



**DIRT TRACK RACING** returns to Oberlin Saturday as the gates open at noon and warmup laps start at 2 p.m. Races like this one from last year will be promoted by Joe Bellm, Broomfield, Colo., who brings his Blood, Sweat and Tears Racing to the Decatur County Speedway. — Herald staff photo by Jim Merriott.

## Racing starts this weekend

By **JIM MERRIOTT**  
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"Gentlemen, start your engines," will be the cry at noon Saturday at the Decatur County Speedway, formally Oberlin Speedway, when the Blood, Sweat and Tears open-wheeled racers take to the dirt with warm-up laps.

The gates open at 10 a.m. At 2 p.m. area race fans will have their first opportunity to see the season home opener.

This will be the second year that Broomfield dirt track promoter, Joe Bellm, brings his series to Oberlin. Racing Saturday will include sanctioned hobby stocks, stock cars, classic modifieds, dwarf cars (modified lites), mini trucks, and mini stocks.

The race is sponsored by Schwans with prize money of \$700 to win and \$100 to start.

"I think it is going to be a good season with lots of cars," said the tour's speedway racing director, Rene Frenier.

Saturday, the drivers started with a test and tune-up day, where drivers and their cars had time to register

and be inspected. "We are lucky to have Rene. He has over 30 years of experience in all areas of running a track properly," said Bellm. "Jeff Berard, who has 15 years experience as a crew chief, will assume the director of technicians. Judi Gooden, who has over 30 years of experience in the food industry, will be the director of concessions."

"I am extremely happy that the Decatur County Speedway has made some great improvements to the track including an all new sound system as well as other features the fans and drivers will all notice."

Other races in Oberlin promoted by the racing series will be:

- Saturday, June 7. The gates open at 2 p.m. and races start at 6 p.m. This will include all track classes and the United Rebel Sprint 305 Series cars.

- Monday, June 16. The gates open at 3 p.m. and races start at 6 p.m. All track classes and modifieds. This will be sponsored by World's Fastest Organization Race cars. Prizes will be \$700 to win and \$100 to start.

- Sunday, July 13. The gates will open at 2 p.m. with races starting at 6 p.m. This will include all track classes.

- Monday, Aug. 4. The gates open at 3 p.m. with racing at 7 p.m.

This will be the last race of the season, of the series. This will start the Kansas Summer Speedweek for the track classes championships and all series modifieds and track classes will be included.

The race is sponsored by Brooks/Shaw Racing School and winners will receive \$1,000 to win and \$100 to start.

"It is our goal to bring the fans the best value for their entertainment dollar at each show with our weekly events," Bellm said. "Everyone has been very helpful and excited about getting the race track back in business. The community has gotten involved as well."

The Blood, Sweat and Tears Promotions group hammered out the deal with the Decatur County Fair Board earlier this year to return racing to the Oberlin track.

## Youngsters wrestle at state meet

While Oberlin didn't have any Kid wrestlers place at the state tournament, the coach felt the team did well.

Seven Oberlin boys competed at the state tournament in Topeka on March 29 and 30.

"It was tough up there," said Coach Kevin Brown. "We did all right considering we competed against all sizes of schools in each classification."

Team results:

- Nicky McDonald, 8 and under,

55 pounds, won 1, lost 2

- Kelly Brown, 10 and under, 100 pounds, 1-2.

- Kade Brown, 12 and under, 105 pounds, 1-2.

- Channing Farr, 12 and under, 190 pounds, 1-2.

- Dalton Paul, 14 and under 150 pounds, 2-2.

- Ray Zodrow, 16 and under, 145 pounds, 0-2.

- Jaxen Alstrom, 16 and under, 185 pounds, 1-2.

"Jaxen and Kade both lost in over-

time of the quarterfinals match," Brown said. "Had they won that match, both would have placed. Dalton was only one match away on the consolation-side of placing."

"I thought all the kids did a great job. I'd like to thank all the parents for their support this year and look forward to another successful season next year."

"I thought we made good progress this season."

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THE OBERLIN HERALD —

## Sports

# Young Oberlin golfers set to open season in Goodland

By **JIM MERRIOTT**  
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As the Decatur Community High School golf teams opens up the season, Coach Dick Ahlberg will be looking at a young team of mostly underclassmen.

Ahlberg said he will be depending on the leadership of juniors Jordan Tally and Nathan Simonsson to help guide the Red Devils toward the regional meet.

"We have been working pretty hard," Tally said. "Coach Ahlberg works with us on our swing each practice. Our practices last about an hour and 45 minutes. Coach works with us one day on our short game, and then with the woods another, then we finish working our putting game."

Oberlin has a small squad with

nine golfers, competing in the Northwest Kansas League, which includes several larger schools such as Goodland and Colby, which have several seasoned varsity players.

Senior Kenzie Fisher is out for the squad for the first time, learning the ropes.

Juniors Tally and Simonsson have the most varsity experience, and are supported by last year's junior varsity players Nathan Baker, Chris Larson, and Ethan Merrill.

Of the three, Larson has the most varsity experience.

The rest of the squad are underclassmen.

Sophomore Jaxen Alstrom has played football and wrestled this year and freshmen Jacob Larue and Josh Ritter have both had varsity experience, but in other sports.

"We are young, but a lot of the other teams in the league lost good golfers to graduation," said Simonsson. "I think we are going to be OK, everybody is on the same page and working hard to improve. I am looking forward to this season."

Oberlin was to open the season Tuesday in Goodland against 13 other teams.

"We have a goal ... direction ... we all want to improve, because it would be nice to go to state," Tally said.

The Red Devils will play host at the Annual Oberlin Invitational this Saturday at 9:30 a.m. with 10 teams expected to play.

Next Tuesday, the Oberlin golfers will play at 9 a.m. in McCook.

## Trappers get ready to rendezvous

There will be a black powder competition and get-together in McCook on Saturday and Sunday, April 19-20.

The Pawnee Free Trappers Black Powder Firearms Club's Spring Shoot and Rendezvous is open to the public.

Primitive and tin tipi camping will be available at no cost.

The competition will go from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m.

through noon on Sunday.

The shoot will have five divisions: percussion rifle, pistol, flintlock, shotgun, and knife and tomahawk throws.

There will be a potluck family feed Saturday evening after competition for registered shooters and families. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be furnished. Participants should bring a covered dish and their own table service.

Cash, medals and a trophy will be awarded.

Wood and water will be furnished and campers are asked to haul out their trash.

The competition will be held five miles west of the U.S. 83 and 34 junction. Turn south and follow the signs to the firing range. For information, call Lana Lashley at (308) 345-5256 or e-mail [funfishn@yahoo.com](mailto:funfishn@yahoo.com).

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