

Girls beat Leoti, Oakley

By **JIM MERRIOTT**
 jmerriott@nwkanssas.com
 The Oberlin Lady Red Devils won two of three matches at their home opener against Wichita County/Leoti, Oakley and Phillipsburg last Tuesday.

The Decatur Community High volleyball team took its' match record to 3-2 and its' game record to 7-5.

Oberlin lost the first game to Wichita County, 25-20, then defeated the Lady Indians, 25-18 and 25-9, to win the match.

In the second match the Phillipsburg Lady Panthers thumped Oberlin, 25-20 and 25-19, to win the match.

In the final match, the Lady Devils polished off Oakley, 26-24 and 25-21.

Seniors LeAnna Sheaffer and Lacey Ream led the fight against Wichita County.

Sheaffer was top hitter with 27 of 29 and 10 kills, and top blocker with three.

Ream was top passer going 25 for 27 with 14 perfect.

Freshman Jordan Dreher was top server, going 16 for 17 with eight aces, and top setter with 35 of 37 and 12 perfect.

"The girls came out sluggish and couldn't really get anything going," said Coach Sherri Ruf. "In the second game, the girls started to move better and had some good hits on the net. We still weren't playing as aggressive as we needed to until the third game. We were able to get across the net better on blocks."

In the Phillipsburg match, Ream was the top server with 7 of 7.

Sheaffer was top passer with 14 for 18 and 10 perfect. Dreher was top setter with 24 of 26 and five perfect.

Adrienne Pauls was top hitter going 9 for 12 with 8 kills, and top blocker with two points stopped.

"We got behind early in the game then started to come back later on," said Ruf. "We struggled at the net and needed to get our hitters set at the net. Phillipsburg is a good team with lots of quickness. We made mental mistakes that cost us. The girls need to focus throughout the whole match."

In the final match against the Lady Plainsmen, Ream was again top server going 11 for 12, and top passer with 17 for 20 and 11 perfect. Dreher was top setter going 26 for 26 with 10 perfect, and had 8 for 10 hits with 6 kills. Sheaffer was top hitter with 18 for 20 and 6 kills. Pauls was top blocker with a pair.

"We started this match setting back on our heels," Ruf said. "Then we won some long rallies and started moving better on defense. We won several plays at the net. The girls stayed aggressive and had some good digs on defense."

Oberlin was to play in St. Francis on Tuesday.

On Saturday, the younger girls will be in Quinter for a 9 a.m. junior varsity tournament against Hoxie, Quinter, Hill City, Norton, Oakley and WaKeeney.

The varsity will travel to Grainfield to compete in the Wheatland/Grinnell Tournament at 9 a.m. Others in the tournament will be Hoxie, Quinter, Wallace County, Weskan, St. Francis, WaKeeney, Deerfield and West Plains.



SENIOR LEANNA SHEAFFER spiked a pass from Cindy Murray during warm-ups prior to the Wichita County-Leoti volleyball match on Thursday. Oberlin won the match.
 —Herald staff photos by Jim Merriott

Oberlin boys take sixth place in Norton run

The Decatur Community High boys cross country team finished sixth at the Norton Invitational Thursday.

The Lady Red Devils did not have enough members to receive a team score.

Andrew Richards finished in third place, receiving Oberlin's only medal. He completed the 3.25-mile course in 18 minutes, 51 seconds.

"Andrew ran a beautiful race," said Coach Dick Ahlberg, "smooth and under control. Kayla Zodrow also ran a nice race on the 2.5-mile course, showing great determination and finishing 13th."

Ness City won the boys competition with 42 points followed by Norton, 44; Wheatland/Grinnell, 95; Ellis, 113; WaKeeney, 120; Oberlin, 130; and Phillipsburg, 148. Hill City, Hoxie and Northern Valley did not score.

The Norton girls finished first with 23 points followed by Hoxie, 33. Hill City, Phillipsburg, WaKeeney, Oberlin, Ness City, Wheatland/Grinnell, Ellis and Northern Valley did not score.

Varsity finishers were Richards, third; Nolan Wasson, 31st, 22:13; Chris Larson, 36th, 23:10; Tim Larson, 39th, 23:21; Gatlin Reichert, 41st, 23:37; Christian Rittman, 45th, 23:50; and Cole May, 46th, 23:52.

Junior varsity finishers were Gage Reichert, 11th, 24:10; Andy Dempewolf, 13th, 25:10; Chenniah Langness, 17th, 26:05; Ray Zodrow, 18th, 26:24; and Jay West, 21st, 26:53.

Girl finishers were Zodrow, 13th, 19:04, and Rory Wendelin, 29th, 26:24.

"For five of our varsity boys this was the first race experience," Ahlberg said. "We will learn from this experience and improve down the road."

"I was proud of our team's effort."

The Red Devils will run in the Quinter Invitational at 4:30 p.m. Thursday. Others attending will be Brewster, Colby, Hill City, Holcomb, Hoxie, Oakley, Palco, Russell, Stockton, Victoria and Wheatland/Grinnell.

Runners to try course in Quinter

By **JIM MERRIOTT**
 jmerriott@nwkanssas.com
 The Oberlin Red Devils cross country team will attend the Quinter Invitational at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

The Decatur Community High students will be running against those from Brewster, Colby, Hill City, Holcomb, Hoxie, Oakley, Palco, Russell, Stockton, Victoria and Wheatland/Grinnell.

Quinter will have senior Trevyn Wolf; juniors Kenton Wolf, Lance

Thielen and Tim Roesch; sophomores Austin Zerr and Brandon Smith; and freshman Scott Crist on its boys team and junior Chelsea Litfin on its girls team.

Sophomore Alyese Crist and freshman Helen Louw are team managers.

The Red Devils will be looking for strong performances from Andrew Richards and Nolan Wasson on the boys side and Kayla Zodrow and Rory Wendelin on the girls team.

Junior varsity wins two matches, loses one

The Oberlin junior varsity volleyball girls won the first two matches last Tuesday, beating Wichita-Leoti and Phillipsburg, then lost to Oakley in their first home appearance.

The Lady Red Devils defeated Leoti 25-19 and 25-19.

Phillipsburg went down 27-25 and 25-23.

However, the Oakley Lady Plainsmen defeated Oberlin 25-16 and 25-21.

After the contests, the junior varsity game record was 4-6 and the

match record, 2-3.

In "C" team action, Oberlin beat Oakley 25-19 in the first game, fell 25-18 in the second and won the match with a 15-6 victory in the third game.

The "C" team continued its suc-

cess against Phillipsburg, defeating them 27-25 and 25-17.

The "C" team game record is 5-3 with a match record of 2-1.

The junior varsity will play at the Quinter Invitational at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

Let's enjoy some great games

With kids off at college and football season getting underway, now is the time to jot down some of the marquee college matchups.

Here are some suggestions:
 Saturday, the Oklahoma Sooners take on the University of Miami Hurricanes in one of the best non-conference matchups in years.

Later that day the Louisiana State Tigers play the Virginia Tech Hokies.

Saturday, Sept. 15, the defending national champion Florida Gators entertain the University of Tennessee.

The Michigan Wolverines host Notre Dame, then University of Nebraska Cornhusker play the University of Southern California Trojans.

Thursday evening, Sept. 20, the Miami Hurricanes and the Texas A&M Aggies do combat before a prime-time national audience.

Saturday, Sept. 22, a key meeting occurs in the Deep South between the University of Alabama Crimson Tide and the Georgia Bulldogs.

Saturday, Sept. 29, two pivotal games in the Southeast Conference see the Florida State Seminoles host Alabama and the Auburn Tigers travel to Gainesville to play the Florida Gators.

Saturday, Oct. 6, the rivalry between the Texas Longhorns and the Oklahoma Sooners continues, with both teams bidding for the crown of the Big 12 Conference South. Powerhouse Louisiana State is host to the Florida Gators later that evening.

Thursday evening, Oct. 11, Florida State clashes with the Wake Forest Demon Deacons.

Saturday, Oct. 13, Penn State Nittany Lions fans put down their hard cash for tickets to see the Wisconsin Badgers.

Saturday, Oct. 20, Alabama is host to Tennessee; Florida State challenges the Miami Hurricanes; Southern California Trojans travel to South Bend for the annual tussle with the Fighting Irish; the Auburn Tigers exchange blows with Louisiana State; and the Boston College Eagles continue their feud for the Big East title with the Virginia Tech Hokies.

Saturday, Oct. 27, may be a preview of the Big 12 Conference championship when the Nebraska Cornhuskers try to bulldog the Texas Longhorns in Austin.

Also that day, a key matchup in the Southeast Conference takes



The Jayhawker

By *Jim Merriott*
 jtmerriott@nwkanssas.com

place when the Florida Gators skirmish with the Georgia Bulldogs.

Thursday, Nov. 1, Virginia Tech travels to Atlanta to play Georgia Tech.

Saturday, Nov. 3, the Ohio State University Buckeyes host the Badgers of Wisconsin, then Alabama hosts Louisiana State.

Thursday, Nov. 8, the West Virginia Mountaineers play host to the Louisville Cardinals.

Saturday, Nov. 10, Auburn crosses swords with Georgia; the Michigan Wolverines are on the road against Wisconsin; then in a big Pacific 10 Conference matchup, the Southern California Trojans travel to Berkeley to play the University of California.

Saturday, Nov. 17, the Miami Hurricanes play Virginia Tech, and

in the match-up of the day, the Ohio State Buckeyes travel to Ann Arbor to tackle the Michigan Wolverines.

Friday, Nov. 12, it is Texas in a grudge match against A&M.

Saturday, Nov. 24, state rivalries heat up when Florida State invades Gainesville to play the Gators; the Georgia Bulldogs travel to Atlanta to face Georgia Tech; and the Alabama Crimson Tide faces the Auburn Tigers in Huntsville.

Thursday, Nov. 29, the 2006 Texas Bowl Champion Scarlet Knights of Rutgers travel to Louisville to play the Cardinals.

The last key matchup of the regular season occurs Saturday, Dec. 1, when the University of California at Los Angeles Bruins cross town to finish the season against Southern California in the Coliseum.

Poem stays in memory

By **JIM MERRIOTT**
 jmerriott@nwkanssas.com

A few years ago, I was covering the Colorado Class 4A state football playoffs in Longmont.

Prior to the games at Everly-Montgomery Field, the all-district stadium, I entered the locker room in search of one of the coaches. As I walked through the brick tunnel stadium hall, I entered the athletic training room, where several coaches were attempting to do their best to tape ankles.

As I chatted with the head coach, I happened to see an old piece of plywood with a poem painted on it. The board was old and shabby and the coach, Gordon Cramer, who was leading the Longmont Trojans to the state championship after a 45-game winning streak, said that a retired athletic trainer by the name of Paul Tashiro had mounted it on the wall many years before he had started his job. As I read the poem, it sent chills down my spine, and I would like to share it with all athletes of all sports. It goes something like this:

TO AN ATHLETE
*There are little eyes upon you
 and they're watching night and day,
 there are little ears that quickly
 take in every word you say,
 there are little hands all eager to
 do anything you do,
 and a little kid who's dreaming
 of the day he'll be like you.*

*You're the little kid's idol,
 you're the wisest of the wise,
 in their little minds about you,
 no suspicions ever rise,
 they believe in you devoutly,
 hold that all you say and do,
 they will say and do and the same
 when they are grown like you.*

*There's a wide-eyed little kid
 who believes you're always right
 and their ears are always open,
 as they watch you day and night,
 you are setting the example
 every day in all you do,
 for the little kids who's waiting
 will grow up to be just like you.
 ...author unknown*

Junior high girls down St. Francis

By **JIM MERRIOTT**
 jmerriott@nwkanssas.com
 Samantha Anderson and Brooklyn O'Hare had perfect serving records to lead the Decatur Community Junior High eighth-grade volleyball team to a victory over St. Francis in Sainty.

The young Lady Red Devils won 25-7 in the first game, lost 25-20 in the second and came back to win 15-12 to take the match.

Oberlin's serving average was 87 percent as the girls only missed 11 serves out of 84.

"The girls did a great job of setting up the ball," said Coach Gina Witt. "I do feel that we need to improve our transition game. I was pleased with how both the eighth- and seventh-grade girls played."

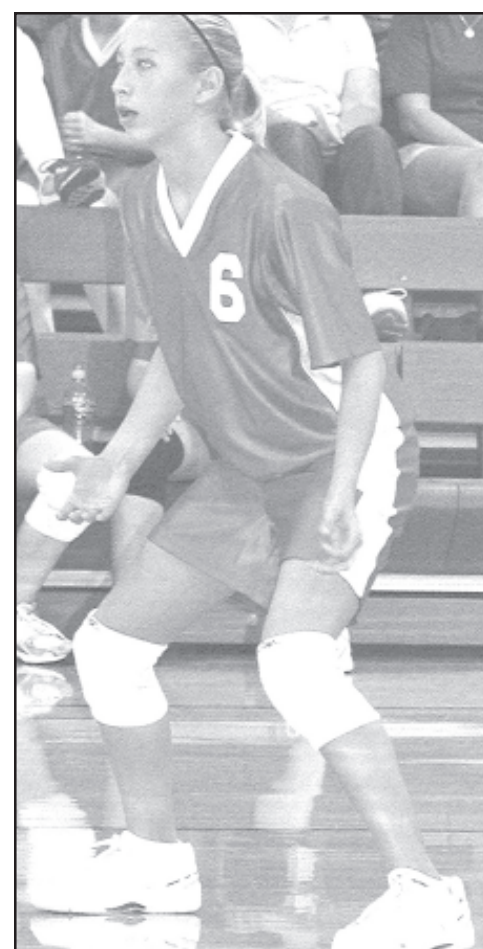
"They have worked very hard the past few weeks and it paid off."
 Darbi Rouse and Mikaela Dorshorst led the seventh-grade "A" team to 25-13 and 27-25 wins to take their match.

Cheyenne Soderlund headed the "B" team as Oberlin clobbered the young Lady Indians 25-17 and 25-19.

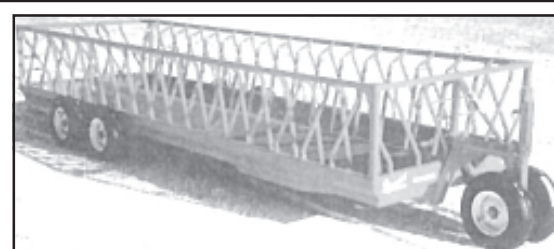

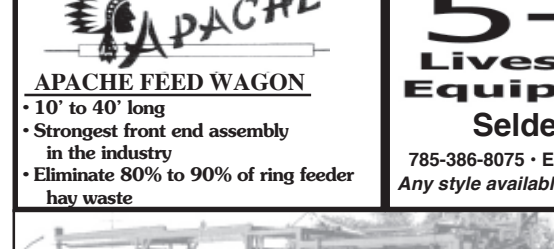
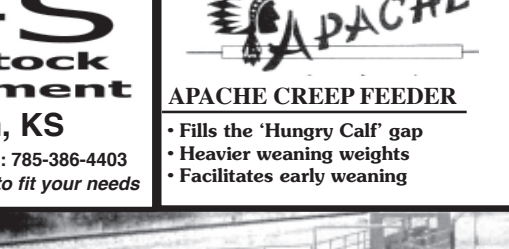
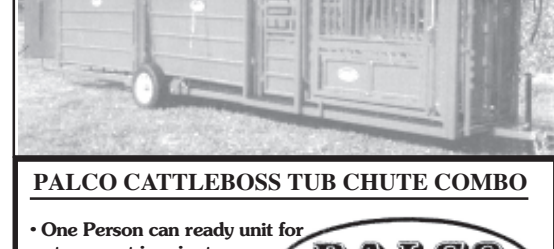
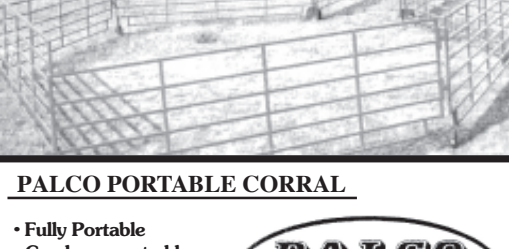
"I was very pleased with the way the girls played," said Witt. "They were nervous for their first game, but rose above that and played well. We served well, with an overall serving average of 76 percent."

"I was happy to see the girls set the ball up and hit it. Now we plan on working hard to continue improving."

The young Lady Red Devils are scheduled to play Oakley at 4:30 p.m. Thursday in Oberlin.



DARBI ROUSE prepared on defense as St. Francis served the ball on Thursday.

 <p>APACHE FEED WAGON • 10' to 40' long • Strongest front end assembly in the industry • Eliminate 80% to 90% of ring feeder hay waste</p>	 <p>5-S Livestock Equipment Selden, KS 785-386-8075 • Eve: 785-386-4403 Any style available to fit your needs</p>
 <p>APACHE CREEP FEEDER • Fills the 'Hungry Calf' gap • Heavier weaning weights • Facilitates early weaning</p>	 <p>PALCO CATTLEBOSS TUB CHUTE COMBO • One person can ready unit for transport in minutes • Parallel Squeeze Chute • Fully Portable</p>
 <p>PALCO PORTABLE CORRAL • Fully Portable • Can be operated by one person • Holds approximately 50 cow/calf pairs</p>	 <p>PALCO Livestock Equipment A BRCA INDUSTRIES, INC. CO.</p>