



Surrounding Coach of the Year Larry Mills of Hays High are the members of the 10th annual Hays Daily News Super 11 all-area football team. From left are Curtis Albin of Hays High, Joel McReynolds of Stockton, Troy Hackney of Hays High, Spencer Levin of Kensington, Matt Kuhn of Hays High, Mike Lankas of Atwood, Andy Muir of Stockton, Brian Jackson of Hays High, Seren Humburg of Ness City and Jeremy Lutz of Hays High.

CHARLIE RIEDEL / Hays Daily News

## Super 11 squad spells success in '93

By TERRY GASTON  
Hays Daily News

It's not unusual for the members of The Hays Daily News Super 11 all-area football team to have high school players whose teams experienced success.

This year's 10th annual team is no different, although the schools represented often had their wealth well-balanced and distributed. And it may be hard to pick just one or two players from the same team.

Thus this year's Super 11 has five members off a very talented, well-balanced and arguably the best Hays High team ever.

The Indians' Super 11 choices are seniors Troy Hackney, Matt Kuhn, Brian Jackson, Jeremy Lutz and PJ Peters.

And their coach, Larry Mills, is the all-area coach of the year.

The Super 11 also has two seniors — Joel McReynolds and Andy Muir — off Stockton's team that led the Tigers to their second straight Class 2-1A state championship.

Seniors Seren Humburg from Ness City, Mike Lankas from Atwood and Curtis Albin

The Hays Daily News

93

ALL-AREA FOOTBALL

THE SUPER 11

Curtis Albin, 5-7, 170, sr., RB-DB, Quinter  
Troy Hackney, 6-3, 195, sr., RB-DB, Hays High  
Seren Humburg, 5-6, 165, sr., RB-LB, Ness City  
Brian Jackson, 6-2, 175, sr., WR-DB, Hays High  
Matt Kuhn, 6-2, 248, sr., OT-DE, Hays High  
Mike Lankas, 6-3, 218, sr., RB-LB, Atwood  
Spencer Levin, 6-0, 205, jr., RB-LB, Kensington  
Jeremy Lutz, 5-9, 155, sr., RB-DB, Hays High  
Joel McReynolds, 6-3, 188, sr., QB-DB, Stockton  
Andy Muir, 6-4, 220, sr., OT-DT, Stockton  
PJ Peters, 6-4, 175, sr., QB, Hays High

COACH OF THE YEAR

Mills, Hays High

from Quinter complete the 1993 Super 11, along with Kensington's Spencer Levin — the only junior on this year's HDN team.

Seven are repeat Super 11 selections from last year's list — Albin, Humburg, Jackson, Lankas, Levin, McReynolds and Peters.

■ Curtis Albin — At 5-foot-7 and 170 pounds,

year.

"Curtis really did a fine job of standing behind Mitchell until he could see and shoot out from there," Quinter coach Don Balluch said. "He was an unselfish kid who always tried to give other people credit."

Albin finished 1993 with 1,313 yards on 172 carries with 15 touchdowns; he also had five receptions for 47 yards, 13 kickoff returns for 245 yards and 10 punt returns for 138 yards.

AS a cornerback, Albin had 34 solo tackles and 10 assists, with one quarterback sack and one interception for the Bulldogs (9-2).

Albin is looking at Fort Hays State University and Ottawa University, along with the community colleges at Dodge City, Garden City and Hutchinson as possible places to continue his education and possibly his football career.

■ Troy Hackney — If any one player off Hays High's Class 5A semifinal team best epitomized the Indians (9-2), it may be

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## Hays High's Mills shoots way to coach's honor

By RANDY GONZALES  
Hays Daily News

Just wait until Hays High School's whole offense is in, folks.

And then see what the team can do for the 1993 Coach of the Year on The Hays Daily News Super 11 all-area football team.

Larry Mills guided Hays High to a berth in the Class 5A playoffs, won nine games in a season for just the third time in school history and defeated Garden City, Dodge City and Buhler — all perennial state powers.

All that, and his players are still learning the fine points of the Indians' complicated run-and-shoot offense.

Mills, who just completed his second season at HHS, brought the big-play attack with him when he left a coaching position in Arizona in 1992 to take the HHS job.

The Indians went 5-4 last year, losing to Buhler in the district title game. This year, Hays High went 9-2, losing twice to Liberal.

Liberal defeated HHS in the season opener. But after that game the Indians went on a roll, winning nine straight before

meeting, and losing to, the Redskins once again in the semifinals of the state playoffs.

"It was a learning experience," Mills said of losing to Liberal. "You hope to teach things in your program other than football."

"You accept the fact you shoot for it, but you don't always get it."

But without the run-and-shoot-offense — which other coaches warned Mills to not even try to install — Hays High may not have experienced the success it did this year.

"A lot of people in Arizona told me Kansas doesn't have spring practice ... no way will you get it in," Mills said of his plans to use the cerebral passing attack.

But Mills, who was the defensive coordinator at Buhler in the mid-1980s, knew what kind of offenses gave him the most trouble to prepare for each week.

It wasn't a predictable ground game, favored by many schools. No, what gave Mills headaches was an offense that could either run or throw the ball.

"To me, as a defensive coordinator, I thought that was the toughest to defend,"

Mills said. "There weren't a lot of teams in Kansas running that type of offense."

Mills credits his assistant coaches — who also had to learn a new system — for spending the long hours to learn the offense in the offseason, then teach it to the players.

"One thing that helped accelerate (the learning process) even more was the assistant coaches' work in the offseason," Mills said.

That hard work paid off with the wins over rivals Garden City, Dodge City and Buhler.

"The Garden City game definitely was a big win for us," Mills said of the Indians' first win over a Dave Meadows-coached Garden City squad.

"When I came here I saw the attitude wasn't to beat Garden City, just not to get embarrassed," Mills said. "They wanted to play them close."

Playing Garden City close, and avoid a blowout, may have been a subconscious goal in the past.

But not in 1993.

The Indians beat the Buffaloes 24-7.

Then came the 14-0 win over Dodge City — on the road. That was the first time HHS has accomplished that little trick in 30 years.

"We beat Dodge City down there; that just doesn't happen," Mills said.

But it did in 1993.

Then there was Buhler. The Crusaders had ended the Indians' season the last three years.

But not in 1993.

"The Buhler game was big," Mills said of HHS' 39-14 victory. "We're putting the ghosts behind us."

"We know we can beat these people."

Having the "PJ Connection" helped.

Senior quarterback PJ Peters and senior end Brian Jackson earned their nickname for their uncanny ability to hook up time after time for long gains and touchdowns.

Peters' ability to read the defense and find the open receiver was instrumental to the Indians' success.

"His growth the last two years has been

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## Florida State quarterback runs away with Heisman Trophy

NEW YORK (AP) — Charlie Ward, who ran away from defenders all season, ran away with the Heisman Trophy on Saturday.

The elusive Florida State quarterback won college football's most prestigious award by the second-largest margin ever. Ward beat Tennessee quarterback Heath Shuler by 1,622 points, trailing only O.J. Simpson's 1,750-point victory over Leroy Keyes in 1968.

"It's an honor. I'll always cherish it," Ward said. "Maybe in 10 years it will sink in."

Although Simpson won by more points, Ward received the highest percentage of first-place votes and points in the Heisman's 59-year history. Ward got 91 percent of the first-place votes, topping the previous record of 85 percent by 1991 winner Desmond Howard of Michigan.

Ward, leader of the nation's highest scoring offense and top-ranked team, is the first Heisman winner from Florida State or the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Ward's mother and father attended the ceremony at the Downtown Athletic Club. Ward dedicated the trophy to his late grandfathers.

"I tried to stay as team-oriented as possible," Ward said. "I'm not a guy who wants all the attention, but for some reason, I get it."

The 6-foot-2, 190-pound senior from Thomasville, Ga., completed nearly 70 percent of his passes for 3,032 yards and 27 touchdowns with only four interceptions. He also ran for 339 yards and four TDs.

But Ward isn't a player who can be measured merely by statistics. His amazing ability to dodge tacklers, make big plays and keep cool under pressure left opponents

bewildered and brought Florida State to the brink of its first national championship.

"He is phenomenal — the greatest college quarterback that I have ever seen," Miami coach Dennis Erickson said after the Hurricanes lost to Florida State 28-10.

After Ward threw for 446 yards and four touchdowns against Florida, Gators coach Steve Spurrier said: "You can't catch him. He's the best scrambler ... I've seen in college football."

Ward swept all six voting regions, receiving 740 first-place votes and 2,310 points in balloting by the media and former Heisman winners. Shuler got 10 first-place votes and 688 points, while Alabama all-purpose star David Palmer finished third with 16 firsts and 292 points.

Shuler and Palmer also attended the ceremony.

"He should have won it because he had a

great season and he has a chance to lead his team to the national championship," Palmer said of Ward.

San Diego State running back Marshall Faulk, who was runner-up last year to Heisman winner Gino Torretta, finished fourth. He was followed by Boston College quarterback Glenn Foley, Northern Illinois running back LeShon Johnson, UCLA receiver J.J. Stokes, Michigan running back Tyrone Wheatley, Fresno State quarterback Trent Dilfer and Georgia quarterback Eric Zeier.

Despite his Heisman victory, Ward might not play pro football. He also is a star point guard for Florida State's basketball team, and might choose the NBA.

Ward said he will decide his future in April after the Seminoles end their basketball season.

"I'm going to make a decision one day

and stick with it," Ward said.

Largely because of Ward, Florida State is in position to win the national title against No. 2 Nebraska in the Orange Bowl. He set a host of school and ACC records as the Seminoles went 11-1, including six victories over bowl teams. They lost 31-24 at Notre Dame, but Ward threw three touchdown passes and nearly rallied his team from a 17-point deficit.

If Florida State beats Nebraska, Ward could become the first player to win the Heisman and a national championship in the same season since Pittsburgh's Tony Dorsett in 1976.

Although Florida State is a 17½-point favorite, Ward is not taking the Cornhuskers lightly.

"It's going to be a tough game," he said. "We're preparing for it like we do for Miami, Notre Dame and Florida."

## Hornets escape with win

By TERRY GASTON  
Hays Daily News

Another blown double-digit lead by the Fort Hays State University men's basketball team, another big comeback by Emporia State University.

The result was an 85-83 win for the visiting Hornets at Gross Memorial Coliseum on Saturday night.

And once again, free throws proved to be the ultimate deciding factor.

The Tigers' 8-for-16 effort at the line and 13 turnovers in the second half were enough to give ESU the opportunity to come back for the win.

The loss is the third in four games for Fort Hays (6-3), while the Hornets (7-1) avenged their only loss — a 95-94 heartbreaker Nov. 29 at Emporia.

In that game, ESU sophomore guard Lamont Bunton missed two free shots with 1.1 seconds left that either would have won or tied the game.

In Saturday's rematch, FHSU sophomore guard Chapanez Hale — who led the Tigers with 20 points — missed two free throws with 25 seconds remaining.

However, after Hornet senior forward Sean Kirkland missed a foul shot at the other end with 22 seconds left — leaving ESU just 4-for-12 at the line for the night — Fort Hays had one more chance.

But it was not a good time for the Tigers to commit their 20th and final turnover of the game.

Junior center Chris Nagel attempted a pass to Hale from the right-center wing, but the ball sailed wide right of Hale at the top of the key and Bunton snared the ball in the back court to preserve the Hornets' victory.

"We've both got good teams and you know it's going to be close, just like down there," FHSU coach Gary Garner said. "In close games we just miss crucial free throws."

"That's our Achilles' heel. We play hard and we played pretty good, but our Achilles' heel..."

Ironically, Bunton had a chance to redeem himself for his misses 12 nights earlier, with 41 seconds left.

But his first foul shot was waved off after senior forward Celso Doria negated the shot by stepping in the lane too early.

Senior forward Ron Frierson provided the Hornets' knockout punch, scoring ESU's last seven points — including two 3-pointers — in the final 2:48 to keep Emporia ahead for good after a tie at 78.

Frierson scored 13 of the Hornets' final 23 points to finish the game as the game's leading scorer with 29.

Senior guard James McCallop began the second half with Emporia's first seven points for 18 points after intermission and 22 for the evening.

"We knew they were basically a senior team and have been through this before and would be ready to play," Garner said. "I told our players this would be a war, and it comes down to free throws."

Emporia was badly outrebounded, 47-29 — 28-12 on the offensive end.

But the Hornets offset that and their free-throw problems with a 9-for-20 performance from 3-point range — sparked by Frierson's 4-for-5 effort and McCallop's 3-for-7.

"(Frierson) had taken 12 (treys) and hit one of them and tonight he's 4-for-5, and two of them were from NBA range," Garner said. "That, and our Achilles' heel."

The Hornets climbed back into the game with their press — the same weapon they used to dissolve all but one point of a 20-point FHSU lead at Emporia.

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■ The game's boxscore is in scoreboard, page 2-B.