



OBERLIN QUARTERBACK JACOB FORTIN took off around the right end on Friday night in a play against Phillipsburg. The Panthers downed the Red Devils 40-7.

— Herald staff photos by Jim Merriott



OBERLIN COACH TREVOR WILLIAMS put the final touches on the Red Devils' offense prior to the Phillipsburg game.

## Phillipsburg Panthers down Oberlin Red Devils

By JIM MERRIOTT  
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The Phillipsburg Panthers clawed their way to a 40-7 first-round district victory over the Decatur Community High Red Devil football squad Friday in Phillipsburg.

The Panthers opened up scoring with 9 minutes, 45 seconds to go in the first quarter on a 61-yard run by Brett McClain making the score 6-0. Zach Wood kicked the extra point making the score 7-0. The Panther drive went 73 yards, using up 2 minutes and 15 seconds on five plays.

Oberlin countered with an 87-yard drive in five plays. Jacob Fortin set up the score when he hit Ace Manning on a 67-yard pass play, moving the ball inside the 10-yard line. Then Fortin scored on a one-yard quarterback sneak making the score 7-6. Dakota Soderlund kicked the extra point, tying the game.

It would be Oberlin's last score of the evening.

Phillipsburg put 33 more points on the scoreboard before the evening ended.

McClain scored his second touchdown with 9:54 left in the second quarter on a 57-yard run. The drive took only three plays for 63 yards.

Wood added the extra point.

Phillipsburg scored again with 3:54 left in the half when Ryan Swatzell hit Chris Schneider on a 44-yard pass. Wood kicked the extra point making the score 21-7.

Phillipsburg scored again before the half on a 75-yard punt return by Trevor Smith. Wood added the extra point making it 28-7.

The Red Devils stiffened their defense in the third quarter, keeping the Panthers from scoring, but could not get their offense in gear.

The Panthers came back to life in the fourth quarter scoring twice more.

With 8:03 remaining Phillipsburg scored on an eight-yard run by Swatzell.

The extra point was blocked making the score 34-7.

Thomas Rachow finished the scoring for the Panthers with 41 seconds left in the game on a 1-yard run, making the score 40-7. The extra point was blocked.

"I felt that the guys played hard," said Oberlin Coach Trevor Williams. "The effort was good."

Lucas Juenemann carried the ball 14 times for 52 yards. He was followed by J. Fortin, 12 carries for 36 yards and a touchdown; Sam Stapp,

eight carries for 25 yards; Toby Peters, three carries for 15 yards; and Logan Fortin, twice for six yards.

Jacob was three for 14 through the air for 82 yards. Chad Williams was one of three for three yards and one interception.

Ace Manning led receivers with two catches for 72 yards. Sean Ybarra had a catch for 10 yards and. Peters caught one pass for three yards.

Dakota Soderlund was one for one kicking extra points.

Everett Urban led the Red Devils with nine tackles followed Soderlund with eight; Royal Fisher had seven; Peters, six; and Colt Diedrich, five.

"Friday night's game against Beloit will be another tough game," Williams said. "We are in a very solid district this season."

The game against the Beloit Trojans starts at 7 p.m. and will be Senior Night at Smick Field and Oberlin's second round of district play.

Phillipsburg will face Norton on Friday.

Norton defeated Beloit 32-14 this week.

# Decreasing enrollment makes scheduling tough for small football leagues

In the mishmash of the complicated information concerning the reclassification of the 2008 Decatur Community High School football schedule, I reported that other Oberlin sports would remain in the same classification as this year — Class 3A.

All Decatur Community High sports will be Class 2A, not just football.

Because of the decreasing enrollment in grades nine through 11 in towns across western Kansas, the Kansas State High School Activities Association reclassified schools for 11-man football.

The Activities Association counts the number of students in each school. The 32 schools with the largest enrollments are assigned to Class 6A. The next 32 are assigned as Class 5A. Class 4A and Class 3A are assigned 64 schools. The smaller schools are Class 2A-1A.

The confusion occurs in Class 2A-1A.

Only 52 teams remain and they automatically get what is left over.

This becomes a problem if high schools want to retain their 11-man football programs. With 12 vacancies in the bracket, football leagues did everything possible to maintain full football schedules for the next two years.

In the case of Oberlin, the Northwest Kansas and the Mid-Continent leagues were left with only seven teams. This caused a scheduling nightmare.



## The Jayhawker

By Jim Merriott

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Officials from both leagues decided because of driving distance to cooperatively schedule games for the next two years to fill the vacancies left by reclassification.

"Hill City, Stockton, and Quinter decided to drop their 11-man football programs," said Jim Keenan, Northwest Kansas League commissioner. "Schools such as Hoxie decided to stay with the 11-man program even though their enrollment declined at this time. In the next two years, enrollment is projected to increase at Hoxie, leveling out the program again. Hoxie does not want to lose its affiliation with the Northwest Kansas League."

"If you think it is a mess this time, wait until two years from now," he said.

"No one wants to drop to eight-man football programs unless they have no choice."

"Unfortunately, western Kansas has lost enrollment over the past few years due to economics."

"This cooperative program between the Northwest Kansas League and the Mid-Continent League involves two leagues work-

ing together during tough times.

"We wanted to be able to have full football schedules and help programs have better parity."

"The first six games are non-district. We have done our best with the remainder of the games which are in district play; since there are only 52 teams instead of 64, scheduling has become a problem making it confusing for all."

The bottom line is — Oberlin will be in Class 2A for all sports, not just football.

In fact, the Red Devils will host the Class 2A Substate volleyball tournament on Saturday.

Hopefully, this has ironed out the confusion from last week's front-page article which said that the Red Devils would remain in Class 3A in all other sports except football, which was incorrectly reported.

Thanks to Athletic Director Joe Dreher and Oakley Athletic Director Jim Keenan for helping clear up the confusing information.

To all involved, please accept my apology for getting confused and getting it wrong.

## Scores

Cheylin over Weskan, 50-48 (2OT)  
Colby over Hugoton, 41-7  
Golden Plains over Northern Valley, 48-20  
Hoxie over WaKeeney, 8-6  
Norton over Beloit, 32-14  
Oakley over Quinter, 45-0

Phillipsburg over Oberlin, 40-7  
St. Francis over Syracuse, 49-13  
Smith Center over Lincoln, 78-0  
Tribune over Wheatland-Grinnell, 40-6  
Ulysses over Goodland, 42-6  
Atwood over Leoti, 46-0

## Eagles down jr. high

The Decatur Community Junior High football squad ended its season Thursday with a 14-7 loss to Colby.

The young Eagles jumped out to a 14-0 halftime lead.

"I thought our young men did a good job of stopping Colby in the second half," said Coach Caleb Howland. "Unfortunately, our offense was unable to consistently move the ball until late in the game."

"We were able to score once in the fourth quarter and then came close to scoring as time expired."

"The young men did a good job of never quitting throughout the game and the season."

"Next year, I look forward to having a lot of returning eighth graders that were able to get a lot of playing time this year."

"Again, I would like to thank the assistant coaches, Mark Bricker and Tim Breth, for their dedication to these young men throughout the season," said Howland.

## Officials' training offered

The Western Kansas Liberty League and the Northwest Kansas League, which includes Oberlin, are experiencing a shortage of basketball officials.

Both leagues announced this week they will be sponsoring a free basketball official's clinic.

The clinic will be held Saturday, Nov. 1, at Brewster High School from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Registration forms can be picked up from high school athletic directors or by contacting Jim Keenan at Oakley High School by calling (785) 672-3241.

The clinic will have classroom instruction plus officiating of two quarters of a basketball game. The clinic is designed for new officials or those with little experience.



It's Clean  
Up Time!

## Hazardous Household Waste Cleanup

for Decatur County residents will occur on Saturday, Oct. 20 between 8 a.m. and 12 Noon.

This event will be held at the county shop at Oberlin. This program is designed to provide residents a place to dispose of their used oil, antifreeze, car batteries, lawn fertilizers and pesticides, latex and oil paints, unwanted chemicals, etc.

If you have any questions concerning this program, please call the Decatur County Engineer's Office at 785-475-8111.

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