

**HDN 2014  
ALL-AREA TEAMS  
11-MAN**

First team			Second team			Honorable mention		
Player	year	school	Player	year	school	Player	year	school
Ion Chestnut	Sr.	Phillipsburg	Shane Berens	Soph.	Hays High	Luke Avila	Jr.	Goodland
Ethan Defending	Sr.	Hays High	Dylan Haas	Jr.	Ellis	Hayden Friend	Soph.	Plainville
Cameron Fouts	Sr.	TMP-Marian	Brandon Hardwick	Sr.	Hays High	Wyatt Hartling	Sr.	Norton
Jack Garcia	Sr.	La Crosse	Cole Kershner	Sr.	La Crosse	Sean Lee	Sr.	Ellis
Dylan Gassman	Sr.	Oakley	Gavin Lively	Jr.	Norton	Nick Lehmkuhl	Sr.	Smith Center
Andrew Jay	Sr.	La Crosse	Dean Lyle	Sr.	Norton	Donovan Lumpkin	Jr.	Phillipsburg
Hayden Kreuzer	Sr.	Hays High	Connor Rule	Jr.	Hays High	Kaden Meitler	Sr.	Smith Center
Ryan Kuhn	Sr.	Oakley	Sam Sage	Sr.	Phillipsburg	Ben Matchell	Jr.	Colby
Kendall Miller	Sr.	Norton	Kaleb Sherman	Soph.	La Crosse	Dan O'Connor	Sr.	TMP-Marian
Jared Tallent	Sr.	Norton	Easton Smith	Soph.	Ellis	Breven Sondergaard	Sr.	Norton
Kolt Trachsel	Sr.	Goodland	Colter Stall	Jr.	Oakley	Josey Woods	Soph.	La Crosse

**HDN 2014  
ALL-AREA TEAMS  
EIGHT-MAN**

First team			Second team			Honorable mention		
Player	year	school	Player	year	school	Player	year	school
Noah Dreiling	Sr.	Victoria	Brandon Brungardt	Jr.	Victoria	Rex Diederich	Sr.	Oberlin
Bryan Dome	Sr.	Victoria	Phillip Bryant	Sr.	Northern Valley	Tyler Ewers	Sr.	Hoxie
Cullen Grabast	Soph.	Osborne	Brad Lightfoot	Soph.	Otis-Bison	Pedro Flores	Sr.	Ness City
Connor Kalf	Sr.	Hoxie	Macrae Migchelbrink	Sr.	Rawlins County	Shane Hendrickson	Sr.	Osborne
Nate Klinge	Sr.	Wallace County	Luke Schemm	Jr.	Wallace County	Logan Miller	Sr.	Thunder Ridge
Eric McAlonan	Jr.	Victoria	Dakota Stephen	Sr.	Ness City	Rhett Mizer	Sr.	Rawlins County
Trent Rietzke	Sr.	Thunder Ridge	Josh VanLaevys	Soph.	Logan-Palco	Matt Stutsman	Sr.	Northern Valley
Bryson Wesley	Jr.	Oberlin	Jayson Werth	Sr.	Quinter	Kade Urban	Soph.	Otis-Bison

**31ST ANNUAL HDN ALL-AREA SUPER 11 CAPSULES**

**ALEX DELTON  
6-1, 195, Sr., QB  
HAYS HIGH INDIANS**

While there were highs and lows for Hays High this season, one consistent was senior quarterback Alex Delton. The Kansas State University football commit entered the year as one of the most talked about players in the state and more than lived up to the hype. He led the Indians to a 7-2 record, including a perfect 4-0 mark in WAC play and was named the conference's Player of the Year.

"We didn't end how we wanted to. It was kind of a disappointing season. But we had so much fun together," Delton said. "I think our record does not show how good we really were as a team, but it is what it is. But it's cool to have people around the state think highly enough of me to give me certain awards. That's really cool."

Delton's main threat was his speed, making him near impossible to catch if he got in the open field. He finished with a WAC-best 1,519 yards rushing with 17 rushing TDs, his ability to break the big run proving to be a game changer week after week. He was also an underappreciated passer, finishing second in the WAC with 1,402 yards, completing 55.2 percent of his throws, with 13 more scores through the air to go with seven interceptions.

**BRADY DINKEL  
5-8, Jr., QB/DB/S  
VICTORIA KNIGHTS**

It was fairly easy to see that when Dinkel was playing well, the offense was playing well for the Knights.

That's a statement that was echoed by ninth-year Victoria coach Doug Oberle several times through the season.

"Our offense is going to go as Brady goes," Oberle said after Dinkel led the offense in a second-half surge against Wallace County in the Eight-Man Division II sub-state title game. "In the first half, it didn't go very well. In the second half, it got much better. It's a credit to him. He remained cool, and he was able to finish for us."

Dinkel's play at quarterback in his first full season at the position is a big reason why the Knights enjoyed so much success.

Dinkel finished with 1,052 passing yards with 20 TDs to five interceptions, and rushed for 970 yards with 19 rushing scores.

Dinkel, who started the latter half of his sophomore season after an injury to starter Sam Otley, completed about 53 percent of his passes. In the title game against Attica-Argonia, the junior rushed for just 32 yards, but scored three first-half TDs, and passed for 61 yards and another score.

On defense, Dinkel was a force as well. He was fifth on the team in tackles.

**JORDAN DOLE  
6-0, 205, Jr., DE/QB/RB  
NORTON COMMUNITY BLUEJAYS**

As a sophomore, Dole played in nine games at quarterback, throwing for 360 yards and four touchdowns with five interceptions. He also rushed for 467 yards and nine TDs.

This season, Dole looked to play a more natural position for the Bluejays, but injuries changed that. Dole started the season at quarterback, but when injuries came to freshman QB Jace Fluder, and junior Quinton Porter, Dole once again was back under center, and

helped the Bluejays to a 10-1 mark.

"He's a very athletic kid and a tremendous runner," Bluejay coach Lucas Melvin said. "He's got a very strong arm, just doesn't have a ton of touch with it. He was forced back into it, but another great example of a team player."

"He said whatever is going to be best for the team," Melvin added. "He probably would have preferred to stay at fullback. He knows that's where probably his natural position is if he wants to choose to go play after high school."

Still, Dole made the most of it. He was second on the team in rushing with 965 yards and scored 18 rushing TDs, and completed 33 of 84 passes for 512 yards and seven TDs to four interceptions. Before switching, Dole also had 76 receiving yards and one receiving TD. Dole ended up a first-team MCL selection at running back, and was a unanimous pick on the first-team defense at the end.

On defense, he recorded 36 tackles (11 for loss) and 4.5 sacks.

**ERIC GFELLER  
5-11, 152, Jr., QB/S/P  
WALLACE COUNTY WILDCATS**

The Wildcats enjoyed yet another undefeated run through the regular season, falling to the eventual Eight-man Division II state champion Victoria, 28-12, in the state semifinals to finish 11-1. Gfeller did more watching than anything last season as he backed up his older brother, Kyle. But this season the junior quarterback took the reins and picked up right where his brother left off.

"Eric is the type of kid (that) refuses to lose at any cost," Wallace County coach Jeff Hennick said. "During the first round playoff game he actually fractured his hand and continued to play with it. He just wanted it taped so that he could endure the pain. Eric is not a kid to want all the attention. If anything, he wants the attention to go to his team and he is always encouraging his line and running backs to continue to make big plays."

Gfeller was a dynamic dual threat for the Wildcats, completing 43 of 87 passes for 660 yards with 11 touchdowns and only two interceptions. He was second on the team with 883 yards rushing and 20 TDs, his 31 total scores best on the team.

Gfeller also was second on the team with 62 tackles and led the Wildcats with seven interceptions.

**JACOB GREEN  
6-2, 235, Soph., OL/DL  
NORTON COMMUNITY BLUEJAYS**

A dominant offensive and defensive lineman for the Bluejays, Green recorded a team-best 86 tackles (22 for loss) and three sacks. He also helped pave the way for Norton backs to gain more than 3,300 yards on the ground.

First-team both ways on the Mid-Continent League team, Green also earned all-state honors from both the Topeka Capital Journal and Wichita Eagle.

He was the top tackler on a defense that gave up just 70 points outside of its 55-20 playoff loss to perennial power Scott City in the Class 3A playoffs.

"He's so athletic and quick for his size," Norton coach Lucas Melvin said of Green. "You're not able to block him one-on-one."

There are times he just wreaks havoc in the backfield."

Green, just a sophomore, is also a state wrestling medalist. He defeated Phillipsburg's Luke Jacobs for third place in February for the bronze at 220 pounds in the Class 3-2-1A state wrestling championships at Gross Memorial Coliseum.

**LUKE JACOBS  
6-7, 230, Sr., OL/DE  
PHILLIPSBURG PANTHERS**

If Jacobs' height doesn't make him stand out, his play on the field for the Panthers did. Jacobs, also a state placer in Class 3-2-1A as a wrestler, made the most of his senior year on the football team.

In his second year as a starter, Jacobs was key on both the offensive line and at defensive end.

He was a first-team unanimous selection in the MCL as an offense lineman and first-team selection at defensive end.

In addition, when the team gave out its team-voted postseason awards last week, Jacobs earned the leadership award, along with the iron-man award.

"On the field, he was a guy that got it done for us," Phillipsburg coach J.B. Covington said.

Phillipsburg set a school record with 10 wins, and played in the program's first sub-state championship game, falling a win short of the state title game with a loss to Brookville/Ell-Saline.

Jacobs was part of an offensive line that paved the way for 3,949 rushing yards by the Panthers with 52 total rushing touchdowns. Then on defense, Jacobs was second on the team with 64 tackles (six for loss), and nine sacks for a loss of 20 yards. He also recovered two fumble and caused one.

"We had talked about moving him to a tight end position, but he was just too good on the offensive line," Covington said. "Between him and (senior Ian Chestnut), we ran right behind those two guys a lot."

Jacobs is among the favorites this winter at 220 pounds in Class 3-2-1A wrestling. Covington also said he nearby has Jacobs talked into participating in track where he thinks he can easily be a 200-foot javelin thrower.

Fort Hays State University is on Jacobs' radar, Covington said, for football.

**STUART LENNEMANN  
5-9, 160, Sr. RB/DB  
PHILLIPSBURG PANTHERS**

A first-team unanimous selection in the MCL, Lennemann has always had a great deal of speed. Case in point, he helped Phillipsburg to a 3A state track and field title last spring with a win in the 200-meter dash and ran legs of title-winning 4x1 and 4x4 relay teams.

The one thing that helped this fall, though, for the 10-win Panther football team, was his adaptation as a running back.

"The thing that made the biggest difference this year was his ability to run through some tackles," Panther coach J.B. Covington said. "To stick his nose up in the hole a little bit harder."

"He's always been able to hit the holes quick, but the problem was he wasn't really good at reading blocks."

That changed this season. Lennemann

used his speed and patience to rush for 1,478 yards on 138 carries. He scored 22 touchdowns, and had eight games of 100 rushing yards or more. He helped Phillipsburg to a school-record 10 wins, and play in the Panther program's first sub-state championship game.

As a defensive back, where he also was a first-team MCL selection, Lennemann had four interceptions and 13 passes defended with one interception return for a score. He also recorded 26 tackles (one for loss), and recorded a sack. As the Panthers' kick and punt returner, Lennemann averaged 25.6 yards per kick return with a 90-yard touchdown, and had five punt returns for a 9.2 average.

"We really fell like he developed at the running back with the ability to be a little more patient," Covington said. "Once he read the blocks, his acceleration was the fastest we've had out of anyone here."

**TANNER McMILLEN  
6-1, 175, Sr., QB/DB  
NESS CITY EAGLES**

Ness City won the Eight-man Division I state title with a perfect 13-0 record in 2012 before taking a step back in 2013, finishing 5-4 with Tanner McMillen at quarterback. But he responded in his senior season, leading the Eagles to a 9-3 mark in 2014, making it to the state semifinals before a 32-0 loss to eventual state champ Claffin-Central Plains.

"He was our starter last year at QB and did some great things for us, but just lacked some experience and consistency as a junior," Ness City coach Chris Bamberger said. "I gained a lot of trust in him this season and felt comfortable putting Tanner in positions to make plays. He provided a whole different dimension to our offense. He was a joy to coach, as were all of his classmates."

McMillen completed 97 of 157 attempts for 1,166 yards and 15 touchdowns with eight interceptions. He easily led the team in rushing as well, carrying the ball 152 times for 1,122 yards with 21 rushing TDs.

**SHELDON SCHMIDT  
6-4, 230, Sr., FB/DE  
LA CROSSE LEOPARDS**

Schmidt missed the majority of his junior season after suffering a knee injury in Week 4. His return this season was a major boost to the La Crosse football team. At 6-foot-4 and 230 pounds, Schmidt is easily one of the most physically gifted athletes in the area and his ability to dominate on the field proved it.

His main forte was defense, where he had 77 tackles, including 12 for loss, for the 9-2 Leopards, which fell 28-12 to eventual runner-up Ell-Saline in the Class 2-1A state quarterfinals. Schmidt was a menace to quarterbacks as well, where he had 12 sacks.

"Sheldon was a huge part of (our) team's success," La Crosse coach Jon Webster said. "His ability to control one side of the defense allowed us to do a lot of different things with other guys. He developed into a nice offensive weapon as the season went on and gave us big play potential every time he touched the ball."

Schmidt was an effective fullback for the Leopards, rushing for 871 yards and 14 touchdowns, with a 6.7-yard average per rush. He also caught nine passes for 177 yards and three TDs.

**JAKE TIERNAN  
6-0, 190, Jr., QB/DB/P  
OSBORNE BULLDOGS**

If nothing else stands out, just look at 34 passing touchdowns compared to only six interceptions. But that's not the only impressive line for Tiernan, the third-year starter at quarterback for 10-2 Osborne.

Tiernan completed 71 percent of his passes, 152 of 214 for 2,153 yards, averaging 14.2 yards per completion and 179.4 yards per game, carrying a season quarterback rating of 131.1.

And he was the Bulldogs' third-leading rusher with 514 rushing yards and nine touchdowns, pushing him to 43 total scores for the year.

Tiernan was one of several to step up to bigger roles this season for the 2013 Eight-Man Division I state champion Bulldogs following the graduation of playmakers Kenton Ubelaker and Maverick LeRock. And, the junior nearly guided Osborne back to Newton to defend its title. The only Bulldog losses were to eventual runner-up Hanover — once in district play, the other in the sub-state title game.

He's come along "as well as any quarterback," said Steve Tiernan, Jake's father and head coach. "Even by that second year they've started, it's amazing how (quarterbacks) have grasped the game or grasped the offense."

A defensive back, he also grabbed four interceptions and a fumble recovery to go along with 5.6 tackles per game. Also the team's punter, he had 11 punts for an average of 29.2 per kick with a 58-yarder and one inside the 20.

Jake Tiernan put together a remarkable season that got started with near tragedy when Steve Tiernan suffered near-fatal injuries in motorcycle accident just prior to the start of the school year and football season.

"These guys really helped out quite a bit," Jake Tiernan said midseason about his teammates. "Football took my mind off quite a bit of that — really helped."

**BRANDT WOLTERS  
6-2, 195, Sr., TE/LB/K  
OSBORNE BULLDOGS**

The favorite target for junior quarterback Jake Tiernan in Osborne's offense, Wolters was a go-to guy when the Bulldogs needed a play.

The tall tight end recorded 75 receptions for 1,010 yards and 18 touchdowns, averaging 84.2 receiving yards per game, and 13.5 yards per catch.

It was the second straight season Wolters led the Bulldogs in receiving yards and receiving TDs as he built a rapport with Tiernan the last two seasons.

"Just try to run great routes," Wolters said in a midseason interview. "This line helps give that time to run those great routes, and Jake puts a good ball on me. I'm a little bigger tight end, but wouldn't catch anything without the line, and Jake throwing a good ball."

Wolters also was the Bulldogs' top tackler from his linebacker spot, averaging 11 per game with 132 total tackles and five for loss.

He managed one sack and grabbed three interceptions as well and returned one fumble he caused for 17 yards. He also averaged 34.8 yards on 10 kickoffs.

**After state title, Knights' Oberle named top coach**

By NICK McQUEEN

nmcqueen@dailynews.net  
Speaking after his Victoria High School football team defeated Sharon Springs-Wallace County in the Eight-Man Division II sub-state championship game in November, Doug Oberle was nowhere near taking any credit for his team's accomplishments.

Nor has he ever been. And probably never will.

Most of the time, the ninth-year head coach likes to first credit the kids in the program, then second the past kids in the program who have helped keep a strong tradition alive.

The Knights, while winning the school's sixth state championship a week later with a 52-8 rout of Attica-Argonia in the title game, made the playoffs for the 13th straight season, and claimed the program's third eight-man championship. And, they did it with 12 straight wins after a

season-opening loss to Eight-Man I state champ Claffin-Central Plains. The 13th straight playoff appearance is the longest active streak in eight-man.

The constant in the past nine seasons, though, has been Oberle. And for his efforts in guiding Victoria the distance for a second time in his tenure, Oberle was named the HDN's top coach on the 31st annual HDN All-Area Super 11 Football Team.

"We had really good teams that have worked their butt off that haven't been able to make this trip we're going to make," Oberle said after his club defeated Wallace County to make the title game. "It just speaks volumes about the program."

Oberle talked about the kids who buy into the program, hitting the weights, and putting in all the extra offseason time.



**AUSTIN COLBERT • HAYS DAILY NEWS**  
Victoria coach Doug Oberle, center, talks to his team during a timeout in the Eight-Man Division II state title game.

"I'm proud of these guys, and it's a great feeling for the program," Oberle said of making the state title game. "I'm happy. I don't know what else to say."

"Our summer workouts are phenomenal and our kids get in there as they can."

It helped this season having guys like junior quarterback Brady Dinkel, senior running back Bryan Dome, junior running back Lane Kisner and senior tight end Noah Dreiling returning as starters. But the Knights had big questions all across the offense and

defensive lines, positions that ended up being some of the best for Victoria. The Knights arguably turned in their most impressive defensive line performances in the sub-state and state title games when they helped hold contain two of Division II's highest scoring teams well below their season averages. Attica-Argonia was all of eight-man's highest-scoring team, and had just eight points.

What's more, Oberle's Knights accomplished all it did this season against Eight-Man Division II's toughest schedule, according to prep-powerindex.com. Victoria managed a district that featured state potential contenders Beloit/St. John's-Tipton and Thunder Ridge, then got through Hoxie, Minneola, and previously unbeaten Wallace County in the rounds leading up to state. The Knights outscored their playoff opponents

178-52.

The Knights were the fifth-highest scoring team in Division II against the toughest schedule, and allowed 214 points (sixth best in Division II). After ending the title game early via the mercy rule with a dominant performance, Oberle spoke again about seeing his club play for a title for the third time in his tenure as head coach. The Knights won it in his first year in 2006, then were runners-up in 2008.

"If this gets old, quit doing what you are doing as a coach. Just turn around and look at this. Small town USA coming together, supporting their kids, supporting their school," Oberle said following the win.

With a strong nucleus coming back in 2015, the Knights could again be the favorite to make it to Newton. Oberle pushed his overall record to 84-20, and looks to enter his 10th season in August.

**GREEN, FROM C1**

One of the best defensive players on one of the best defensive team in the area this season, Green was named the Defensive Player of the Year on the HDN's 31st annual Super 11 All-Area Football Team.

"On the lines, he's just a tough young man," Melvin said. "He's got great feet, and is an athletic kid for his size."

Also a third-place medalist in Class 3-2-1A as a freshman 220-pound wrestler last winter,

Green this fall was a key cog on a defense that, outside of a 55-20 playoff loss to perennial power Scott City, was nothing short of dominant. The Bluejays surrendered no more than 16 points in a regular-season game, and gave up just three touchdowns in Mid-Continent League play. Norton also recorded three shutouts. And, Green and the rest of the starting defense was not on the field much late in games.

"Defensively, he's just a tough kid to block," Phillipsburg coach J.B. Covington said of Green. "He about requires a double team, and you have to account for him all the time."

Ten-win Phillipsburg, the league's second best team, managed just a lone touchdown against the Bluejays, and that came on a kick return in a 34-7 Week 2 loss. Most of the scoring against Norton came in the second halves of

games when the outcome was all-but decided, and numerous times was against the Bluejays' backups or even third string.

Green, and the rest of the Norton defense was a big reason for that. Green was one of three interior defensive linemen — along with seniors Breven Sondergaard and Wyatt Hartling, who all recorded at least 25 solo tackles.

Melvin said that took away from a great linebacking corps that

really didn't get a chance to make any tackles. Norton gave up approximately 800 yards rushing and 600 yards passing all season.

"He's just not a great defender, but a dominant offensive lineman too," Melvin said of Green.

Norton's offensive line paved the way for 330 rushing yards per game. Other than the 55 points allowed to Scott City, Norton gave up just 70, which was among the best in Class 3A.