

Red Devils celebrate homecoming victory

By JIM MERRIOTT

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Warren Bainter's cannon left large clouds of smoke floating over Smick Field Friday night as the Decatur Community High football team made as much noise as the cannon blast breaking a two-year losing streak at home, downing the Quinter Bulldogs 34-14 before a homecoming crowd that hadn't seen a homecoming victory in three years.

Oberlin also broke a six-game losing streak that started against Phillipsburg last year during district playoffs.

For the fourth straight week the Red Devils defense continued to improve, limiting the Bulldogs to 238 total yards of offense.

For the first time this season, the Red Devils defensive line held like a stone wall, only allowing outside runs for substantial gains.

Linebackers Royal Fisher and Toby Peters jarred Bulldog runners with crisp tackles that could be heard in the grandstand.

Fisher and Everett Urban led the team with 15 tackles; Colt Diedrich, 10, one assist; Nathan Simonsson, nine tackles, one assist, and a fumble recovery; Wiley Farr, nine tackles, two assists; Sean Ybarra, nine tackles, one assist; and Peters eight tackles, six assists.

Offensively, Oberlin's running game racked up 317 yards on the ground and 31 yards in the air for a total of 348 yards on offense.

Quinter's inability to tackle ghostly quarterback Jacob Fortin resulted in Fortin gaining 176 yards on the ground in 13 carries. The majority of the game Quinter defenders could only grab air as he flew by. Jacob was two of five passing for 31 yards and a touchdown. He fumbled once, but recovered his own fumble.

Wide receiver Ace Manning caught one pass for 24 yards.

Smash mouth fullback Sam Stapp bullied his way through the middle behind an Oberlin line who held their blocks for the first time this season, driving Bulldog defensive linemen back on their heels as far as five yards. Stapp ran for 97 yards on 11 carries with one catch, a 7-yard touchdown.

When Stapp didn't carry the ball, he delivered bruising blocks for tailback Lucas Juenemann, who ran the lead play to perfection. Juenemann carried nine times for 38 yards and two touchdowns.

T. Peters had five carries for three yards and Fisher, one carry for seven yards.

The Red Devils didn't take long, scoring with 10 minutes and 55 seconds left in the first quarter on J. Fortin's 53-yard touchdown romp to the outside, making the score 6-0. Dakota Soderlund's extra point attempt was blocked due to a mishandled snap.

Quinter retaliated in the second quarter with 11:19 left, tying the game on a 5-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Edward Machen to Craig Zerr.

The Bulldogs took their only lead of the night when Machen hit tightend Ashley Deaton for the two-point conversion making the lead 8-6.

The Bulldogs would not hold on to the lead for long as the Red Devils turned the tables when Lucas



AT THE GAME FRIDAY Jacob Fortin tucked the ball and ran for the end zone.

— Herald staff photo by Jim Merriott

Juenemann scored on a 4-yard run with 7:14 until halftime. J. Fortin ran in the two-point conversion moving Oberlin's lead to 14-8.

The Red Devils would score again in the first half with only 1:41 to go when J. Fortin scored his second touchdown on a one-yard plunge making the score 20-6.

Logan Fortin scored a two-point conversion on a misdirection counter play running the score to 22-8 at the halftime break.

Oberlin scored again with 7:37 to go in the fourth quarter when J. Fortin hit Stapp a 7-yard touchdown pass raising the score to 28-8. The two-point conversion failed.

Quinter finished their scoring for the night with 3:43 left in the game when Machen ran it in from the one-yard line making the score 28-14. The two-point conversion failed.

The Red Devils delivered the knockout punch scoring their last touchdown with 38 seconds left in the game when Juenemann scored his second touchdown of the game on a nice 7-yard run straight up the middle, making the score 34-14.

Soderlund's extra point kick was blocked.

Oberlin committed 12 penalties for 59 yards and Quinter miscued eight times for 58 yards. Both team's records are now 1-3.

"It was a good game, homecoming, for our team," said Coach Trevor Williams. "It was a great crowd and the team was real excited to play the game. We played a much better game than we have played so far this season, a lot because of confidence and effort."

"Offensively, the line of Ybarra, Diedrich, David Urban, Jared Marcuson, Simonsson, and Derek Chambers did a much better job getting off the ball and sustaining their blocks."

"I also felt that all our backs ran hard and were able to run the ball consistently."

"Penalties were a problem, we'll have to clean that up."

"Defensively, we were a lot more physical throughout the game. We got a lot more guys to the ball and made plays we are capable of. I saw some good things on defense, especially effort."

"Friday, Atwood will be a good physical matchup," said Coach Williams. "I'm sure they will be ready and looking for a win. We will need a great week of practice and preparation for a tough physical game."

Friday the Red Devils travel to Atwood to tackle the Buffaloes. Rawlins County lost to Colby 38-0 Friday night. Atwood is 0-4. Game time is 7 p.m.



DAKOTA SODERLUND swung his leg back to kick the football through the uprights at the Homecoming game Friday night.

— Herald staff photo by Jim Merriott

Junior varsity defeats Oakley

The Decatur Community High junior varsity football team defeated the Oakley Plainsmen 8-0 Thursday at Smick Field in their home opener of the season.

Freshman quarterback Chad Williams connected on a pass to sophomore Wiley Farr for a 35-yard fourth-quarter touchdown. Sophomore Toby Peters ran in the 2-point conversion.

Peters led the Red Devils in rushing, carrying the ball 18 times for 95 yards; sophomore Daniel Jordan carried six times for 22 yards; Josh

Ritter four times for nine yards; and Williams three times for 11 yards.

Williams threw nine times, connecting on five passes for 83 yards and a touchdown.

Peters threw twice but did not have a completion.

On the receiving side, Farr led the Red Devils in reception yardage pulling in one pass for 35 yards and a touchdown; Peters caught two passes for 29 yards; Jordan, one pass for 18 yards; and Nolan Peters, one pass for one yard.

On the defensive side the leading

tacklers were Dakota Soderlund, Jordan, and T. Peters.

Coach Williams said that T. Peters, Farr, Donovan Bauman, Jaxen Alstrom, Cody Kane, Kaden Macfee, Jacob Larue, Jon Samson, Keithen Fortin, Dalton Dolan, Soderlund, Williams, Jordan, Ritter, and N. Peters did a good job.

"Defensively, they all contributed and did an outstanding job," said Coach Williams. "There was some real good hitting."

The Red Devils were to play Monday at Quinter.

Girls win one, lose three in Hoxie

The Decatur Community Junior High eighth grade volleyball team went 1-3 at the Hoxie round robin meet Thursday.

Oberlin lost the first match against Norton in straight sets 25-21 and 25-18. In the second match the eighth graders bounced back, clubbing Sainty in two straight sets 25-20 and 25-21.

In match three against Trego Community, the young Lady Red Devils lost two straight sets 25-16 and 25-16 to the Golden Eagles.

In the final match of the day, Oberlin won three sets. The Red Devils won the first set 25-23, but ran out of gas the last two sets losing 25-13 and 15-8.

The girls played pretty good against Norton," said Coach Gina Witt. "They served 33 of 39 for an 85 percent serving rate. They struggled on serve receiving, but when they controlled the ball they did a good job of setting it up."

"Our team had three 100-percent servers, Megan Wentz, Samantha Anderson and Serena Stacy."

"Against Sainty, the girls did a much better job of using the ball. They served well in the second game with 37 of 43 for 86 percent. The girls did a good job of attacking the ball, going 22 of 27 attempts for an

81-percent average. We had two 100-percent servers, Megan Huntley and Brooklyn O'Hare."

"When we played Trego, the girls had a rough time receiving the ball and setting it up. They couldn't put all the pieces together at the same time. They did a good job serving going 24 for 31 for a 78-percent average, but overall this wasn't our best game. Kiah Blau had two blocks and one block attempt. This match we had four 100-percent servers, Huntley, Wentz, O'Hare, and Brianna Klima."

"In our final match against Hoxie, the girls played hard and well their first set. They did a great job of passing, setting and hitting the ball, but during the second and third set, they had a difficult time receiving the serve. Blau had one block. Our girls were efficient in their serving, missing only four with an 89-percent average. We had three 100-percent servers, Huntley, Stacy, and Anderson."

The seventh-grade team won three matches and lost one at Hoxie.

In the first match, the young Red Devils defeated WaKeeney in straight sets 27-25 and 25-13.

In the second match, Norton won two sets and Oberlin won one set.

The Lady Bluejays defeated the

Lady Devils 25-21, then Oberlin bounced back in set two winning 25-16, but lost the final set 15-10.

Against St. Francis, Oberlin won the match in straight sets 25-19 and 25-18. In the final match of the evening, Oberlin won in straight sets 25-17 and 25-21 against the young Hoxie Lady Indians.

"I was very proud of the team's performance at the tournament," said Coach Lindsay Fortin. "I played a lot of different combinations of girls and was pleased when they all stepped up and played together."

"We set the ball up for hits most of the time which is always one of our goals. We served and passed the ball really well throughout the day. It was great that the girls all were able to have a lot of playing time. The tournament was great experience for the girls. The team had a lot of fun," said Fortin.

The young Lady Red Devils host the Rawlins County Lady Buffaloes Thursday starting at 4:30 in the small gymnasium.

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