

# Red Devils down Wichita County, win trip to playoffs



**OBERLIN COACH JOE DREHER** talked to his players, including Kaine Fredrickson (No. 47) and Adam Zillinger (No. 58), during the game against Wichita County on Friday night.

— Herald photos by Sarah Fredrickson

## Oberlin set to go to Meade for regionals

The Decatur Community High School football team is going to the regional round of the state playoffs, facing the Meade Buffaloes at 6 p.m. Friday in Meade.

The Oberlin Booster Club is planning a big sendoff for the boys at 11:45 a.m. Friday. The team will leave from the high school and parade through downtown before heading south.

Oberlin activities director and football coach Joe Dreher said the top team in one district will take on the second team in another district. Meade (8-1) is the top team in District 8 and Oberlin (4-5) is the second team in District 7.

The Red Devils got into the

playoffs on a tie. Oberlin, St. Francis and Ellis all had a 2-2 record in district play.

The second-place substate team was then decided by a point system. Oberlin had to beat Wichita County by at least 13 points. The Red Devils downed the Indians by 43 points on Friday to win the second-place berth to the playoffs.

For those going to Meade for the game, take U.S. 83 south to U.S. 160 and go east. It should take about 3 1/2 hours to get to the game. Meade is almost straight south of Oberlin near the Oklahoma border.

Despite the chilly weather Thursday night, the Wichita County Indians probably thought they were in someplace warmer, as the Red Devils racked up touchdowns after touchdowns to beat the team from Leoti 49-6.

Since Oberlin led 49-0 at the half, the referees and coaches agreed to have a nonstop clock in the second half, and the game went quickly with the Indians making the only score.

Oberlin got the football on the opening kick, and it took the Red Devils just 1 minute, 8 seconds to march down the field for a touchdown. On the third play, junior Chris Anderson ran the ball 44 yards into the end zone for the Red Devils' first score.

Junior quarterback Dayton Dreher made a successful point-after kick and Oberlin led 7-0.

On Leoti's first play after the kick-off, Kennedy Fortin intercepted the ball on the Leoti 15-yard line. Two plays later, Anderson was back in the end zone. The kick was good and less than two minutes into the first quarter, the Decatur Community High boys led 14-0.

Leoti went three and out and Oberlin took over again. The Red Devils fooled the Indians into three off sides fouls, providing the home team with extra yards, and with 4:25 left in the first quarter, Anderson went in for Oberlin's third touchdown.

This time, the Red Devils tried something they haven't been able to do all year, a two-point conversion. A pass to sophomore Troy Juenemann in the end zone put two more points on the board and Oberlin led 22-0.

Leoti again went three and out and Oberlin took over again.

The Red Devils got their first penalty on a block in the back but kept going as Juenemann went into the end zone with 54 seconds left in the quarter for his first and the Red Devils' fourth touchdown.

Oberlin got its second flag when the Red Devils tried another two-point conversion. The ball was moved back five yards and Dreher kicked it between the uprights to make the score 29-0.

Leoti again went three and out and punted with one second left in the quarter.

Again it took Oberlin less than two minutes to score as Dreher took the ball in this time. Anderson ran the two-point conversion and the home team led 37-0.

Coach Joe Dreher started putting in his younger players.

Leoti couldn't move the ball and Oberlin took over on the Wichita County side of the field. After a holding call, Oberlin had a first and

15-yards to go. Freshman Bryson Wesley grabbed the ball and took it 35 yards for the Red Devils' sixth score.

The kick after was no good, but Oberlin was up 43-0.

Leoti couldn't get any traction and Oberlin again took over.

The next series of plays were marred by numerous fouls as the frustrated Wichita County players received a 15-yard face mask penalty, one for roughing the passer and an off-sides call and Oberlin got a holding penalty. Oberlin fumbled the football, but recovered.

With just 18 seconds left in the first half, junior Kennedy Fortin got Oberlin's seventh and last touchdown. The two-point conversion didn't work this time and Oberlin led 49-0 at the half.

The officials and coaches conferred during the break and decided that it would be best for everyone if the clock only stopped for time outs called by coaches or officials. The continuous clock shortened the second half so that each team only had the football twice.

In the third quarter, Leoti got the ball but couldn't score.

Fortin again went across the goal line for Oberlin but a foul called the play back and with 50 seconds left in the quarter, Oberlin wasn't able to score.

Freshman Noah Nelson took over as quarterback and injured senior Zach May made Oberlin's only punt of the evening.

As time ran fast in the fourth quarter, the Indians finally scored with 3:30 left in the game. A two-point conversion try was unsuccessful and the score was 49-6.

An onside kick attempt was also

unsuccessful for the Indians, as Oberlin sophomore Keldian Breth came down with the ball as the clock ran out.

Quarterback Dreher had one successful pass for 12 yards with junior Konner Fortin as his receiver.

Top rushers were Anderson, 99 yards on 10 carries, Juenemann 78 on eight, Kennedy Fortin 59 on 10, Wesley 47 on six, Dreher 21 on four, Kaine Fredrickson two on one and Gabe Anderson one on one.

Dreher sacked Wichita County's quarterback twice and freshman Keagan Blau did it once.

Top tacklers were Dreher and Rex Diederich, five each; Grant Gilliam, four; C. Anderson, three and one assist; Konner Fortin and G. Anderson, three each; Matt Glading, two and two; Fredrickson and Ryan May, two and one each; Myles Shaeffer, two tackles; Adam Zillinger, one and one; Nelson, Juenemann, Kyle Breth, Wesley, Kade Grafel, Tyler Bruggeman and Channing Fortin, one tackle each; and Kennedy Fortin, one assist.

The big win over Wichita County and Oakley's 18-12 victory over Ellis the next night put Oberlin into post-season play.

So the Red Devils (4-5) will play the Meade Buffaloes (8-1) at 6 p.m. Friday in Meade.

The Buffaloes lost to Holcomb 28-27 on Aug. 31. Since then they have beaten Lakin, Southwestern Heights, Cimarron, Stanton County, Syracuse, Elkhart and Sublette.

Oberlin has beaten St. Francis, Cambridge, Neb., Perkins County, Neb., and Wichita County, lost close games to Ellis and Smith Center and also lost to Phillipsburg, Norton and Oakley.



**THE OBERLIN CANNON CREW** (above), John Bremer (left) and Warren Bainter, got quite a workout on Friday night as the Red Devils scored seven touchdowns and they fired the cannon each time. One of those touchdowns was made by Troy Juenemann, who had the ball (at right) and plenty of blocking from his teammates.



**Dr. Dan McGowan**  
will be seeing patients at the Decatur County Hospital  
**Tuesday afternoon, November 6**  
At which time he will be resuming his previous schedule. Please call the Decatur County Hospital at 785-475-2208 to schedule an appointment.  
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