



Jarrett Abell
Sophomore KR
Phillipsburg

19 kickoff returns
700 return yards (36.8 avg.)
5 KO ret. TDs (3A record)
2 punt return TDs



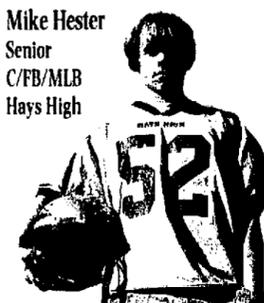
Jeff Brull
Senior RB/S
Victoria

103 tackles
5 interceptions
3 fumble recoveries



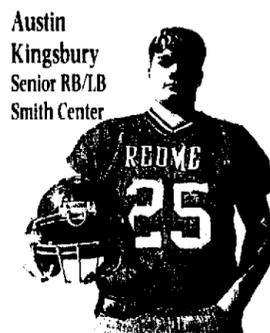
Beau Cox
Senior RB/DB
Weskan

232 rushes
2,215 rushing yards
42 TDs
4,000+ career rushing yards



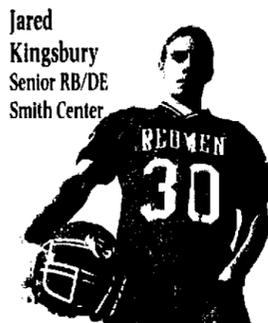
Mike Hester
Senior C/FB/MLB
Hays High

128 total tackles
7 tackles for loss
4 blocked kicks
2 rushing TDs



Austin Kingsbury
Senior RB/LB
Smith Center

218 rushes
2,002 yards
23 TDs
98 tackles, 2 int., 2 fumble rec.



Jared Kingsbury
Senior RB/DE
Smith Center

161 rushes
1,760 yards
20 TDs
62 tackles, 3 fumble rec.

Special teams makes special players. Abell, as a sophomore, set the Class 3A record for kickoffs returned for a touchdown in a single season with five, while setting the Panthers up with good field position, averaging 36.8 yards per kickoff return.

Phillipsburg went the farthest in the Class 3A playoffs in school history, falling in the regional title game to eventual champion Conway Springs.

As a first-team all-Mid Continent League selection, Abell returned 19 kickoffs this season for 700 total yards and had five total kickoffs returned for a touchdown, while averaging 36.8 yards per return. He also returned two punts for scores.

Abell called this season a great learning experience for the years to come and hopes to help the Panthers go even farther in the playoffs next season.

He said he tries to model himself after Dante Hall of the Kansas City Chiefs. Just a sophomore, Abell could have more good years ahead.

Abell notes

Favorite athlete — Michael Vick
Role model — Dante Hall
Favorite football team — Chiefs
Favorite food — Cosmic Brownies
Pregame ritual — Singing "I Will Survive" in the locker room.

Mr. everything. That's probably a fitting title for Jeff Brull. Not that he earned numerous awards, nor was he the most recognized player for the Eight-Man, Division I state champion Victoria Knights. But, when his team needed something big defensively, Brull was there to jump at the challenge. In the Knights' sub-state championship win over Jetmore, Brull had three interceptions — one in the end zone on a 2-point conversion and two on defense. Brull knew that the odds were stacked against the Knights when the season started and traditionally teams with three losses don't have a chance in eight-man football when it comes to the playoffs, but "Our team never lost hope and we overcame everything that was against us," Brull said.

In the Knights' district win over Kensington, a favorite in district play, Brull turned a botched punt into a 50-yard pass play on fourth down, which eventually set up a go-ahead score. Brull's constant special teams play and defensive intensity were a crucial part of the Knights' storybook run.

Brull notes

Favorite athlete — Lance Armstrong
Favorite football team — Chiefs
Favorite food — steak
Favorite game of 2004 — Defeating Jetmore for sub-state championship.

With the most rushing yards of anyone in the area, seven interceptions and 120 yards receiving on just 11 receptions, Beau Cox was instant offense.

He has been first team all-Western Kansas Liberty League the past two seasons at running back and in 2004 was selected as first team all-WKLL as a defensive back.

He averaged 9.5 yards per carry this season and the Coyotes had amassed such large leads in two games that he would sit out after the second quarter, or he would have had even more yards.

"This year was a lot of fun," Cox said. "We had a bunch of great guys that worked hard to get to where we were. The time I've gotten to spend with these guys is something I will always remember."

Family values are obvious in the Cox family. Beau enjoys a lunch comprised of mom's spaghetti on game days and said his role model is his dad — "he is supportive of me in everything I do."

Cox notes

Favorite athlete — Ray Lewis
Favorite football team — Kansas State
Favorite food — Steak
Pregame rituals — Eat mom's spaghetti on game day.

He just loves to knock people around. Hays High senior Mike Hester, being recruited by NCAA Division I-A schools, tallied 128 total tackles this season for Hays High.

Hester was one of only a few players to see time both ways in head coach Kent Teeter's two-platoon system. He served as the Indians' center and was in at fullback during a few games this year. He recorded two rushing touchdowns.

The 215-pound Hester also forced opposing quarterbacks into nine hurries and had two passes deflected and knocked down four field goals and forced three fumbles from his middle linebacker spot. He recovered two of them for the Indians.

Hester was an all-state pick from this year and was an All-Western Athletic Conference team member for the past two seasons.

Hester is looking into several different schools at all levels, but hopes to play Division I-A ball.

Hester notes

Favorite athlete — Darren Sproles
Role model — Dick Butkus
Favorite football team — Titans
Favorite game of 2004 — Pratt game.

According to longtime Redmen coach Roger Barta, Austin Kingsbury is one of the best backs to ever play for Smith Center. The Smith Center halfback rushed for 2,002 yards for an undefeated Class 2-1A state championship football team.

On top of being part of one of the best scoring offenses in the state, Kingsbury was a linebacker on a Smith Center team that gave up just 75 points all season. The Redmen put up 716 points and 6,165 rushing yards out of the wishbone, with Kingsbury being responsible for 23 TDs.

To go along with the rushing totals, Kingsbury also caught four passes from quarterback Jordan Hommon for 132 yards and three touchdowns.

Kingsbury had 204 total rushing yards in the Class 2-1A state title game and rushed for two touchdowns in the 36-14 win over Pittsburg/St. Mary's-Colgan.

The state crown was the first in 2-1A, but the fourth in Smith Center history.

A. Kingsbury notes

Favorite athlete — Mark Simoneau
Favorite football team — Eagles
Favorite food — Steak
Pregame ritual — Ankles taped in same order by the same coach.

It's not very often the second-leading rusher on a team would run for 1,760 yards.

Jared Kingsbury made the most of his 161 carries, finishing as the second-leading rusher for the 2-1A state champs.

Add to that 21 total touchdowns and he is a feature back on any other team in the state.

Kingsbury had one receiving touchdown this year and caught four passes for 63 yards, accounting for 1,823 yards of total offense this season.

At defensive end, Kingsbury recorded 62 tackles and had three fumble recoveries and one blocked kick.

In one word, Kingsbury described Smith Center's undefeated season as just plain "awesome."

The Redmen ended the 66-game winning streak of defending state champion Pittsburg/St. Mary's-Colgan in the Class 2-1A state title game in Hays.

Kingsbury rushed for 208 yards for the Redmen in the state title game.

J. Kingsbury notes

Favorite athlete — Mark Simoneau
Favorite football team — Kansas State
Favorite food — All of it
Pregame rituals — Eat with the team; sleep in the same spot before the game; sit in the same spot on the bus; wear the same clothes every week.



Austin Panter
Senior RB/LB
Kensington

1,397 rushing yards
195 passing yards
36 total TDs, 176.9 yards/game
103 tackles

Austin Panter averaged 176.9 yards of total offense per game in his final season at Kensington, including 8.9 yards per carry.

The Goldbugs had only one loss in nine games, dropping a game to eight-man state champion Victoria by four points on the road.

Panter's favorite game was beating rival Palco, much to Panter's delight, "by the mercy rule."

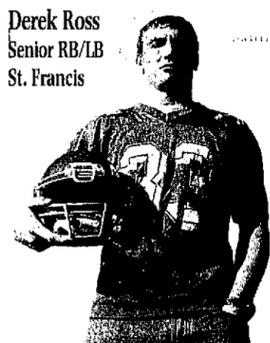
"We had an excellent year," the 225-pound Panter said. "Lots of young players stepped up and played a big role. It was a very good year and very fun, but it was kind of disappointing not making the playoffs. Other than that we had a great season."

At linebacker, Panter was in on 103 tackles. He also had 195 passing yards on the season and accounted for 36 touchdowns. He had 1,397 yards rushing.

Panter said he doesn't know what his future holds, but said he hopes to continue playing football.

Panter notes

Favorite athlete — Ray Lewis
Favorite football team — Baltimore Ravens & Kansas State Wildcats
Favorite food — Steak & lobster.
Favorite game of 2004 — Rivalry game against Palco.



Derek Ross
Senior RB/LB
St. Francis

247 rushes
1,513 rushing yards
15 TDs
121 tackles (43 solo), 3 sacks

St. Francis halfback Derek Ross finished his career going over the 3,000-yard mark in total offense in the wishbone and registering more than 200 tackles.

It's obvious Ross' passion for speed. His favorite athlete? Roy Williams of the NFL. His role models? Williams, Terrence Newman and Priest Holmes.

Ross is also a wrestler, and while you can't deny his talent, perhaps there is something to be said for those who are superstitious, which he says he is not.

But he does have a pregame ritual that he goes through on Friday nights.

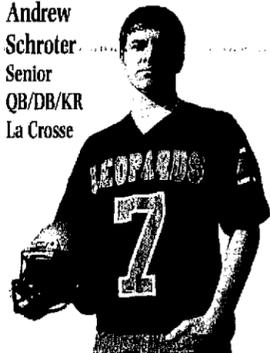
Ross said before every game he has his own quiet time. After that, he puts his socks and shoes on in the exact same order.

Ross's 1,513 rushing yards led St. Francis to the Class 2-1A Sectionals, where the Indians fell to eventual state champion Smith Center.

As for college plans: "I'd like to play football," he said. "But I haven't decided yet."

Ross notes

Favorite athlete — Roy Williams
Favorite football team — Chiefs
Favorite food — Steak & potatoes
Favorite game of 2004 — La Crosse game.



Andrew Schroter
Senior QB/DB/KR
La Crosse

1,169 rushing yards (14 TDs)
739 passing yards (8 TDs)
6 int. (2 TDs)
33.7 KO ret. avg. (4 TD)

La Crosse's Andrew Schroter averaged 7.3 yards per rush and threw with 50.1 percent accuracy for the Leopards.

He was their quarterback, their free safety and their kick return man.

Also a successful track and basketball athlete, Schroter ran a 4.52 second 40-yard dash and has run the 100-meter dash in 10.8 seconds.

Schroter was a unanimous first team selection in the Central Prairie League on offense and as a kick returner.

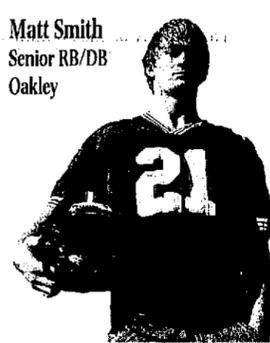
He said his favorite game was the last home game of the year and last of his career, as he and his teammates "pitched a shutout" against Satanta.

"It was a great year to end my high school career on," Schroter said. "We started off slow, but once our younger guys were around, things started to click a little better. We were surrounded by great coaches and great fans, which made it all the better."

Schroter accounted for 28 touchdowns in the school's longest playoff run.

Schroter notes

Favorite athlete — Emmitt Smith.
Pregame ritual — short prayer.
Favorite football team — Dallas Cowboys
Favorite game of 2004 — shutout win over Satanta in final home game.



Matt Smith
Senior RB/DB
Oakley

198 rushes
1,709 rushing yards
31 TDs
71 tackles, 2 int.

As a key player for Plainsmen coach Randall Rath's overachievers, Smith had 1,709 yards rushing on offense and 71 tackles and two interceptions on defense to finish out his senior campaign.

His efforts earned him first team Northwest Kansas League honors on both offense and defense.

"It was a great year with many good victories, but ended on an upsetting loss to Clafin," Smith said.

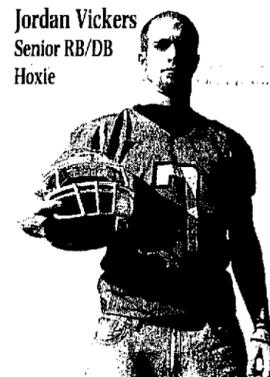
The senior year also halted another streak of sorts, as Smith revealed he wore the same shirt under his pads all season long.

He gained all his yards behind an offensive line that was smaller on average than most of the teams the Plainsmen faced. Oakley lost to state power Clafin in the 2-1A Sectional Championships on the road in Clafin. Oakley's other loss was to 4A state power Goodland.

A 6-foot, 190-pounder, Smith recorded 71 tackles and had two interceptions.

Smith notes

Favorite athlete — Priest Holmes
Favorite football team — Chiefs
Favorite food — Pizza
Pregame rituals — Watch game film in the cafeteria.



Jordan Vickers
Senior RB/DB
Hoxie

128 rushes
1,747 rushing yards
21 TDs
13.6 yards per rush

He was one of the most talked about running backs in the area since the first week of the season.

And all season long he never let up.

Vickers finished his prep career producing more than two miles of total offense — 4,014 career yards, including 52 touchdowns.

In his four years at Hoxie, Vickers went from 58 total rushing yards during his freshman year to 666 yards in 2002 to 1,308 last year and this fall he produced 1,747 yards while averaging 13.6 yards per carry.

Though he plans on pursuing higher education in the fall, he said he does not know where or if he will be playing sports.

His favorite game of the season, naturally, was against Northwest Kansas League rival St. Francis, a team the Indians had not beaten in 11 years.

"It was a good season for me and my team," Panter said. "We didn't quite make it as far as we wanted, but we all stuck through it and had a great season."

Vickers notes

Favorite athlete — Emmitt Smith.
Favorite football team — Dallas Cowboys & Nebraska Cornhuskers
Favorite food — Chinese
Favorite game of 2004 — defeating St. Francis after 11 years.



Chris Windholz
Coach
Victoria

10 Wins, 3 Losses in 2004
2nd year
19-5 in two seasons

Winning the Eight-Man, Division I state championship was the perfect ending for Chris Windholz's season. In just his second year, Windholz has only lost five games.

He did it in one of the toughest districts in Eight-Man I this season, featuring both Kensington and Bushton-Quivira Heights, early favorites to make a run at the state title.

Windholz said the larger districts played to everyone's advantage, making every game a potential playoff game. The Knights made the playoffs with a tiebreaking win over Kensington at home.

"The larger districts are a good thing. It intensifies every game out there, which motivates the teams. It makes the situation that much more competitive," he said.

The Knights, an independent since it dropped down to eight-man, will join the Central Prairie League next season.

"There is no question that we would like to build some momentum and this season has allowed us to do that," said Windholz. "This season provided some positive reinforcement for what we want to do."

Windholz also played on the 1988 Victoria state title team.

THE HAYS DAILY NEWS
21st ANNUAL
2004
ALL-AREA
AGES 11

11-MAN 2ND TEAM		11-MAN 3RD TEAM		11-MAN HBI		8-MAN 2ND TEAM		8-MAN 3RD TEAM		8-MAN HBI	
PLAYER	SCHOOL	PLAYER	SCHOOL	PLAYER	SCHOOL	PLAYER	SCHOOL	PLAYER	SCHOOL	PLAYER	SCHOOL
Connor Barnes, sr.	Smith Center	Neil Aguilera, sr.	Cody	Andy Bartz, jr.	Trego	Heath Baird, sr.	Brewster	James Bruggart, sr.	Victoria	Tyler Ammon, jr.	Lions-Luna
David Boulder, sr.	Smith Center	Jeff Dennis, sr.	Clayton	Andy Casey, jr.	Pleasant	Jerry Cooper, jr.	Northern Valley	Brandon Galey, jr.	Brewster	Jordan Baker, sr.	Tripoli
Ty Brunwald, sr.	Tugo	Michael Garman, jr.	Hill City	Case Brown, soph.	Ellis		Valley	Cole Kinderkracht, soph.	Northern Valley	Mark Baker, jr.	Palco
Dean Cooper, sr.	Horn	Brook Loh, sr.	Goodland	Lance Fouts, sr.	Oswin	Nolan Cox, sr.	Weskan	Rodney Landis, jr.	Valley	Clyde Holman, jr.	Victoria
Derrick Raymer, sr.	Goodland	Ryan Muckel, sr.	Near	Ben Gabel, sr.	Near-Dighton	Tyson Drilling, sr.	Victoria	Thomas Catmeyer, sr.	Palco	Grant Lyle, soph.	Victoria
Kyle Shank, sr.	Smith Center	Nick Morrison, sr.	Near-Dighton	Nathan Harrison, sr.	Hays High	Mark Johnson, sr.	Healy		Northern Valley	Clayton Nelson, jr.	Avonlea
Bob Schuch, sr.	St. Francis	Gregory Rinkler, sr.	Clayton	Tom Harrison, soph.	St. Francis	Jason Miller, sr.	Golden Plains	Mary Seppala, jr.	Weskan	Tom Schuch, sr.	Weskan
Andy Thomas, sr.	Phillipsburg	Justin Rinkler, sr.	Smith Center	Allen Schaefer, jr.	St. Francis	Jason Baker, jr.	Kensington	Boyd Benson, sr.	Weskan	Tom Schuch, sr.	Weskan
Greg Stone, sr.	St. Francis	Justin Schuch, sr.	Northern Valley	Tom Kelley, sr.	Smith Center	Bryce Trump, sr.	Palco	Drew Blos, sr.	Clayton	Tom Schuch, sr.	Weskan
Tyler Thomas, sr.	Tim-Mahara	Blake Steiner, sr.	Clayton	Tyler Schultz, sr.	Cadott						
Lucy Thomas, sr.	Goodland	Paul Hertz, sr.	Cody	Tommy Hertz, jr.	Hays High						