

THE HAYS DAILY NEWS  
19TH ANNUAL

2002

ALL-AREA  
SUPER 11

| 11-MAN FIRST TEAM  |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| PLAYER CLASS       | SCHOOL     |
| Brian Barta, sr.   | La Crosse  |
| Doug Campbell, jr. | Hoxie      |
| Jude Fox, sr.      | Hays High  |
| Jordan Harris, sr. | Colby      |
| Ryan Honas, jr.    | Ellis      |
| Jeff Horinek, jr.  | Atwood     |
| Heath Klein, jr.   | Atwood     |
| Tanner Lacy, jr.   | TMP-Marian |
| Dan Roeder, jr.    | Norton     |
| Scott Wise, sr.    | Plainville |
| William Wynn, sr.  | Trego      |

| 11-MAN SECOND TEAM        |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| PLAYER CLASS              | SCHOOL       |
| Lance Brooks, jr.         | Hays High    |
| Jared Cranston, sr.       | Colby        |
| Brandon Hickett, sr.      | Trego        |
| Cedric Holloway, sr.      | Russell      |
| Chris Lamb, sr.           | Atwood       |
| Sam Mickelson, sr.        | Ellis        |
| Michael Reischneider, sr. | La Crosse    |
| Chase Rice, sr.           | Smith Center |
| Ryan Ruf, sr.             | Smith Center |
| Dallas Walz, sr.          | St. Francis  |
| Scotty Yates, sr.         | Phillipsburg |

| 11-MAN THIRD TEAM       |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| PLAYER CLASS            | SCHOOL      |
| Jordan Bedore, jr.      | Goodland    |
| Dusty Beydler, sr.      | Trego       |
| Travis Hill, sr.        | St. Francis |
| Blaise Kiley, soph.     | Stockton    |
| Brady Maska, jr.        | Hays High   |
| Will Ruder, sr.         | Plainville  |
| Cody Sattler, jr.       | Oakley      |
| David Schlegel, sr.     | Norton      |
| Devin Schoenthaler, sr. | Ellis       |
| Kevin Threikel, sr.     | TMP-Marian  |
| Drew Traxler, sr.       | Ness City   |

| 8-MAN FIRST TEAM      |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| PLAYER CLASS          | SCHOOL                |
| Jordan Barrett, soph. | Winona-Triplains      |
| Derek Becker, sr.     | Grinnell              |
| Tyler Drelling, sr.   | Victoria              |
| Dusty Kibel, sr.      | Palco                 |
| Preston Mackley, sr.  | Winona-Triplains      |
| Jesse Miller, soph.   | Rexford-Golden Plains |
| Scott Wolf, sr.       | Grinnell              |
| Derek Yarmer, sr.     | Otis-Bison            |

| 8-MAN SECOND TEAM     |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| PLAYER CLASS          | SCHOOL            |
| Brandon Anderson, sr. | Almena-No. Valley |
| Austin Panter, soph.  | Kensington        |
| Clayton Cox, sr.      | Weskan            |
| Tyson Dinges, sr.     | Victoria          |
| Heath Flax, sr.       | Bazine-Ransom     |
| Jake Harper, jr.      | Winona-Triplains  |
| Chase Ostmeyer, sr.   | Grinnell          |
| Bryce Trumpp, soph.   | Palco             |

| 8-MAN THIRD TEAM    |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| PLAYER CLASS        | SCHOOL            |
| Justin Bretton, sr. | Kensington        |
| Jacob Falcon, sr.   | Brewster          |
| Justin Gotwald, sr. | Victoria          |
| Hosea Harris, sr.   | Downs             |
| Clint Johnson, sr.  | Healy             |
| Flyan Miller, sr.   | Jennings          |
| Trent Stephens, sr. | Grinnell          |
| Matt Wilson, sr.    | Bird City-Cheylin |

LEE ALBERS  
REXFORD-GOLDEN PLAINS

Last year, Lee Albers earned a spot on the Super 11 with only 13 touchdowns, because his coach did not want defenses keying in on him inside the 10-yard line.

But with a new attitude — and a new backfield mate — the 6-foot-4, 230-pound fullback scored 24 times, rushing for 1,649 yards to lead the Western Kansas Liberty League in rushing. As a defensive end, he had 97 tackles and 12½ sacks.

Coach Travis Smith said he loosened up the reins a little bit for two reasons — his confidence in his senior back and the emergence of sophomore Jesse Miller, who was second in the WKLL behind Albers in rushing.

"We had another running back so they couldn't key on Lee," Smith said. "I wasn't near as afraid as I was last year. He really wanted the ball. He was a monster. When we need two, three yards, I knew he'd get those yards."

Golden Plains went 8-2, losing in the Eight Man Division II Bi-District Championships, the second straight winning season for a team that had been below .500 since 1985.

And while on the field Albers has been a force, he has put up even more impressive numbers in the classroom, carrying a 3.98 GPA.

That has led to — in addition to the usual suspects like Kansas State, Colorado State, Fort Hays and the Kansas junior colleges — a unique college interest in Albers. That would be Harvard of the Ivy League, interested not just in a halfback and defensive end, but a future nuclear engineer.

That intelligence adds to his game, Smith said.

"He's able to see the field a little better," Smith said. "He can picture what's going on. He can think before the play happens."



Albers

TRAVIS ARMBRUSTER  
WAKEENEY-TREGO

Apparently, 1,941 yards rushing, 23 rushing touchdowns, a 10.6 yards-per-carry-average as a tailback and three interceptions and three recovered fumbles as a linebacker aren't enough to draw a lot of college attention.

But it still isn't slowing down Wakeeney-Trego senior Travis Armbruster, said Golden Eagle coach Myron Flax.

Flax said the reason for the lack of interest is because most of Armbruster's playing time came as a senior.

"He hasn't gotten as many looks as we would have hoped," Flax said. "He's a quality back and superb student. I think one of the reasons he hasn't gotten as many looks is because he came on late last year — we didn't start him much. Most of his stats have been in his senior year."

Most of Armbruster's college looks have come from the in-state junior colleges, Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference teams and a brief visit from Fort Hays.

Armbruster helped his team to the Class 2-1A Sectional Championships, a 21-18 loss to Salina-Sacred Heart. The team's only other loss was to Mid-Continent League rival Norton, which also made a deep postseason run.

"He was an integral part of our team," Flax said. "But he was just a part of the team. We preach the team mentality."

Flax said that while not the loudest or flashiest person on the team, Armbruster led the squad by his workout routine.

"He added leadership because of his work ethic," Flax said.

Armbruster also averaged 30.5 yards per kickoff return with two returns for touchdowns, while also handling punting and kickoff duties.



Armbruster

MARK BARNES  
THOMAS MORE PREP-MARIAN

The season almost played like two different years for Mark Barnes.

Which actually is very appropriate, since it played like two different seasons for his Thomas More Prep-Marian football team.

The team started 3-3. Then the Monarchs won six straight, advancing to the Class 3A Sub-State Championships against Conway Springs.

Barnes, a 6-foot-1, 240-pound senior, saw a similar turnaround, improving his play at both offensive tackle and defensive end.

The two turnarounds happening at the same time were not coincidental, said TMP-Marian coach Gene Flax.

"We thought as a team we needed to improve, and we started putting pressure on him," Flax said. "Offensively, he stepped it up. He responded well. We needed to run the ball more consistently behind him. He responded well defensively, too."

That stepping up gave the Monarchs something they had been sorely missing.

"He became a leader on the line," Flax said. "We needed that, too."

In the last regular season and first postseason game, the Monarchs ran for 781 yards. In the previous eight games, the Monarchs ran for 1,340 yards.

"He's a big, strong kid, no question," Flax said. "He started for us a couple years and played a bunch for us as a sophomore. He's been a consistent performer."

Flax said a number of junior colleges have expressed interest in Barnes, as well as Fort Hays State University, Emporia State University and Sterling College.



Barnes

LUKE DREILING  
THOMAS MORE PREP-MARIAN

If a team has a good running back, chances are another team will have one just as good.

The same thing with a quarterback. The advantage will more than likely be negated at some point.

But the Thomas More Prep-Marian football team had a player that is much overlooked — one that gave the Monarchs a distinct advantage in their run to the Class 3A Sub-State Championships.

They had a kicker.

Not just any kicker. A kicker who booted 38 kickoffs into the end zone for touchbacks, negating speedy kick returners.

A kicker who made 9-of-13 field goals this year, including a 52- and 53-yarder in the sub-state game against Conway Springs, a 27-14 TMP-Marian loss. His 53-yarder against the Cardinals was a school record. He also had a 47-yard field goal against Scott City earlier in the season.

How important was his kicking? "Very, very, very, very important," TMP-Marian coach Gene Flax said. "Kicking is something that tends to go by the wayside. But field position is huge and ended up being an advantage for us."

And as good as his kicking was, Flax said Dreiling's play as a wide receiver and safety was overlooked because of his strong leg.

"He has great hands, not great speed, but a knack to get open and get the ball," Flax said.

Dreiling caught 12 passes in the run-first Monarch offense for 286 yards and five touchdowns, an average of 23.8 yards per reception.

Flax said the 5-foot-9, 160-pound senior has garnered plenty of interest as a kicker, ranging from the junior college level to Fort Hays and Emporia all the way up to Big 12 schools.



Dreiling

CODY HILBURN  
LOGAN

Out for 2½ games with a bruised right knee?

Forget about it.

There's still plenty of time to post gaudy numbers as a tailback, safety and cornerback.

At least, it is for Logan senior tailback Cody Hilburn.

The 5-foot-10, 175-pound Hilburn, despite the bum knee that made him miss a portion of the season, still ran for 1,348 yards and a 7.5 yards-per-carry average, scoring 28 touchdowns for the Trojans this season.

Splitting his time defensively between safety and cornerback, Hilburn made 66 total tackles and picked off five passes.

"He wanted to play," Logan coach Kevin Kallenberger said. "It was tough on him. He likes to play. He's as tough as nails, a real tough kid."

In the two full games Hilburn missed, Logan split the games, going 1-1.

Hilburn helped Logan (8-3) make it into the Eight-Man Division II Regional Championships, a 26-14 loss to Sylvan Grove-Sylvan Unified.

Kallenberger said there are a lot of qualities that Hilburn brings to the field.

"He's got a lot of speed, he ran a 4.5 in the 40 (yard dash)," Kallenberger said.

"He's got a little size at 175 pounds. He's got a knack for getting the ball. He knows where to be at the start of the play and at all times on both offense and defense. He has good instincts, speed and awareness."

Kallenberger said that for the moment, Hilburn has drawn looks from mostly junior colleges in the state.



Hilburn

JEFF KEBERLEIN  
THOMAS MORE PREP-MARIAN

Jeff Keberlein did it all. He played quarterback for the Thomas More Prep-Marian football team that earned a trip to the Class 3A Sub-State Championships against Conway Springs. He completed 45-of-85 passes for 820 yards, with six touchdowns and five interceptions.

He handled duties in the defensive backfield, nabbing eight interceptions and making 74 tackles. He also forced a number of fumbles, including a key fumble in the 27-24 loss to Conway Springs.

His most important role, however, was as a leader, said Monarch coach Gene Flax.

"He was an all-around kid for us," Flax said. "His leadership was the biggest deal. He developed into a great leader."

Six of Keberlein's eight interceptions came in district or post-season play, including three against Gypsum-Southeast of Salina, one for a touchdown that clinched the win for the Monarchs.

"He had a nose for the football," Flax said. "We moved him around from safety to cornerback. We could put him on the team's top receiver or have him move up and cover the run. I just can't say enough about him."

Flax said the 6-foot-1, 170-pounder was a defensive force for the Monarchs all season.

"In fairness to the kid, I thought he played well all year," Flax said. "It was the interceptions that made him stick out more down the stretch. He was also a great leader. Not just outwardly leading, but leading by example."

Fort Hays and a number of junior colleges have expressed interest in Keberlein as a safety.



Keberlein

RICKY MUSGRAVE  
LA CROSSE

La Crosse coach Bill Keeley doesn't like to think about where Ricky Musgrave would be without football.

The senior tailback put up great stats for his La Crosse team that went 8-2 and earned a playoff berth, losing to Salina-Sacred Heart in the Class 2-1A Bi-District Championships.

But Keeley said it isn't his 1,854 rushing yards or his 9.8 yards-per-carry average that's most impressive about the 5-foot-9, 167-pound Musgrave. Nor is it the 88 tackles and two interceptions (one for a touchdown) from his linebacker spot.

Keeley said it's Musgrave's work ethic that is most impressive. "The bottom line with Ricky is he's a self-made player," Keeley said. "Since the time he was a seventh or eighth grader until now, his work ethic is as good as I've seen in 18 years of doing this."

Keeley said football was there for Musgrave during a key time in his life.

"The thing I'm most proud of is the way his work ethic on the field has carried over to his personal life," Keeley said. "He's become a better person. He was at a crossroads in his life when he entered high school of what kind of person he was going to become. I think goodness that football was there for him — I think it helped him become a better person."

And where would he be if he didn't choose football?

"I wouldn't venture a guess; I wouldn't want to say," Keeley said. "Football has given him a purpose and a goal in life. ..."

Musgrave has gotten looks from a number of NCAA Division II schools, including Pittsburg State, Nebraska-Kearney and Emporia State.



Musgrave

TERRY PETRIE  
NORTON

In football, speed is a weapon. That makes Terry Petrie a top-of-the-line assault rifle.

The Norton senior tailback can, among other feats of speed, run a the 40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds.

"Speed kills in this game," Norton coach Bruce Graber said. "The defense always has to account for his speed. That opened up some things for other people."

The 5-foot-9, 170-pound Petrie ran 213 times for 1,785 yards, an 8.4 yards-per-carry average, scoring 28 rushing touchdowns for the Bluejays this season.

The all-Mid Continent League first-team tailback also caught a pass for a touchdown and ran three kickoffs for scores. He averaged 23.8 yards per kickoff return and had an interception from his cornerback spot.

Those stats helped power a Norton running game that led the Bluejays to the Class 3A Sectional Championships, a 34-27 loss to eventual state champ Conway Springs.

Petrie opened up the Bluejay offense, giving Graber an option on third-and-long situations, as opposed to relying on a pass play.

"When you have someone with speed like his going against a spread defense on third down and six, third and seven, third and eight, his speed makes a difference," Graber said. "He has the ability to make people miss. Defenses are spread for the pass and if you give him space he'll make something happen."

Graber said Petrie has gotten looks from a number of NCAA Division I-A schools, including Colorado and Kansas State. NCAA II schools Pittsburg State and Emporia State have also shown interest, along with most of the Kansas junior colleges.



Petrie

MATT SANDER  
VICTORIA

For two years, Matt Sander waited to play in the postseason.

His Victoria football team was certainly good enough to qualify, but a last-minute decision two years ago to switch from 11-man to eight-man ball left the team without a district and without a playoff chance.

But this year, the senior offensive guard and defensive tackle got his shot at postseason glory, as Victoria racked up an 8-1 record and a district championship.

But in the first half of the team's first playoff game in Grinnell, the 6-foot-4, 280-pound Sander tore his right medial collateral ligament. The Knights won the game but lost the next week to Jetmore.

Victoria coach Lee Smith said missing the postseason hurt Sander, but he stuck by the team, continuing his role as a leader off the field, even if he could no longer lead the team on the field, as he had all year.

"One thing he did do was stay with the team," Smith said. "He was still a leader all the way to the end. It still hurt him quite a bit that he was not able to play."

Smith said that shows what type of player Sander is.

"He is what you look for in a high school player," Smith said. "He is in it for the team, not for individual records or marks. He's what the Knights are all about."

Sander finished with 67 total tackles, third on the team. He also ran for a touchdown, and was used in the backfield on a number of 2-point conversions. He even threw for a 2-point conversion.

Smith said a number of junior colleges have shown an interest in Sander, as has Fort Hays.



Sander

TANNER SCHMIDT  
ATWOOD

Name a rushing record. Tanner Schmidt probably owns it — or is probably in the top 5.

The 6-foot, 205-pound Atwood senior tailback became the first player in state history to lead all classes in scoring average per game three straight years.

He holds school records in all-purpose yards in a game, season and career, as well as rushing yards in a game, season and career.

His 5,141 rushing yards put him eighth all-time in the state, while his 82 touchdowns put him fourth — and that's with him missing two games last year and not starting until Week 3 his sophomore season.

His all-time single-game best — 351 yards, seven touchdowns, 44 points.

This season, he ran 290 times for 2,201 yards (7.6 yards per carry) and 35 touchdowns, helping the Buffaloes to the Class 2-1A Sectional Championships.

Not to mention his defense, where the safety picked off two passes and amassed 146 total tackles.

But according to Atwood coach Dan Lankas, none of that matters as much as winning, which the Buffaloes have done. They've racked up an 18-3 record over the last two seasons, including going 11-0 this year until a 34-14 loss to eventual state runner-up Clarlin.

"What makes him great is he is an extremely hard worker," Lankas said. "He has a lot of heart and plays the game the way it's supposed to be played. He'll run right over you. He'll spend time in the weight room."

Lankas said Schmidt, a two-time Super 11 pick, is being recruited by a number of Big 12 teams, as well as Colorado State and NCAA Division II Fort Hays.



Schmidt

AARON SMITH  
OTIS-BISON

If Otis-Bison coach John Vincent knew his junior tailback had crept up on 2,000 yards, he would have played the second half in blowout wins against Bazine-Ransom and Wilson.

Instead, Aaron Smith just missed the plateau, running for 1,949 yards and 29 touchdowns, averaging 7.4 yards per carry. He also recorded 74 total tackles from his linebacker spot for the Cougars.

Vincent said Smith benefited from the new offense he installed when he took over as the Otis-Bison head coach.

"We put in a power offense, a misdirection offense and an option offense plus a passing game. We used the big kid (Derek) Yarmer as a fullback and put Aaron behind him," Vincent said. "We put in the offense for misdirection, and it turned out to fit him like a glove."

Against Macksville in the Eight-Man Division I Bi-District Championships, Smith ran for a career-high 297 yards and five touchdowns in a 42-36 win.

The Cougars lost in the next round — the regional championships — to eventual state runner-up Kiowa-South Barber, 56-22.

Vincent said Smith benefited from the stability of the new offense.

"To be perfectly honest, he's really unselfish," Vincent said. "He gives a lot of credit to the offensive line. He gives a lot of credit to us running a different offense than in the past."

"He was the fullback or tailback depending on what they needed last year. This year, we used more misdirection and he played tailback out of the (1-for-1 motion)."

Area athletes named to KFCFA team

BY THE HAYS DAILY NEWS

A pair of Thomas More Prep-Marian football players and a Hays High School football player were named to the Kansas Football Coaches' Association all-state team.

While no area players made the group's Top 11 list, TMP-Marian kicker Luke Dreiling and cornerback Jeff Keberlein — both Hays Daily News Super 11 picks — made the Class 3A team. Hays High wide receiver Jude Fox made the Class 5A team.

Only seniors are eligible to make the team.

Keberlein recorded eight interceptions, two he returned for touchdowns. He also racked up 74 total tackles. Dreiling averaged 54.5 yards per kickoff — including seven squib kicks. The opponents average starting field position was their own 24-yard-line. He had two field goals of more than 50 yards — including a school-record 53-yarder.

Fox finished with 28 catches for 372 yards — a 6.1 average — and three touchdowns.

Other area players made the team as well. Five players made the Class 2-1A defensive team. Devin Schoenthaler and Sam Mickelson of Ellis earned spots on the defensive line, while Plainville linebacker Scott Wise made the team as well.

A pair of La Crosse defensive backs made the Class 2-1A team, Brian Barta and HDN Super 11 pick Ricky Musgrave.

A pair of HDN Super 11 running backs made the offensive team in Class 2-1A — Wakeeney-Trego's Travis Armbruster and Atwood's Tanner Schmidt. Plainville's Will Ruder and Trego's Brandon Hickett made the all-class offensive team as linemen.

In Class 3A, HDN Super 11 pick Terry Petrie