



11-MAN FIRST TEAM		11-MAN SECOND TEAM		11-MAN THIRD TEAM		8-MAN FIRST TEAM		8-MAN SECOND TEAM		8-MAN THIRD TEAM	
PLAYER	SCHOOL	PLAYER	SCHOOL	PLAYER	SCHOOL	PLAYER	SCHOOL	PLAYER	SCHOOL	PLAYER	SCHOOL
Jack Dennis, sr.	Oakley	Ryan Baxter, sr.	Smith Center	Whitney Brown, sr.	Hoxie	Paxton Crumbaker, sr.	Brewster	Brett Ayers, sr.	Winona-Triplains	Chad Baker, sr.	Logan
Travis Hahn, sr.	Stockton	Lucas Cranston, sr.	Ness City	Jared Easterberg, jr.	Plainville	Brandon Elliott, sr.	Logan	Chad Belsler, sr.	Brewster	Derek Bohm, sr.	Kensington
Brandon Hille, sr.	Wak-Trego	Aaron Glendenning, jr.	Stockton	Tom Flax, sr.	TMP-Marian	Dallas Latham, jr.	Winona-Triplains	Matt Beringer, jr.	Sharon Springs	Trent Gottechalk, so.	Logan
Nathan Howard, sr.	Atwood	T.J. Gottschalk, jr.	TMP-Marian	Brett Hutchinson, sr.	Smith Center	Travis Latham, sr.	Winona-Triplains	Tyler Darnell, sr.	Falco	Josh Hudson, jr.	Kensington
Justin Lane, sr.	Colby	Jeff Hrabec, sr.	Plainville	Jake Kastens, sr.	Atwood	Garry Lowry, jr.	Alm.-No. Valley	Ashley Hammond, sr.	Almena-No. Valley	Brian Lager, jr.	Grinnell
Spencer McKee, sr.	Colby	Travis Jenkins, sr.	Stockton	Josh Mann, sr.	Norton	Jordan Reid, sr.	Bird City-Cheylin	Levi Pochop, sr.	Bird City-Cheylin	Justin McElroy, sr.	Logan
Neal Philpot, jr.	Norton	Brandon Maska, jr.	Hays High	Erik McMillan, sr.	Hays High	Cody Rush, jr.	Brewster	Robby Schwindt, sr.	Healy	Damon Rickard, so.	Winona-Triplains
Tracy Pruden, jr.	Smith Center	Rex Miller, jr.	Atwood	Ty Pfannenstiel, sr.	Ness City	Zac Smith, sr.	Rex.-Gol. Plains	Austin Thalheim, so.	Almena-No. Valley	Nell Wilson, sr.	Healy
Tyler Ralle, jr.	St. Francis	Ryan Roberts, sr.	Norton	Jared Scheck, sr.	Victoria						
Kyle Schenk, sr.	Smith Center	Michael Terry, sr.	Atwood	Garrett Werth, sr.	Quinter						
Cash Schilling, sr.	Goodland	Jacob Vrba, sr.	Atwood	Jon Zwegardt, jr.	St. Francis						

COACH: Five Smith Center players named All-Area

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"We've been fortunate to have had a lot of kids get some great honors, and we've had kids go on and do well in college. I think they respect each other for those honors."

Five players off this year's team were selected for the Hays Daily News All-Area team, including full-back-linebacker Justin Montgomery, a Super 11 pick.

Any special teams Barta remembers most?

"I never compare teams or compare kids," Barta said. "Each group is a new group and you always hate to seem them go, but you're always anxious for the next group to come in."

"It's part of the education process. Every year is a new and exciting year for us, for our community and our school."

Barta isn't sure how long his coaching career will last, but the journey sure has been fun.

"I don't know, everybody's got me retiring already," he said with a chuckle. "I enjoy coaching, I don't know what else I'd do. I tell our kids they need to find a job they really enjoy."

"I really like this job and I don't know what I'd do different."



Barta

Dustin Cline La Crosse

A two-time HDN Super 11 selection, Dustin Cline was injured for three games, and still managed to rush for 1,302 yards on 176 carries with 14 touchdowns for La Crosse, which finished with a 6-3 record.

The 6-foot, 190-pound fullback separated his shoulder on the last play of the Leopards' second game of the year against Kinsley, but came back to top 300 yards in three of the last four games.

Cline averaged 217 yards a game for the year and 7.4 yards a carry.

Over the last two seasons, Cline brought a hard-hitting mentality to La Crosse's team at the safety position, where he had 65 tackles, two sacks and five interceptions this year.

"Dustin is a big-time hitter, and he's always been our go-to guy in a crunch. In a crucial situation, we could always count on him to make a big hit or interception the last two years," La Crosse coach Bill Keeley said.

The versatile Cline was also a key to the Leopards' special teams. He scored seven times on fake punts, returned three punts for TDs, returned two kick-offs for TDs and averaged 38 yards on his own punts.

Cline was a unanimous all-Western Kansas Education Association selection the last two years and this year made was named to the first-team all-Class 2-1A defense by the state's coaches.



Cline

Clint Cox Northern Valley

Clint Cox made a name for himself as one of the best running quarterbacks for 591 yards and 10 TDs in his second year.

The 6-foot-1, 165-pound senior kept the ball 196 times for 1,036 yards and 21 TDs for Almena-Northern Valley.

He also completed 41-of-93 passes for 591 yards and 10 TDs in his second year as a full-time starter.

"We're mainly a running team and though Clint doesn't have super speed, he runs hard and makes good reads and good moves," Huskies coach Chuck Fessenden said.

Cox's ability to come up from the defensive safety spot resulted in 61 tackles with 32 assists. He also intercepted a pass.

"He was a really good safety for us because he could come up and make tackles right on the line of scrimmage. He's one of the better safeties we've had."

Fessenden said Cox's main impact was as a leader for Northern Valley, which finished with a 10-2 record after losing to Hanston 32-14 in the Eight-Man Division II Sub-State Championship game.

Cox's accomplishments came despite playing hurt the last four games of the year, after suffering a shoulder injury in the first of the Huskies' two games against Jewell.



Cox

Jeff Darnauer Goodland

Goodland has a tradition of producing talented tight ends.

Jeff Darnauer followed in that lineage, which includes the University of Nebraska's Jake McKee and former Kansas State University player Jesse Woodard.

"We always look for a great athlete at tight end to help us do what we want to get done," Goodland coach Mike Johnson said. "Jeff has done a great job at tight end of holding up that tradition."

The 6-foot-5, 215-pound senior caught 30 passes for 497 yards and had 66 tackles at defensive end this season.

"What makes Jeff a good football player is his leverage. You just can't replace that 6-5 frame," Johnson said.

Darnauer was a three-time all-Northwest Kansas League selection and this year was named top 11 all classes by the state's coaches.

Most teams ran away from Darnauer, "but if they ran toward him, he made the play," Johnson said.

The only drawback for Darnauer was playing on a team that didn't see much success the last two years. Goodland finished 4-5 this season.

Football isn't everything to Darnauer, however. He also has a 4.0 grade point average and is the school's student body president.



Darnauer

Jason Dechant TMP-Marian

Jason Dechant was instrumental in coach Gene Flax's attempt to turn around the program at Thomas More Prep-Marian.

Not only did the 6-foot-3, 220-pound senior guard fit perfectly into Flax's trap-oriented offense, he was also the Monarchs' top player on the defensive side at tackle.

"We ran left more than any right-handed quarterback team I know. It's always been my philosophy to put your stronger people on the other side of the ball," Flax said. "We do a lot of trapping and we usually do it to the left, so Jason did fit the mold for my offense."

Defensively, Dechant had 120 tackles this year, 35 solos and 85 assists, as well as 10 sacks and five batted passes.

After playing some as a freshman at TMP-Marian (4-5 last season), he had 284 total tackles over the last three seasons.

"There weren't a lot of people who could run the ball successfully up the middle against us," Flax said. "Having Jason in there forced people to make a decision to go outside, and then we could use the sideline as another defensive player."

Dechant was a first-team all-Mid-State Activities Association selection both ways and an all-Class 4A defensive pick by the coaches.



Dechant

Ben Forrest Logan

Ben Forrest's abilities as a blocking tight end and defensive end helped propel Logan to a 7-2 finish this season.

Though the Trojans didn't throw to him a lot, the 6-foot-3, 225-pound senior had 242 yards receiving for seven touchdowns.

He was crucial to the Trojans' success running the ball.

Defensively, he piled up 49 solo tackles and 48 assists.

The all-Cheyenne Conference selection on both sides of the ball had 18 tackles for negative yardage and eight sacks.

"Technique-wise Forrest was a good blocking tight end. He did a lot by handling defensive linemen inside and did a good job getting linemen blown back into the line-backer," Logan coach J. B. Covington said.

"Defensively, he was athletic and hard to block. He whipped a lot of double teams and most people ran away from him," Covington said. "Defensively, when we needed a play, he seemed to come up big a lot for us, and obviously in a passing situation it was tough to block him."

Forrest runs a time of 4.75 in the 40 meters, has a 30-inch vertical leap and good hands for a big man.

"He's got good speed. He runs well for a big man. And he leads by his play on the field," Covington said.



Forrest

Travis Hogan Northern Valley

Travis Hogan was invaluable to Almena-Northern Valley this season opening up holes at the defensive guard position.

But the 6-foot-3, 255-pound senior's stats on the other side of the ball are mind-boggling for a defensive tackle on an Eight-Man team.

Hogan amassed 72 total tackles, 68 of which were assists.

The all-Cheyenne Conference first-team selection both ways was a four-year starter for coach Chuck Fessenden and the Huskies, who finished with a 10-2 record after losing to Hanston in the Eight-Man Division II semifinals.

Mobile for his size, Hogan had the ability to overpower blockers and was an effective pass rusher on defense.

"At the offensive guard spot, we never had to worry about double-teaming people, because we knew he could handle whoever was over him," Fessenden said.

Aside from base blocking and pass blocking, the Huskies also used Hogan as a pulling blocker to clear the way for fellow HDN Super 11 selection quarterback Clint Cox.

Hogan was an effective leader, more by example than words.

"Travis was not nearly as vocal. He led by his actions on the field," Fessenden said.



Hogan

J. Montgomery Smith Center

What's it like to be one of the best running backs on one of the best rushing teams in the state? Just ask Justin Montgomery.

The 6-foot-2, 220-pound fullback gained 1,166 yards on 162 carries for 28 touchdowns this year for Smith Center, which finished with an 11-1 record after losing to eventual Class 3A state champion Conway Springs in sub-state.

Montgomery averaged 97 yards a game and 7.2 a carry and scored 219 points on his own. He made 10-of-11 extra points, 3-of-3 field goals, two longer than 30 yards, and 15-of-17 two-point conversions.

"He was a leader for us and of course he's a good player," Smith Center coach Roger Barta said. "He's a good running fullback and a great blocking fullback. He's a tough runner, and he's really strong. He's very intense, and doesn't want to be tackled."

Montgomery was also key to the Redmen's defensive success. Playing linebacker, he led the team in tackles with 44 solos, 27 assists, two sacks and a fumble recovery.

Montgomery was a first-team all-Mid-Continent League selection on both sides of the ball, an all-Class 3A defensive selection by the state's coaches and made the Associated Press Super 11.



Montgomery

Kevin Partch Cheylin

Speedy running back Kevin Partch was a pleasant surprise for Bird City-Cheylin, boosting the Cougars to a 7-2 record as just a sophomore.

The 5-foot-10, 145-pound Partch ran for 1,276 yards on 159 carries for 32 touchdowns with an eight yard per carry average this season.

He added 332 yards on kickoff returns for two TDs and averaged 30.2 yards on punt returns for two more scores.

An all-Western Kansas Liberty League selection, Partch was a tireless worker in the backfield, carrying 30-39 times a game.

"He's one of those kids that when you call his number, he wants the ball and will do anything he can to help the team win," Cheylin coach Mike Green said.

But what pleases Green is that Partch will be around for awhile.

"Last year we knew he had speed and talent and we had the guys up front to block for him. He's got excellent speed and scoots through holes really well. He can only get stronger and get more speed, but the knowledge he's gained from experience will help him more than anything," Green said.

Partch's speed was also useful at the safety position.

"That gave us the luxury of doing some things up front since we knew he could cover a lot of ground."



Partch

Beau Rebel Ness City

Ness City coach Dave Foster needed a multi-dimensional quarterback to fit his spread offense. He found it in Beau Rebel.

Foster said after viewing film of the other quarterbacks in the state at a coaches' meeting last week, the six-foot, 180-pound senior from Ness City really stood out.

Rebel led his team to an 8-2 record, completing 135-of-251 passes for 1,868 yards and 21 touchdowns. His ability to throw on the run was unmatched, Foster said.

Rebel also rushed for 638 yards on 62 carries for 13 TDs.

"With that spread offense we run, we needed someone who could do so many different things," Foster said. "He wasn't a one-dimensional quarterback, and that's what we needed. He's a very impressive athlete as well as a young man."

Rebel also made 97 total tackles, 71 solo, at the linebacker position. He intercepted three passes, returning two for touchdowns in one game.

"You don't hear a lot about Beau Rebel as a defensive player because of all the amazing things he did on offense," Foster said.

Rebel was named to the all-Western Kansas Education Association first team and was an all-Class 2-1A offensive selection by the state's coaches.



Rebel

Jay Reid Brewster

Jay Reid put together some stellar passing stats as the quarterback for a solid Brewster team.

The 6-foot-3, 195 pound sophomore piloted the Bulldogs to an 8-1 overall record as his team missed a trip to state after losing to district champion Bird City-Cheylin.

In his second year starting for the Bulldogs and coach Larry O'Connor, Reid completed 121-of-213 passes for 2,143 yards and an incredible 43 touchdowns as the Bulldogs averaged 238 yards a game through the air.

The two-time all-Western Kansas Liberty League first-team selection had a completion rate of 57 percent, while throwing only eight interceptions.

He was also good when he kept the ball, rushing for 534 yards and 13 more scores.

Reid's favorite target was his brother, senior Jordan Reid. Jordan Reid made 49 receptions for 831 yards and 18 touchdowns, averaging 5.4 catches and 92.3 yards a game.

Reid is also a standout on the basketball court for Brewster. He was honored as an HDN Super 11 selection in that sport last year as a freshman, when the Bulldogs finished with a record of 22-2 an qualified for the 1A state tournament in Hays.



Reid

Travis Wagner Stockton

Travis Wagner was the go-to guy in Stockton's potent running attack, helping the Tigers reach the regional championship game and finish with a 9-2 record.

The 5-foot-11, 178-pound senior rushed for 1,853 yards on 265 carries for 22 touchdowns and averaged 24.1 yards on punt returns for another score.

Wagner also had an impact at cornerback with 27 total tackles and three interceptions.

"Travis played a big part, not only offensively, but defensively," Stockton coach Luke Claar said. "He was also a leader in our locker room and on the field. He did a tremendous job of fitting in with the type of system we wanted to put in here."

Claar said Wagner's ability to turn a three-yard gain into one of eight or nine yards and his ability to see downfield made him special.

"I look at him as a complete runner. He's not one-dimensional," Claar said. "Along with a good combination of speed and power, he's got good vision. He can see a tackler ahead of him and that gives him the ability to make cuts and get additional yards."

Wagner was a unanimous all-Mid-Continent League selection offensively and was also an all-league defensive back. He was named to the all-Class 2-1A list by the state's coaches.



Wagner

NMSU dominates Carson-Newman

By JENNA HALVATGIS ASSOCIATED PRESS

FLORENCE, Ala. — Chris Greisen threw two touchdown passes Saturday to lead Northwest Missouri State to a 24-6 win over Carson-Newman and give the Bearcats the Division II national title.

It was the first national championship in any sport for Northwest Missouri, which also became the first team to finish the year with a 15-0 record in Division II history.

The win also completed the Bearcats' turnaround. Five years ago, Northwest Missouri went 0-11 in coach Mel Tjeerdsma's first season, playing in almost empty stadiums. But the Bearcats are 43-0 since and were greeted by almost 2,000 fans at midfield after the game.

Greisen, who was recruited by Wisconsin until suffering a knee injury during his senior year of high school,

tied the Division II record for completions in a game by going 22-of-34 for 211 yards.

His 25-yard toss to J.R. Hill with 10:11 to play in the third gave Northwest Missouri a 24-6 lead. He also threw a 12-yard pass to Tony Miles at 9:58 in the second quarter to put the Bearcats up 14-6.

Carson-Newman (12-2) is now 0-5 in playoff games played in Florence's Braly Stadium, losing each year to the eventual national champion.

Carson-Newman took a 6-0 lead on its second possession of the game on a 36-yard play-action pass from Leonard Guyton to Jarvonn Jackson. But the Eagles struggled to move the ball the rest of the game in a steady downpour.

They had 112 yards total offense after the first quarter and finished with only 276. Carson-Newman also lost two of seven fumbles.

Meanwhile, Northwest Missouri

moved the ball up and down the soggy field. The Bearcats finished with 346 yards total offense and Miles had nine catches for 75 yards.

Derek Lane had an 8-yard touchdown run that gave the Bearcats a 7-6 lead with 14:13 to play in the second quarter. David Purnell's 42-yard field goal gave made it 17-6 before halftime.

CLAIBORNE WINS BUTKUS
Southern California junior Chris Claiborne received the Butkus Award as the nation's top Division I college linebacker.

Claiborne leads the Trojans with 107 tackles, 77 unassisted. He also has six interceptions and five sacks.

Claiborne edged Texas A&M's Dat Nguyen, the Chuck Bednarik Trophy winner as defensive player of the year, and Florida's Jevon Kearse in voting conducted by the Downtown Athletic Club of Orlando.



Northwest Missouri State coach Mel Tjeerdsma gets a ride from his players following a 24-6 win over Carson-Newman Saturday in the NCAA Division II title at Braly Municipal Stadium in Florence, Ala.

Shay wins Harlon Hill

FLORENCE, Ala. (AP) — Emporia State's Brian Shay, who quietly outran Ricky Williams of Texas this season to become college football's career rushing leader, won the Harlon Hill Trophy on Friday as the top player in Division II.

Shay, last year's runnerup, beat out Northern Colorado quarterback Corte McGuffey by a record 185 points.

Shay finished his career with 6,958 yards rushing and 9,301 all-purpose, both NCAA all-division records. He was largely overlooked in a year in which Williams garnered all the headlines while setting the Division I-A rushing record with 6,279 yards.

Shay led Division II in rushing, scoring and all-purpose yards this season, averaging 216.9 yards on the ground. He owns five NCAA records and 12 Division II marks.