best colors are black on top, silver or gold in the middle with a dab of red where the gills flare, and white bottoms. If you really get bored, clean out your tackle box and experiment taking parts off one lure and adding them to a different one. It is surprising the combinations you can come up with that appeal to the fish you are trying to catch. The real secret is "matching the hatch." Think about what the fish are eating, then stick with it. After you catch your first fish, use a fish stomach pump and suck out its lunch. This is the secret to finding what they to eat. Only take what you can use and let the rest loose for other day's fishing down the road. Good luck and good fishing.

Choose a rod to suit your fishing style

By JIM MERRIOTT
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Choosing the correct fly rod can be as deep as the water the fisherman fishes. Fly fishermen like brand names; if it is made by a certain company, then it must be right for me. Personal bias can cause an angler more trouble than the trip is worth if he or she picks the rod just because it has a name brand. Fly fishermen all know a basic style of casting no matter where they fish — from a beautiful Rocky Mountain stream to the reefs of the Florida Keys. However, each differs in skill level from novice to expert.

Generally there are four simple rules for choosing a rod.
1. There is no way around it, if you are going to fish in different places then you need to buy separate rods for each situation. There are no in between here; one size does not fit all, as in sports caps.
2. Secondly, purchase the rod you are going to use today, not for some time down the road. If you are going to fish warm-water species, purchase a durable rod for that. If you are going to cold-water fish for trout, then purchase a rod that fits the situation.
3. Try it before you buy. A rod will

feel completely different when it has a full reel of line. Comfort and balance are top priority, no matter who makes the rod, be it cheap or expensive.
4. Don't get caught up in fishing gear reviews on the Internet. An online purchase for the latest "best-ever built" rod may turn into a disaster once you hit your favorite stream or lake. The bottom line is, do your homework. Talking to knowledgeable fly fishing salesmen makes sense, buying a set on sale from the rack from a discount store is only trouble waiting to happen. Remember, try it before buying.

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