

Oberlin boys place 20th at state event

The 11 state qualifiers from Decatur Community High School at the Kansas Class 2A state track meet in Wichita missed out on the bad weather here in Oberlin, but put on a respectable show at Cessna Field on Friday and Saturday.

The boys tied for 20th out of 41 schools with 10 points and the girls finished 23 out of 39 with nine points.

Junior Jacob Fortin finished third in the 400-meter dash with a time of 50.79 seconds and fourth in the 100-meter dash at 11.36.

Junior Logan Fortin, Jacob's cousin, tied for eighth in the pole vault with a height of 12 feet and finished ninth in the javelin throw with a toss of 148-09.

The Oberlin girls were lead by junior Brandi Diederich, who finished fifth in the pole vault with a height of 8-06.

Senior Heather Glodt finished eighth in the 200-meter dash in 28.11.

The girls 4x100-meter relay team of: Lacey Ream, Diederich, Glodt and Tiffany Anderson finished fifth in 52.65.

The 4x800-meter relay team of: Diederich, Tamara Ketterl, Anderson and Ream finished fifth in 10:26.26.

The Oberlin boys 4x400-meter team of Everett Urban, Toby Peters and the Fortins ran the course in 3:39 and the girls 4x400-meter team of Glodt, Ketterl, Anderson and Ream ran in 4:23 but, did not make the finals.

"We had some good and some bad luck," Coach Joe Dreher said. "Being at the state meet is an honor and anything can happen. It is always nice to bring home some state medals. The team had a pretty good year and hopefully that carries over for next year."

"Thanks to everyone for the team support and thanks to the assistant coaches Tim Thornton, Sherri Ruf

and Trevor Williams."

The 10 top boys teams at state in Class 2A were Howard-West Elk, first, 47; Sterling, second, 46; Bennington, third, 43.5; Smith Center, 35; Sublette, 28; Shawnee-Marannatha Academy, 26; Meade, 24; LaCrosse, 22; Rawlins County, 21; and Washington, 19.

The 10 top girls teams were Rawlins County, first, 63; Sublette, second, 51; Ellis, third, 42; Oakley, 34; Osborne, 33; Plainville, 31; Peabody-Burns, 31; Pittsburg-Colgan, 28; Syracuse, 26; and Pretty Prairie, 22 points.



RUNNING IN A PRELIMINARY 100-meter race at the state meet in Wichita over the weekend, Jacob Fortin (above center) took fourth in the finals. Taking the handoff from Brandi Diederich, Senior Heather Glodt (below) headed out on her leg of the 4x100-meter relay race. The Oberlin girls relay team finished fifth in the state in Class 2A.

— Herald staff photos by Dick Boyd



River is best for fishing

By JIM MERRIOTT
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Now that spring has sprung and the song birds are singing their morning melodies, it's time to start thinking about places to go for summer vacation.

Over the past 25 years, one of the most productive areas in Colorado to fish is Brown's Canyon on the Arkansas River.

It is one of the soundest fisheries in Colorado with year-around access from Salida east through Cañon City to Pueblo Reservoir.

Though access can be sometimes tricky, public areas can be found off U.S. 50.

Not only is it fun to fish, it is one of the most beautiful areas in the lower 48 states.

Over that 25 years, I've worked with many area guides and shop owners, and they've taught me where the fishing holes are most productive.

One of the greatest pleasures in fly fishing is catching wild brown trout, and the Arkansas is the place.

Some suggested fly pattern: In the spring, small Elk Hair or Arkansas River Caddis, Adams or Humpies, and in the summer, Arkansas River Hoppe, Elk Hair's Caddis, Blue Quill or Case Caddis in No. 14.

These patterns should do the trick, if you:

- Watch for the spring run off. Don't fish where it's muddy.
- Remember bigger fish are in deeper pools.
- Use an 8 1/2-foot, No. 5-6-7 line rod.
- Use No 6-7 weight forward floating fly line.
- When the wind picks up, use No. 6 or 7.
- You may need a few split shots or twister weights to sink the fly.

And if you are in the area, check out the rodeos in July, the Royal Gorge, and high mountain lakes.

One last thing — check the water flow before you go and make sure it is not above 1,500 cubic feet per minute, because fishing is far better when it is lower.

And, oh yes, the best fishing on the river is in August.

Sports reporter says his goodbyes

It was Thanksgiving Day, 2005, when my family pulled the U-Haul truck into Oberlin.

We were tired and hungry with pots and pans packed somewhere in the back of the truck.

As I pulled up to the Ampride station, I asked the attendant if there was anywhere in town to eat on the holiday.

The attendant said that a Lutheran church was hosting a Thanksgiving Day meal.

The family was surprised and so was I. This was the first time in my life, of over 50 years, that anyone had ever been so hospitable.

Though we looked more like a homeless family, or hunters, directly from the field, the members of that church treated us as if they had known my family for years.



The Jayhawker
By Jim Merriott
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This was another pleasant surprise and a bit of a shock since we had just moved from a big city.

That day I realized that Oberlin was more than just a small town. It has a special quality.

In the 2 1/2 years I've lived here, I can say that it has been a pleasure.

We all realize that there is no place perfect in this world, but Oberlin has a quality that I will miss.

That friendly wave from a neighbor, a helping hand and a friendly smile.

I will miss all of these as I take on the job of sports editor in Dumas, Texas, next month.

Over the years, I have covered teams with names such as Lions, Bobcats, Indians, Tigers, Trojans, Raptors, Buffaloes, and yes, Red Devils. This will be no different. Now, I'll cover the Dumas Demons; similar to the Red Devils.

Though I'll be gone, I'll look forward to seeing the Red Devils improve their individual and team efforts. And who knows, I may return when I retire.

There are so many people to thank that have worked with me helping me to improve my craft, I just don't know where to start.

To the kids and community, I am

grateful and thankful that you all were a part of my life.

From the hunting and fishing, to the elementary, junior high and high school games, they all were a blast.

Oberlin may have not won everything, because no team or school does, but what the schools and coaches have done for the kids is prepare them for life after high school.

What truly makes a winner, be it a team or community, is the ability to pull together as a team whether there are good times or bad times.

An old coach of mine once told me, "Any captain can steer a ship in calm water. It takes a true captain to steer the ship in a storm."

As I pull up stakes climbing another rung in my ladder, whether I climb higher or fall, I will never give up. I will never quit.

We all get knocked down somewhere in life, the winner is a person who gets back up on his feet and keeps trying.

Thanks to everyone in the community for being the neighbors and friends you are.

And, remember the Red Devils. The Jayhawker will.

Slip-sinker rigs work to catch wily walleye

By JIM MERRIOTT
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One thing I've learned about walleye is a good slip-sinker rig is one of the best ways to catch those wily fish.

If you aren't fishing the bottoms, most likely you're not in the walleye feeding range.

What makes the slip-sinker rig so great is that with natural bait, the bait and line allow a natural presentation to the fish. The bait is free to swim and move like it normally would.

Who ever jokingly said that fishing is "One jerk waiting on another at the other end of the line," understands the importance of presenting the bait correctly.

If you are not familiar with the rig, it's easy to put together.

Use 10-pound monofilament line on your reel, slide on a 3/8- to 1/2-ounce walking lead sinker, then attach a double-barrel swivel to the end of the line. This allows the sinker to slide up and down the line.

On the open end of the swivel, attach 12 to 18 inches of almost invisible leader line. Then, attach a floating minnow jig, put live bait on the jig and you're ready to go.

Slip-sinkers work best when they're allowed to drift with the wind.

Your rig should go slowly, so it will need to be slowed down in windy conditions, that is where a drift sock thrown off the bow of the boat works, it will help slow down the boat's drift.

Slip-sinker rigs can also be slowly trolled. Using an S pattern parallel to the shore seems the most effective.

These rigs can also be used fishing from the bank, but are more effective prior to the build up of moss and hydrilla in early summer.

This is also a great bait for catching catfish during the hot summer nights.

Slip-sinker rigs work best with minnows or shiners, night crawlers, leeches, crickets and small frogs.

Remember to keep your hooks sharp and learn how to tie good strong knots.

Now I'm not saying that you won't get hung up on rocky bottoms or dead tree limbs, but if you're not down where the fish are feeding, then you probably aren't catching them.



So, the next time you want to save some money on your trip, give the slip-sinker rig a try. The slip-sinker method is not only one of the best rigs to fish, it's one of the cheapest.

Good luck and tight lines.



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