

## Lumberjacks fighting adversity with fortitude

By Brandon Waite

The Lumberjacks (0-7) still haven't captured that elusive win they so desperately want and need. But even though the Jacks are winless, they refuse to back away from their competition.

It was a cold and wet Friday night in Waynesville (5-2) when Oakwood took on the Spartans. The muddy field looked more like a pig pen than a football battle ground. Such conditions meant that both teams could only do one thing: run the ball. That being said, once one team falls behind in such a 'rush-a-thon', if you will, it is extremely difficult to mount a

convincing comeback.

Unfortunately for the Jacks, they were on the short end of the stick and fell behind early. The Spartans took advantage of good field position on two separate drives in the second quarter and took a 10-0 lead. But Oakwood was not going anywhere just yet.

Continuing his impressive rushing campaign from the week prior, quarterback Matt Carpenter made sure that the Spartans did not get too far ahead of themselves. He rumbled and juiced his way into the end zone on a 47 yard score, cutting the Spartans lead down to 10-6.

For a moment it looked as if the Jacks had gained some much needed ground on their opponents. But the Spartans managed to score once more, making it 17-6 at intermission.

As Mother Nature made her presence known with a seemingly relentless downpour in the second half, the Lumberjacks were both literally and figuratively 'stuck in the mud.' The offense was not able to run with much effectiveness due to such a slick field and a great effort by the Spartan defense. It was not until the last few minutes of the game, when they decided to air it out,

that the Jacks would score again. Carpenter was able to gradually move the team down field and with only seconds remaining, the Lumberjacks capitalized on the drive. Running back Collin Morris caught a short 13 yard pass to score the game's final touchdown. The game ended with the score of 12-24.

Even though Oakwood has not found themselves on the winning side of the scoreboard yet, they should still hold their heads high. A losing streak can quickly take its toll on any team and I know this from experience. During my senior year of high school, we

were off to a 4-0 start and did not have a care in the world, but after a few tough breaks, my team started on its own losing streak. We let it get to us rapidly were never the same team. We stopped caring, packed it in, and did not win again; we ended our season with a 4-6 record and it still haunts me. The message that I am trying to convey is this: the Lumberjacks should be proud of themselves and their teammates because they consistently play hard and leave everything on the field. What one does in times of adversity reveals their true colors, and the Jacks have shined.

## Oakwood field hockey sweeps Fairmont

By Dave Oda

Thursday night began as a classic Firebirds vs. Jills contest at Roush Stadium. The weather was a typically horrid cold and wet night. Before the Varsity game the senior girls from both squads were introduced. After the formalities, it was time for the second edition of the cross town rivalry.

Earlier in the season the Jills squeaked by the Firebirds in overtime at Irving Field and expectations were for a tough match. The stakes were also a bit higher since this was the official League game for post season rankings. When the whistle blew, Oakwood seemed to forget that the game had started. Fairmont quickly pushed the ball up the field, and tipped a rebounded shot off the left post for a score within the first 25 seconds. Shaking off the quick setback, the Jills pressured their way into Fairmont territory and tied the score on their first shot on goal by Sara French. Both squads settled down and the defenses continuously swept aside waves

of attacks. Oakwood's defense was playing well as exhibited on an early Firebird Penalty Corner. Goalie Amy Beck came out of goal to defend the attack but the ball slipped behind her with two Fairmont players and a seemingly easy goal. Defender Nicole Maher was perfectly positioned for a defensive save and swept the ball from the goal line. This maintained the 1-1 nail biting tie at the half.

In the second half the tide seemed to be in Oakwood's favor as they statistically dominated during the period. Fairmont would continue their fast breaks and eight minutes into the half, Beck found herself defending against a 2-on-1 Fairmont break-away. Once again she came out of goal with a beautiful attacking kick save to thwart the Firebird challenge. This energized the Jills and a few minutes later it was Oakwood's turn. Brittany Hemmelgarn redirected a shot from Margaret Thompson into the left corner of the Fairmont goal to push the score to 2-1. Back and forth full field play

ate up the clock during which midfielder (HRH) Lucy Shafer seemed to be everywhere. She did an exceptional job of rotating to keep the ball on her forwards sticks as well as assist the defense. This run ended with a string of penalty corners against Fairmont with six minutes remaining. On the fifth PC of the half, Peanut Johnson slapped in a final insurance goal to ensure the Oakwood victory with a score of 3-1. This was the first home and away sweep by the Jills over Fairmont in memory. Next up for Oakwood is the upcoming game at Mount Notre Dame and the District Tournament.

Before the varsity took the field the undefeated JV Jills took the field. This was during the worst of the weather. The first half had Oakwood mainly in the Fairmont end but they could not convert any of their scoring attempts. During the second half the game was a fairly even full field contest. Unfortunately neither team could score and the contest ended in an unsatisfying 0-0 tie.

## Volleyball team 2nd in SWBL

The OHS varsity volleyball team posted two critical SWBL wins this past week to put them securely in second place in the league. On Tuesday they hosted Valley View and won in a thrilling back and forth five set match. On Thursday they hosted Eaton and won in three hard fought matches. The team is 9 -

2 in SWBL and 15 - 5 overall.

This week the team plays the final two matches of the regular season. On Tuesday they travel to league leading Brookville and on Wednesday they host Tecumseh. Wednesday is Senior Night and will recognize senior players Channon Connor and Breanna Hutten with a spe-

cial presentation and reception after the game.

District tournament play begins on Saturday, Oct. 17 at Springboro High School. Oakwood is seeded third and has a bye. Their first game will be on Thursday, Oct. 22 against the winner of the Valley View vs. Eaton game.

## Ruth Kohstall wins National Senior Games

Ruth Kohstall of Oakwood was the winner of the sprint triathlon in her age group this summer at the National Senior Games, also known as the Senior Olympics. The events took place at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California Aug. 1-14.

The triathlon was held on Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> at the port of Redwood City, the epicenter for this race. It consisted of a 400 meter open water swim in the bay, 20 kilometers on the bike (12.4 miles), and a 5 kilometer run

(3.1 miles). Her goal was to be the first overall female, which she accomplished, in addition to winning her age group for women 55-59. Ruth's winning time of one hour and ten minutes was her PR, or personal record.

The senior games take place every two years, with state games occurring annually. The qualifying races took place last summer in 2008, with the triathlon held at Buck Creek

See **Kohstall** on page 12

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