



**STRETCHING THEIR LEGS**, (from left above) Caitlin Shields, Brittany Urban and Emily Larson were ready for the annual Oberlin Invitational Cross County Meet last Tuesday. Ganon Henningson (left) was running hard. He came in 20th in the boys race.

— Herald photos by Sarah Fredrickson

## Girls take third, boys fourth at invite

The Decatur Community High girls came in third and the boys fourth at the annual Oberlin Invitational Cross Country meet last Tuesday.

Norton won the girls meet with 52 points, followed by McCook with 71, Oberlin 80, Colby 102 and Wheatland 114.

Norton also won the boys division with 30 points, followed by Colby 41, McCook 62 and Oberlin 85.

The event also drew runners from Hoxie, Northern Valley, Brewster, Wallace County and Southwest and Cambridge from Nebraska.

Oberlin had four medal winners, Winter Polivka, who finished

second; Darbi Rouse, seventh; and Caitie Shields, 15th for the girls, and Matthew Helm, 13th for the boys.

“The girls continue to close the gap with some very strong Norton and McCook teams,” Coach Pat Dorshorst said. “Winter and Darbi ran tremendous races. Caitie and Ashley (Witt) continue to cut time off each race.”

Running for the Oberlin girls were:

- Polivka, 16:02.36, second.
- Rouse, 16:35.45, seventh.
- Shields, 17:29.45, 15th.
- Brittany Urban, 20:05.49, 30th.
- Witt, 21:20.25, 35th.

• Emily Larson, 24:54.42, 10th in junior varsity.

Larson got a medal in the junior varsity race, Coach Dorshorst said

“The boys continue to cut time off,” she said, “but need to drop about another minute off to be competitive with the team we are running against. They are doing a great job.”

Running for the boys were:

- M. Helm, 19:07.55, 13th.
- Caleb Koerperich, 20:22.59, 18th.
- Ganon Henningson 20:25.37, 20th.
- Parker Smith, 21:05:21, 28th.
- Timothy Helm, 23:43.17, 33rd.

• Justice Harris, 24:02.67, 34th.

• Daniel Lerew, 24:12.98, junior varsity.

• Jude Walinder, 28:57.9, junior varsity.

“Parker continues to close the gap between himself and the top three runners, Matthew, Caleb and Ganon,” the coach said. “Timothy Helm also improved his time. We are striving to improve each meet and for the most part we are accomplishing our goals.”

The runners were to attend the Northwest Kansas League meet in Oakley on Tuesday. The substate meet will be Saturday, Oct. 20, at Hill City.

## Northwest Kansas League increases by four schools

THE OBERLIN HERALD —

# Sports

By CYNTHIA HAYNES  
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The Northwest Kansas League has been more shaken than stirred over the last couple of years, as schools have dropped out, new schools have joined and many schools' football teams have changed from 11 men to only eight.

Two years ago, Colby and Goodland — the largest schools in the league — moved to the Great Western

Activities Conference. Officials there said they wanted to have more league activities for students. This conference included Holcomb, Hugoton, Scott City and Ulysses, all larger schools.

That left the Northwest Kansas League with just six schools — Oberlin-Decatur Community, Atwood-Rawlins County, Hoxie, Quinter, St. Francis and Oakley. Several of them didn't have teams

in some sports, such as cross country. And with most of the schools in the league losing enrollment, it became harder and more expensive to field competitive 11-man football teams.

Last year, the six schools in the Northwest Kansas League got together and asked for a little help. During the league basketball tournament, Ness City and Western Plains were invited to fill out the brackets.

This year, however, new players are on the field as Dighton, Leoti-Wichita County, Sharon Springs-Wallace County and Tribune-Greeley County have joined the league, taking it up to 10 teams. Six of those schools, Quinter, Hoxie, Atwood, Dighton, Sharon Springs and Tribune, have gone to eight-man football while Oberlin,

St. Francis, Oakley and Leoti still play 11-man.

There have been a few times this year that Oberlin and its opponent have decided to play eight-man football in junior high games because neither team had many players. Oberlin has 13 boys out for junior high football this year, making an 11-man game possible but difficult.

All the 11-man football schools in the league are in the same district, Oberlin Activities Director Joe Dreher said, which makes it easier to schedule play.

While Dreher is the athletic director at Decatur Community High, also serving as both the football and wrestling coach, he also has to schedule all the nonathletic events, such as scholar bowls and forensic events.

The larger league is really a blessing for that, he said.

“It opens up schedules and makes league tournaments more competitive,” Dreher said.

Oakley is the odd school, he noted, since the high school is part of the Northwest Kansas League but the junior high is part of the Great

Western Activities Conference along with Colby and Goodland.

The shakeups probably haven't ended, Dreher added. He said that he thinks there may be more schools joining the Northwest Kansas League, and he also sees possible changes coming for the Mid-Continent League, to which Norton, Smith Center, Phillipsburg, Osborne, Hill City, Ellis, Plainville, Stockton and WaKeeney belong. It has the kind of mix of larger and smaller schools the Northwest league used to have.

### Keeping up with the Pace

## Fort Hays State University welcomes Vice President of Institutional Advancement Jason Williby to our team

Have you ever heard the saying that with the good comes the bad? Well, that saying definitely holds true for Fort Hays State University these days. The good news is that Fort Hays continues to lead all Kansas Regent schools in enrollment increases (by percentage) and Kansans served. The bad news is that there's continued decline in state funding. With that said, private support has never been more important for the future of higher education and FHSU.

The Fort Hays State University Foundation is proud to announce that they are keeping in stride with the changing times and are adding an important member to their team. The Foundation would like to introduce Jason Williby, who will be stepping in as Vice President of Institutional Advancement. He will begin his venture with FHSU's Foundation working in the Kansas City area where he will cover areas

throughout Eastern Kansas and beyond. Jason comes to the Foundation from 12 years with the American Red Cross where he most recently served as Executive Director/CEO of the Eastern Kansas Chapter. Jason is the son of Juantia Williby and the late Robert Glen Williby in Oberlin, Kansas. His wife Jessica is a native of Hays and is the daughter of Duane and Phyllis Bieker.

Six years ago, Fort Hays State University launched the most ambitious fund raising campaign in its history. Thanks to your generous support, the Cornerstone Campaign raised \$68,743,800, surpassing the \$60 million goal. The Cornerstone Campaign ran from fall of 2006 through spring of 2012 and over that course of time 66,000 gifts were received, including more

than 340 major gifts. Now that the Cornerstone Campaign has come to an end, the FHSU Foundation will focus on their efforts on student scholarships and endowed funds, which are playing a larger role than ever before. To learn more about FHSU's Foundation please visit <http://foundation.fhsu.edu>.



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