

2006 All-Area Football Capsules

JARRET ABELL

Phillipsburg

Abell will leave Phillipsburg High School as not only the best returner in school history but one of the top all-time special teams players in Kansas lore.

Given just 14 return attempts this year (opposing teams rarely kicked to him), Abell took four back for touchdowns — giving him a state record 16 career return scores. Abell's nine career kickoff returns for scores is an individual state record, too.

By the way, Abell also rushed for 1,032 yards and 13 touchdowns this year and was a unanimous all-Mid-Central League selection at defensive back with three interceptions.

SJ: What is the highlight of your high school football career?

JA: My highlight of my high school career would have to be playing with all of my classmates again. We have played together since fifth grade, and we kind of got split up in high school, but our senior year we finally got to play together, and it was great.

SJ: Is there an athlete or non-athlete you consider a role model?

JA: Michael Vick because he is explosive and elusive. When you watch him, you never know what to expect. He could have an amazing run or escape from a near-impossible tackle in the pocket.

SJ: Name an accomplishment, not related to football, you are especially proud of?

JA: Being confirmed to my church. **SJ: What are your post-high school plans?**

JA: Hoping to play at the college level and getting a degree in computer technology or sports management.

SJ: Do you have any specific hobbies you enjoy?

JA: Hanging out with friends, hunting, playing Madden football, and messing around on the computer and Internet.

Phillipsburg coach J.B. Covington on Jarret:

"Jarret was just able to do so much for us. He could run the ball, catch it, defend and return. He excelled at all of them. Probably the thing that stood out the most was his ability to return kicks and punts. He's a fast kid, and he knew how to set up the blocks."

MICHAEL BAKER

Smoky Valley

Few teams in Class 4A were as stingy on defense as Smoky Valley was this season, allowing just 91 points in 10 games.

Behind much of the Vikings' success was linebacker Michael Baker, who recorded 88 total tackles including nine tackles for loss — numbers good enough to earn the 5-foot-11, 210-pound senior unanimous all-Mid Central Activities Association honors for the second straight season. Baker was also used frequently on offense, rushing for 592 yards and 10 touchdowns.

SJ: What is the highlight of your high school football career?

MB: If I had one highlight, I would have to say that it is beating Wichita Collegiate, who was ranked, my sophomore season.

SJ: Is there an athlete or non-athlete you consider a role model?

MB: Coach Chris McClure, who was our defensive coordinator and worked with our receivers. He has been a positive influence since the first day I met him. He was someone I looked up to on and off the field.

SJ: Name an accomplishment, not related to football, you are especially proud of?

MB: Maintaining a good grade point average throughout high school and helping the community through community service.

SJ: What are your post-high school plans?

MB: My plans are to play football at the college level. I want to major in secondary education or radiology.

SJ: Do you have any specific hobbies you enjoy?

MB: Camping, listening to music, hanging out with friends, swimming, a pick-up game of basketball and wrestling whenever I can.

Smoky Valley coach Gary Sandbo on Michael:

"When Michael first entered our football program in the seventh grade, we could see that he had the potential to be an outstanding player. He played on the varsity as a freshman and in each of the following four years played an increasingly important role in the success of our team, capped off by a really outstanding senior season in 2006."

CHARLIE DAVIS

Salina Central

Opposing teams couldn't contain Davis with just one player, so they double-teamed the 6-foot-4, 255-pound defensive lineman for Salina Central.

Even with the attention put on him, Davis still found plenty of success — recording 17 tackles for loss, six

sacks, four batted balls and two blocked kicks to earn first team all-Ark Valley Chisholm Trail League honors.

For his career, Davis finished with 10 sacks to rank second on the Mustangs' all-time list.

SJ: What is the highlight of your high school football career?

CD: The highlight of my high school football career was that I had the opportunity to play with a group of friends who were willing to work hard enough to win a state championship my junior year.

SJ: Is there an athlete or non-athlete you consider a role model?

CD: I use anyone who has had a serious injury, and is therefore no longer able to play football, as an inspiration. Those people had no idea that they were going to be hurt, and most of them would give anything to play one more snap.

SJ: Name an accomplishment, not related to football, you are especially proud of?

CD: I am especially proud to be part of a family who loves me and would do anything for me.

SJ: What are your post-high school plans?

CD: I am not sure what my future for football is, or if there will even be a future. As for schooling, I am unsure of what college I will be attending, but I plan on becoming a pharmacist.

SJ: Do you have any specific hobbies you enjoy?

CD: I enjoy relaxing and hanging out with friends in my spare time.

Salina Central coach Mike Hall on Charlie:

"Charlie was a captain for us this past season. He was a great leader for us. Charlie was the anchor to our defense. He often drew double teams so that others were able to make tackles. As one can see from the statistics, Charlie was able to make several plays despite the fact of often being double teamed."

LUCAS HAMM

Hillsboro

The cornerstone of a defense that allowed less than 11 points per game this season, Hamm was without a doubt a big part of Hillsboro's run to the Class 3A semifinals.

Hamm, a unanimous all-Mid Central Activities Association pick, finished his senior season with an eye-popping 165 tackles, 71 of which were solo, including seven tackles for loss. The 6-foot-4, 210-pounder was also an important part of the Trojans' offense, with 24 catches for 472 yards from his tight end spot.

SJ: What is the highlight of your high school football career?

LH: The highlight of my career was helping to lead my team back to the playoffs this year and getting the furthest in school history (sub-state).

SJ: Is there an athlete or non-athlete you consider a role model?

LH: My dad is my biggest role model. He is a farmer and the hardest working and most dedicated person that I know. It is through his example that has molded me into the person that I am and helped create my success in the classroom and athletics.

SJ: Name an accomplishment, not related to football, you are especially proud of?

LH: I am very proud of my success in the classroom, as well as on the field. I maintain a high GPA, and I am involved in many other school activities.

SJ: What are your post-high school plans?

LH: I plan to pursue my football career in college, but I am uncertain to which college.

SJ: Do you have any specific hobbies you enjoy?

LH: I enjoy both watching and playing sports, hanging out with friends, working on cars, watching movies, and just having fun.

Hillsboro coach Len Coryea on Lucas:

"Lucas was our leader. He was the heart of our defense. It seemed like the bigger the game, the bigger he played. He could do anything we needed him for. He is very athletic and has a good mind for the game. He always wants to be the best at everything he attempts. His desire for being the best is the drive behind Lucas."

NICK HARDESTY

Southeast of Saline

Southeast's offense relied heavily on Hardesty this season. As the statistics would indicate, the senior quarterback certainly delivered when his number was called.

Hardesty passed for 1,759 yards, rushed for another 1,357, and had a hand in 48 touchdowns in leading the Trojans to a 10-1 record and a trip to the Class 3A playoffs. He was also a



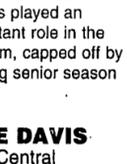
Davis



Abell



Baker



Hardesty



Hamm



Hardesty

ALL-AREA SECOND 11

Player, School	HT.	WT.	YR.	POS.
Joel Hardman, Canton-Galva	6-2	180	Sr.	WR-FS
Josh Hill, Salina South	5-9	236	Sr.	FB-DL
Matt James, Clay Center	6-1	205	Sr.	OL-DL
Caleb Kruse, Ellsworth	5-10	180	Jr.	RB-DB
Grant Levin, Kensington	6-2	185	Sr.	RB-LB
Cody Melander, SE-Saline	5-11	200	Sr.	OL
Aaron Racette, Oakley	6-2	220	Jr.	RB-DE
Kerby Rice, Smith Center	5-11	200	Jr.	FB-LB
Aaron Wedel, Sacred Heart	5-6	160	Jr.	WR-DB
Brennon Wilger, St. Francis	5-10	270	Sr.	OL-DL
Joe Windscheffel, Smith Center	6-2	202	Jr.	QB-DB

ALL-AREA THIRD 11

Player, School	HT.	WT.	YR.	POS.
Andrew Braxton, Salina Central	5-10	175	Jr.	RB
Kurtis Crawford, Salina South	5-10	156	Sr.	QB
Taylor Elder, Sharon Springs	5-11	171	Jr.	RB-DB
Cole Erbert, Ellis	6-1	195	Sr.	QB-LB
Adam Falcon, Sylvan	5-7	147	Sr.	QB-LB
Bryson Flax, Southeast-Saline	6-0	175	Sr.	WR-LB
Cass McMahan, Hope	6-5	195	Sr.	TE-DE
Blake Pruter, Hays	6-2	240	Sr.	OL-DE
Blake VanEaton, Norton	5-10	160	Sr.	RB-LB
Levi Weeden, St. Francis	6-2	195	Sr.	OL-LB
Kelly Younkin, Oakley	5-7	175	Jr.	RB-LB

HONORABLE MENTION

Kyle Allen, sr., Clay Center; Tanner Anderson, sr., Hope; Jacob Andres, sr., Solomon; Tate Arnold, jr., Smith Center; Jon Arveson, sr., Chapman; Drew Basgall, so., Atwood; Doug Beaton, sr., Southeast of Saline; Mark Bengston, sr., Smoky Valley; Jordan Boor, sr., Sylvan; Austin Carter, jr., Beloit; Brian Blackwell, sr., Herington; Jason Crawford, jr., Natoma; Dustin Cyr, jr., Clifton-Clyde; Travis Desbien, sr., Palco; Mike Diehl, sr., Chapman; Tobie Dirks, sr., Trego; Zach Dreher, so., Norton; Michael Edwards, sr., Salina South; Darren Enns, sr., Hillsboro; Bradly Esterl, sr., Beloit; Colby Ferris, sr., Republic County; Tony Frick, sr., Hillsboro; David Gerstner, jr., Hill City; Jordan Gienger, sr., St. Francis; Brayton Gillen, jr., Smith Center; Zach Griffith, jr., Salina South; Lucas Hachmeister, sr., Plainville; Tanner Hawkinson, sr., McPherson; Jason Heit, sr., Marion; Lucas Hicks, jr., Hope; J.T. Jeffrey, sr., Abilene; Bryant Johnson, sr., Concordia; Drew Joy, jr., Smith Center; Jamie Karst, sr., Wilson; Travis Kierscht, sr., Bennington; Levi Kiser, so., Logan; Tyson Knox, sr., Clifton-Clyde; Ben Kruse, sr., Ellsworth; Alex Krajicek, sr., Sacred Heart; Marty Lager, sr., Grinnell-Wheatland; Taylor Lang, jr., Victoria; Jacob Livesay, sr., Lincoln; Marcus McKenna, sr., Hoxie; Chad Modlin, sr., Rock Hills; Dominic Niewald, sr., SJ Beloit-Tipton; Alex Parker, jr., Salina Central; Heath Patrick, sr., Ell-Saline; Jacob Pera, sr., Clay Center; Ian Peters, jr., Pike Valley; Lincoln Pochop, jr., Cheylin; Nick Puetz, jr., Southeast of Saline; Ted Regehr, jr., Canton-Galva; Jace Robinson, sr., Oberlin; Mason Rohleder, sr., Russell; Jameon Rush, sr., Clay Center; Cade Scott, jr., Victoria; Marcus Seirer, sr., Wakefield; Michael Selby, sr., Hays; Josh Smith, sr., Jewell; Tel Soukup, sr., Wilson; Chase Sperber, sr., Oakley; Brett Sperser, sr., Golden Plains; Tommy Struble, sr., Salina Central; Camron Thissen, sr., McPherson; Mitchell Tuma, jr., Colby; Terry Urban, sr., Oberlin; Craig Venters, sr., Sylvan; Cody VonLintel, sr., Victoria; Ben Warta, sr., Atwood; Jordy Webb, so., Tescott; Nathan White, jr., Quivira Heights; Braden Wilson, jr., Smith Center; Jared Woltje, sr., Washington County; Jordan Wyatt, sr., Washington County; Eric Young, jr., Weskan; Tyler Zachman, sr., Russell.

SELECTION PROCESS

Every coach in the Salina Journal's circulation area is mailed an All-Area ballot to be returned with nominations from his own team, as well as opposing teams. Ballots then are tabulated by Salina Journal prep writer Sean Purcell, who also gets additional input from other members of the media and coaches.

fixture on a defense that allowed an average of 7.6 points per game, with 16 tackles for loss and four forced fumbles from his linebacker spot.

SJ: What is the highlight of your high school football career?

NH: The highlight of my football career is the playoff experience our team has had the last three years, especially last year's state championship run.

SJ: Is there an athlete or non-athlete you consider a role model?

NH: I use my dad as a role model for every aspect of my life. He was a great athlete in his day, and he is helping me to pick out the right college for my future.

SJ: What are your post-high school plans?

NH: I am currently undecided on where I am going to college. I don't know if I will play football, baseball, or both. My main goal is to get a good education along with a great college experience. I would love to play football, but we will have to see what happens.

SJ: Do you have any specific hobbies you enjoy?

NH: I love to get together with my friends and play dunkball, video games or just hang out. I am looking forward to the snow because we get together and play snow football.

Southeast coach Pat Haxton on Nick:

"A combination of things made Nick successful. He is very intelligent, very coachable, very hard working, he has tremendous leadership skills, and he's also, of course, very athletic. If you combine all those things together you have a very special player, which is what Nick was."

WILLIAM IRVINE

Chapman

When Chapman put points on the scoreboard this season, more times than not it was Irvine doing the damage.

Irvine scored 173 points as a senior, 23 touchdowns and 35 extra point kicks, to help lead the Irish back to the Class 4A state playoffs. From his running back spot, Irvine rushed for 1,021 yards and 18

scores. As Chapman's starting free safety, the 6-foot-1, 175-pounder recorded 99 tackles and three interceptions.

SJ: What is the highlight of your high school football career?

WI: When I played my first varsity game as a freshman, and I finally got to be part of the Chapman tradition.

SJ: Is there an athlete or non-athlete you consider a role model?

WI: (Former Chapman player) Zac Sheets is my role model because he has been like a big brother to me. Ever since I was young, I've tried to be like him. He is a great leader, and he has been there for me in many things like sports and school.

SJ: Name an accomplishment, not related to football, you are especially proud of?

WI: Jon Arveson and I have won the Kansas Association of Broadcasters (award) in play-by-play for 2006 in journalism, and I'm in our school's select mixed ensemble. It is great fun to go out and sing around the area.

SJ: What are your post-high school plans?

WI: I plan to play football in college, but am undecided where I want to play. I also want to become a wildlife biologist.

SJ: Do you have any specific hobbies you enjoy?

WI: I enjoy the outdoors. I love to go hunting during the winter and just being outside at all times. Fishing, horseback riding, mudding, hunting, all sports and girls.

Chapman coach Tom Smith on William:

"Will has a lot of athletic talent to go along with a passion to go hard all of the time. You always knew you were going to get 110-percent effort from him every Friday night."

JOEL MCATEE

St. Francis

In a Northwest Kansas League

filled with outstanding running backs, McAtee proved to be head and shoulders above the rest when he was the only offensive player to receive unanimous all-league recognition this year.

One of three running backs in St. Francis' wishbone offense, McAtee made the most of his limited opportunities — rushing for a team-leading 1,290 and 19 touchdowns on just 120 carries (a 10.75 average) for the 11-2 Indians. He was also one of Sainty's top defenders, recording 94 tackles from his linebacker spot to earn first-team NWKL honors.

SJ: What is the highlight of your high school football career?

JM: Starting at a young age as a sophomore and becoming second on the rushing list behind my older brother Justin McAtee.

SJ: Is there an athlete or non-athlete you consider a role model?

JM: As far as sports goes, Justin pushed me because if someone was going to break his record, he wanted it to be me.

SJ: What are your post-high school plans?

JM: I would like to go play football, but (I'm still) undecided. For schooling, I would probably go for geology.

SJ: Do you have any specific hobbies you enjoy?

JM: Hunting, girls and X-box.

St. Francis coach Tim Lambert on Joel:

"Joel was a big-play back but also tough for short yardage. He played a vital role on both sides of the ball. At linebacker and strong safety, he was tough to block and a very good tackler. He was also a very good blocker when he was not running the ball."

KIRK PALMER

Smith Center

Any kind of offensive success Smith Center had this season usually started with Palmer. The 5-foot-11, 210-pound center anchored an offensive line that helped the Redmen rack up 5,266 rushing yards this season on their way to a 13-0 record and a third straight Class 2-1A state title.

Palmer, a unanimous all-Mid Central selection at center, was also one of Smith Center's top defenders this year. He ranked second in solo tackles with 48 for a team that surrendered just 96 points (7.4 per game) all season.

SJ: What is the highlight of your high school football career (so far)?

KP: Being part of three state championship teams has been a huge highlight for me. I am hoping we can make it four in a row when I return for my senior year.

SJ: Is there an athlete or non-athlete you consider a role model?

KP: My biggest role model is my dad. He is always supportive of me and has always been there for me. He is proud of me no matter what. He is always pushing me to be the best.

SJ: Name an accomplishment, not related to football, you are especially proud of?

KP: My grades are pretty good, and I am very close with my family and friends.

SJ: What are your post-high school plans?

KP: I am undecided at this point, but I would like to either play football or wrestle in college.

SJ: Do you have any specific hobbies you enjoy?

KP: I enjoy hunting, fishing, being with my friends and having a good time.

Smith Center coach Roger Barta on Kirk:

"He's a great athlete, really talented, really competitive and an exceptionally strong young man. He's a good player."

JARED PFEIFER

Victoria

No matter what Pfeifer was doing for Victoria this season, the senior was making an impact doing it.

Pfeifer, who from a

linebacker position led his team in tackles for the third straight season, anchored a defensive unit that helped take the Knights (12-

1) to an Eight-Man II title — the program's second eight-man crown in three years. Pfeifer finished his senior year with 132 tackles, five interceptions and five sacks on defense and even managed to score 13 offensive touchdowns despite limited touches.

SJ: What is the highlight of your high school football career?

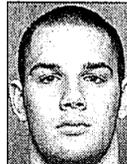
JP: Being able to make it to two state championship games, and win two state championships.

SJ: Is there an athlete or non-athlete you consider a role model?

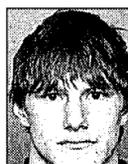
JP: Brian Urlacher, linebacker for the Chicago Bears. The guy is just a stud.



McAtee



Palmer



Irvine



Simoneau

SJ: What are your post-high school plans?

JP: Go on to play at the next level.

SJ: Do you have any specific hobbies you enjoy?

JP: Riding ATVs (all-terrain vehicles).

Victoria coach Doug Oberle on Jared:

"Jared is not big, he is not fast. If you look at him, you wouldn't pick him out to be a great linebacker or football player, but he is. He plays with great leverage, whether he is on offense or defense. He is very smart, and he works hard at being a good football player. He is always smiling, the only time he stopped smiling was when he