



11-MAN FIRST TEAM

PLAYER	CLASS	SCHOOL
Aaron Bedore, sr.	Stobton	
Zach Brown, sr.	Colby	
Scott Caspers, Jr.	Hays High	
Ryan Cutwell, Jr.	St. Francis	
Greg Meyer, sr.	Hoxie	
Preston Morse, sr.	La Crosse	
Brent Overmiller, Jr.	Smith Center	
Zach Peterson, sr.	Norton	
Charlie Robban, sr.	Oakley	
Tanner Schmidt, soph.	Atwood	
Jace Stewart, Jr.	Hays High	

11-MAN SECOND TEAM

PLAYER	CLASS	SCHOOL
Lester Buter, sr.	Hays High	
Tommy Boney, sr.	Hays High	
Zach Gregoire, Jr.	Norton	
Grant Lacy, sr.	TMP-Marian	
Johnny Nelson, sr.	Smith Center	
Logan Prideaux, sr.	Atwood	
T.J. Steab, Jr.	Plainville	
Damian Stephens, sr.	Colby	
Luke Stone, sr.	Goodland	
Johnny Timm, sr.	Atwood	
Tyler Watson, sr.	Ellis	

11-MAN THIRD TEAM

PLAYER	CLASS	SCHOOL
Luke Dannefer, sr.	Osborne	
Aaron Gilleple, sr.	Oberlin	
Clinton Horinek, sr.	Quinter	
Blaise Kaufman, sr.	Russell	
Tyler Lang, sr.	Trego	
Chris Long, sr.	Quinter	
Chad Look, sr.	Stockton	
Cade McDonald, Jr.	Phillipsburg	
Travis Most, sr.	Atwood	
Kyle Williams, sr.	Hoxie	
Jeff Williams, sr.	Hays High	

8-MAN FIRST TEAM

PLAYER	CLASS	SCHOOL
Brett Albenberger, sr.	Grinnell	
Matt Birnman, sr.	Grinnell	
Clint Horinek, sr.	Brewster	
Joe Magle, sr.	Healy-Utica	
Josh Miller, sr.	Golden Plains	
Josh Mussman, sr.	Northern Valley	
Logan Robinson, Jr.	Eastern Heights	
Landon Steele, sr.	Weskan	

8-MAN SECOND TEAM

PLAYER	CLASS	SCHOOL
Caleb Cox, Jr.	Northern Valley	
Brandon Gehring, Jr.	Paico	
Trent Gottschalk, Jr.	Logan	
Justin Hesterman, sr.	Kensington	
Kyle Knouf, sr.	Eastern Heights	
Dale Windholz, sr.	Victoria	
Chad Wolf, sr.	Grinnell	
Derek Yarmer, soph.	Otto-Bleon	

8-MAN THIRD TEAM

PLAYER	CLASS	SCHOOL
Dain Carman, sr.	Golden Plains	
Wes DuBois, Jr.	Jennings-Lenora	
Jerod Horcham, sr.	Ransom-Bazine	
Joel Laurin, sr.	Northern Valley	
Nathan Lund, sr.	Natoma	
Tanner Lyle, sr.	Natoma	
Chance Rains, sr.	Sharon Springs	
Mat Waltman, sr.	Triplains	

COACH: Long new QB after injury

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

"The key for us all year wasn't scoring every time we got the ball, but make first downs," Lambert said.

The emergence of junior Ty Long at quarterback also was important.

When Walters was sidelined in Week 3 in the first half of the Goodland game, in stepped Long.

The Indians led 14-6 at halftime in that game, and Long led St. Francis to a 28-22 victory.



Lambert

"That was big for us," Lambert said. "If we lost that game, we might have had confidence problems. It was one of the biggest points of the season."

Long didn't have the game-breaking ability of Walters, but he kept the offense clicking.

"He's not as good a runner as Mike," Lambert said. "As far as running the offense, he does a super job. We didn't miss a beat."

Had to be the playoffs. St. Francis had unbeaten records when they met in Week 9. St. Francis won 24-6, its first victory over Atwood since 1996, and clinched the district title in the process.

"They play good football over there," Lambert said. "We've just had a tough time with them."

"That win was a big thing."

Dick Barnes TMP-Marian

Often, linemen don't get the recognition they deserve.

But it's hard not to notice a 6-foot-3, 213-pound offensive tackle rounding the corner to pancake an opposing cornerback.

That's what senior Dick Barnes did this season for the Thomas More Prep-Marian football team. Barnes was a vital part of junior halfback Luke Gottschalk's success running the ball this season.

Gottschalk was also an HDN Super 11 pick.



Barnes

"Dick has tremendous athleticism and strength," TMP-Marian coach Gene Flax said. "There's no question that he is a true force."

Barnes, who is also a standout in track and field, had several pancake blocks to spring Monarch running backs on long gains this year in Flax's patented toss-and-trap attack.

"I had a college coach looking at game film and he was amazed to see Dick get out ahead of the runners and do the things he did," Flax said. "Things like that don't go unnoticed when people see that kind of stuff being done."

Barnes was an honorable mention all-Mid-State Activities Association selection at defensive tackle. But he was a first-team selection at defensive end where he finished with 78 tackles (22 solo). He also had a team-high seven sacks and two blocked punts.

Dustin Dunn St. Francis

St. Francis coach Tim Lambert may have summed it up best when he said what junior halfback Dustin Dunn meant to the Indians this fall.

"He was really kind of the heart-beat of the team," Lambert said. "He gave us a lot of intensity and excitement every game. What was big about him was what he brought to the table. That was the best part of his game."

Dunn, a 6-foot, 205-pounder, was a big key for the 11-1 Indians. On offense, Dunn rushed for 1,559 yards on 231 carries and scored 18 touchdowns on his right halfback spot in St. Francis' wishbone. He was an all-Northwest Kansas League unanimous selection at running back.

On defense, the linebacker tallied a team-high 46 solo tackles and 59 assisted tackles.

"He was a big hitter," Lambert said. "Dunn played weakside linebacker for us, and next year we'll move him over to the strong side. But he's as good as we've ever had."

Dunn was instrumental in the Indians getting by long-time rival Atwood in district action to reach the Class 2-1A playoffs, where the Indians lost in sub-state.

"We knew he was going to be good," Lambert said. "And he really stepped it up. He played a big role in us reaching the playoffs this year."



Dunn

Luke Gottschalk TMP-Marian

He was part of Thomas More Prep-Marian coach Gene Flax's two-headed monster.

And the one that got most of the headlines after big games.

Luke Gottschalk, a 6-foot, 187-pound junior halfback for the Monarchs, rushed for 1,347 yards on 202 carries and scored 14 touchdowns. He rushed for a career-high and school record 401 yards on 24 carries and scored six TDs in a 41-18 win over Russell in the final regular season game. Most of those yards came behind senior offensive tackle Dick Barnes, another HDN Super 11 selection.

Gottschalk, whose older brother T.J. set the school's single-game (301) and single-season (1,596) rushing records last year, was a different running back than his brother, Flax said.

"You can't compare Luke to T.J.," Flax said. "They're two different people. Luke is a great running back in his own sense. He's got great power and decent speed and can make some good cuts."

But the all-Mid-State Activities Association getting by long-time rival Atwood in district action to reach the Class 2-1A playoffs, where the Indians lost in sub-state.

"He's actually kind of shy when it comes to that."

But on defense, Vap wasn't shy at all when meeting the ball carrier. He finished with 64 tackles (38 solo), two fumble recoveries and eight sacks in eight games from his defensive tackle spot. La Crosse finished 8-1, with one win coming by forfeit.

"On defense, a lot of teams ran away from him," Keeley said. "And if they ran his way, teams would try to double- or triple-team him."

Keeley said the all-Western Kansas Education Association selection made his biggest strides on offense.

"He started on the defensive line as a sophomore, but the offensive line is where he made the most improvements," Keeley said. "(Offensively), there were more schemes and he had to think quite a bit more. And from last year to this year, he made great improvements. He just dominated."



Gottschalk

Blaine Jacobs Russell

Blaine Jacobs wasn't the biggest running back or outside.

But what the Russell senior lacked in size, he made up for in strength and ability.

"He could run inside or outside," Russell coach Phil Wilson said. "He was only 170 pounds, but he had good strength to help him get that extra yard. He's one of the most talented running backs I've had."

And at 5-foot-11 and 170 pounds, Jacobs did his best big back impersonation against several opponents this fall.

Jacobs finished with 1,195 yards rushing while scoring 14 touchdowns. He averaged 133 yards a game for the 6-3 Broncos.

"He was our I-back and our go-to guy," Wilson said. "He was a dependable runner."

Jacobs was also dependable on defense. He finished second on the team with 85 total tackles as a defensive back.

He also shined on special teams, averaging 33 yards a punt for the Broncos.

Jacobs was a first-team all-North Central Activities Association selection on both offense and defense.

"He's done a good job with the success that he's had," Wilson said. "He's aware that the line did a good job and so did the rest of the team."



Jacobs

Kevin Partch Cheylin

Not many teams stopped Bird City-Cheylin senior Kevin Partch.

The Cougars' standout running back rushed for 1,680 yards on 181 carries and scored 35 touchdowns.

"Some games, we gave it to him 30 times," Cheylin coach Michael Green said. "Other games it wasn't quite as much because he would break it for long gains. He had a couple games over 300 yards and several over 200."

"Tribune held him to 60 or 70 yards, but other teams couldn't stop him. He's just a super kid."

Green said Partch's speed made him tough to tackle.

"I think his main asset was his quickness," he said. "Once he got through the hole, he was at full speed in a couple of strides. And not a lot of people are going to catch him once he gets going."

The 5-foot-10, 160-pounder was an all-Western Kansas Liberty League selection three straight seasons.

He also finished with 66 tackles and two interceptions from his defensive back spot.

Partch also returned three kickoffs for TDs for Cheylin (6-3).

"He's just a pretty unselfish kid," Green said. "He doesn't know or care how many yards he would have in a game. The wins or losses were more important to him than any of that."



Partch

Jay Reid Brewster

Brewster coach Larry O'Connor thinks a lot of people in the area may have the wrong impression of senior standout Jay Reid, just because he is a standout in every sport he plays.

"He's never said anything about points or touchdowns or anything like that," O'Connor said. "In four years, that's never come up once."

"I think the area has a misconception about him about how cocky or arrogant he is just because he's had success. But he's none of that at all."

If any of those coaches had any misconceptions about the 6-foot-3, 212-pound quarterback and linebacker, they were quickly put to rest by Reid's actions on the field. Reid simply let his ability do the talking.

Reid finished the season 98-for-146 passing for 1,472 yards and 29 touchdowns. In his career, he has passed for 6,858 yards and a state-record 125 TDs.

The powerful quarterback also rushed for 703 yards on 91 carries and 19 more TDs this year.

Reid, a first-team all-Western Kansas Liberty League selection on offense and defense, was also a hard hitter at linebacker. He finished with 154 total tackles, four sacks and two interceptions. He averaged just over 15 tackles a game.

O'Connor said Reid also had a 3.9 GPA off the field.



Reid

Austin Thalheim Northern Valley

Almena-Northern Valley coach Chuck Fessenden will be sad to see Austin Thalheim go.

When you lose a force on both sides of the ball, any football coach would be grabbing for the tissues.

Thalheim was a big part of the Huskies' success over the last four seasons, and was a big key again this year for Fessenden's 9-3 team, which reached the eight-man playoffs again.

Thalheim rushed for 1,155 yards on 149 carries and 16 touchdowns for the Huskies this year. He also had nine receptions for 132 yards and two TDs.

"He had that this year and about the same last year," Fessenden said of Thalheim's rushing numbers. "So we're losing a guy that was pretty much a consistent 1,000-yard rusher and a hard worker."

"He's made big contributions for our program. He started part way through his freshman year. So there's going to be a big hole to fill."

The 5-foot-8, 202 pounder and all-Cheyenne Conference selection didn't only make his mark on offense. He finished with 88 tackles on defense.

"He played a little bit at linebacker for us, but mostly he was at nose guard," Fessenden said. "And from there, he would make some plays on short passes and tackles that you couldn't believe."



Thalheim

Andrew Ubben Phillipsburg

Maybe it's hard to be humble when you're 6-foot-3 and 270 pounds and causing havoc for opposing teams in the Mid-Continent League every Friday night.

But somehow, Phillipsburg junior Andrew Ubben found a way to get it done.

"He's a pretty individual," Phillipsburg coach Bob Fuller said. "But he likes to compete and do the best he can. He's a pretty reliable player."

Ubben was the model of consistency this fall. He was named a first-team all-MCL selection at defensive tackle and a second-team pick at offensive tackle.

"He was also one of our captains this year, and that says a lot since he is only a junior," Fuller said. "He was a mental leader on the offensive and defensive lines. Plus, he has a great work ethic in the weight room. That development in there has helped him become a better player."

Phillipsburg finished 6-3 as Fuller led a substantial turnaround in the program in his second year. Having Ubben on the line played a big part in the Panthers' success.

"He and the seniors had a great deal of importance in getting things turned around," Fuller said. "He's been an integral part of that."

Ubben is the defending state-heavyweight wrestling champ in 3-2-1A.



Ubben

Cole Vap La Crosse

Linemen might get envious sometimes for not getting a pat on the helmet for a touchdown-springing tackle.

La Crosse senior offensive tackle Cole Vap didn't care. Instead, the 6-foot-4, 290-pounder would rather give credit to someone else.

"One thing about Cole is he (isn't egotistical)," La Crosse coach Bill Keeley said. "He would rather give credit to his other teammates. He doesn't really want the praise. He's actually kind of shy when it comes to that."

But on defense, Vap wasn't shy at all when meeting the ball carrier. He finished with 64 tackles (38 solo), two fumble recoveries and eight sacks in eight games from his defensive tackle spot. La Crosse finished 8-1, with one win coming by forfeit.

"On defense, a lot of teams ran away from him," Keeley said. "And if they ran his way, teams would try to double- or triple-team him."

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Vap

Marcus Watts Hays High

Hays High School football coach Kent Teeter was left scratching his head at times this season, wondering what was going on.

So was the opposition.

Teeter watched his star quarterback become a magician of sorts for the 5-4 Indians this fall.

Whether it was making pin-point accurate passes down field, or tucking the ball away and weaving his way through the defense for a first down, the 5-foot-11, 170-pound junior could do it all.

"That was part of our game plan," Teeter said. "We gave him the option to either run or pass to make things happen. With his ability to scramble and run, he could open a lot of things up. And our offensive line didn't know what he was going to do at times. He has a lot of explosiveness."

Watts finished the season 59-for-107 passing for 808 yards. He threw for eight touchdowns and only four interceptions. He also rushed for 454 yards on 64 attempts for another seven TDs.

All that came in limited action after spraining his ankle during the middle part of the season. He played in about two-thirds of the Indians' games.

Watts also finished with 26 tackles and had an interception as a part-time player in the secondary.

Watts also was the team's punter, punt returner and kickoff man.



Watts

Tim Weltmer Smith Center

Smith Center coach Roger Barta knows the fullback plays the most vital role in his wishbone attack.

Senior Tim Weltmer may have been one of the best to play the position for the Redmen.

The 6-foot-1, 230-pound fullback rushed for 1,427 yards on 205 carries and scored 28 touchdowns. He averaged 7.0 yards a carry and 118.9 yards a game.

"The fullback has to be the best Weltmer football player," Barta said. "And he did a good job of executing and hiding the ball. He was a dedicated player and a hard worker that comes from a good family."

Weltmer's actions on the field didn't go unnoticed for the 11-1 Redmen, who lost to eventual Class 3A state champion Wichita Collegiate in sub-state action. He was the only player from any Mid-Continent League school to be unanimously voted a first-team selection — at both running back and line-backer.

On defense, Weltmer led the team with 111 tackles, 63 solo. He also added three sacks, one interception, two forced fumbles and a blocked punt from his linebacker spot.

"He was the leading tackler for us the last two seasons," Barta said. "He sets the defense for us and makes the calls at the line for us. And he's able to do that because he is such a coachable kid."



Weltmer

Delta State overpowers Bloomsburg, 63-34

FLORENCE, Ala. (AP) — A shootout was the last thing Delta State coach Steve Campbell wanted.

He didn't think his option attack could win a track meet against high-octane Bloomsburg. Then, his team was off to the races.

Josh Bright rushed for 175 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Statesmen to a 63-34 victory over Bloomsburg on Saturday for their first NCAA Division II title.

"I didn't want it to be a shootout," Campbell said. "I was thinking 24-17, 17-10. Obviously, I was wrong."

With Bright operating the triple-option attack to perfection, the Statesmen (14-1) amassed a championship game-record 524 rushing yards. They didn't have a punt and scored TDs on eight of their first nine possessions, and that one ended with the first half.

The Huskies (12-3) saw their 12-game winning streak end when they finally ran into their offensive match.

"We know we're hard to beat if we execute," said Bright, who carried 22 times and completed 6 of 11 passes for 80 yards. "I thought we were just clicking on all cylinders, and that's what you want to do. You want to have your best game in your last game."

Delta State had gone winless in its only other playoff appearance. The Statesmen gained 649 total yards, another championship game mark, and had six players rush for TDs. They had 69 rushing plays and held onto the ball for nearly 38 minutes.

The previous scoring mark was 58 points by Northwest Missouri in four overtimes last season.

Deforest Hart carried eight times for 84 yards, and Rico McDonald gained 86 yards on 19 rushes to set the school's single-season rushing mark.

Bloomsburg had been averaging 574 yards and 47 points in the playoffs. The Huskies made it with the championship game despite opening the season with two losses.

"When you get into the playoff mode, unless you win it all, you're going to walk away sad," Bloomsburg coach Danny Hale said. "After a short time, we'll reflect on the season and look at the positives."

One positive was Eric Miller, who was 23-of-39 passing for 261 yards and three TDs, and scored on a 1-yard run.

The Huskies had overcame a 19-point fourth-quarter deficit against California-Davis in the semifinals. They couldn't pull out another miracle against a team giving up just 14 points per game in the playoffs.

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In the Division I-AA semifinals, Georgia Southern beat Delaware 27-18, and Montana edged Appalachian State 19-16 in overtime. The championship game is next Saturday in Chattanooga Tenn.

In the Division III semifinals, Mount Union of Ohio beat Widener of Pennsylvania 70-30, and St. John's of Minnesota defeated Hardin-Simmons of Texas 38-14. The championship game is next Saturday in Salem, Va.

Avs skate past Panthers

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Joe Sakic won another road game for Colorado.

Sakic had a goal and two assists as the Avalanche beat Florida 4-2 on Saturday night, winning for the seventh time in their last eight games.

Colorado, which plays 10 of its next 11 at home, finished a four-game road trip 3-1 — with Sakic scoring the game-winner in each victory.

"Sakic is a premier player," Panthers coach Terry Murray said. "He's got great offensive skills, great 1-on-1 skills. He's maybe in the top seven or eight players who have played over the last 10 years."

The Panthers, last in the Eastern Conference and tied with Columbus for the fewest points (20) in the league, are winless in their last seven games.

"I wish there was a light switch I could turn on, but unfortunately it doesn't work like that," Murray said.

Milan Hejduk, Peter Forsberg and Chris Drury also scored for Colorado, which leads the league with 45 points. Drury added an empty-netter as time expired.

Sprewell leads Knicks to win

"I like our killer instinct right now," Colorado coach Bob Hartley said. "We fins ways to win and that's a trademark of a good hockey club."

After hitting the cross bar and the post in a scoreless first period, Colorado got a pair of goals in the second.

Hejduk gave the Avalanche a 1-0 lead with a soft goal against Roberto Luongo. Hejduk, scoring his 14th goal of the season, spun in the crease and flipped a shot that bounced off the back of Panthers defender Robert Svehlik and trickled past Luongo.

Sakic's 16th goal made it 2-0 about seven minutes later. Hejduk found Sakic streaking across the blue line, and Sakic — the league's third-leading scorer — beat Luongo from just inside the right circle.

Sakic has 43 points.

"Sakic's playing awesome hockey for us," defenseman Ray Bourque said. "I can't imagine anybody playing better than he is."

Colorado goalie Patrick Roy stopped 18 shots.

NEW YORK (AP) — Latrell Sprewell scored a season-high 29 points, Allan Houston added 21 and Larry Johnson hit two 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to lead the New York Knicks past the Denver Nuggets 96-88 Saturday night.

Sprewell scored 15 of his points in the third quarter but didn't do that much in the fourth. That task fell to Johnson, whose final 3-pointer gave New York a 92-88 lead with 49.5 seconds left.

The Knicks won for the fifth time in six games and improved to 5-0 at home against Western Conference teams. They have held their last 16 opponents under 100 points.

Denver, led by Nick Van Exel's 24 points, lost its third straight.

Antonio McDyess had 21 points and 15 rebounds for Denver, which wraps up a four-game road trip at Boston on Sunday.