

2005 ALL-AREA FOOTBALL CAPSULES

JARRET ABELL

Phillipsburg
Opposing teams weren't going to let Jarret Abell beat them on kick returns like he did last year. After returning five kickoffs for touchdowns as a sophomore, Abell had just one this year.



ABELL

But that lone score gave him the state's record for career kickoff returns for touchdowns — a mark he'll look to add to next season. The speedy junior also found other ways to get into the end zone. Abell scored 20 touchdowns from his running back spot on his way to 1,269 rushing yards for the season, which earned him first team All-Mid Continent League honors. Abell also was a first team defensive selection because of his solid work at cornerback. He had four interceptions, returning one for a touchdown.

What was the highlight of your high school football career?

Winning bi-districts for the first time in school history and going the farthest into the playoffs that we have ever been in school history.

Is there an athlete or non-athlete you use as a role model?

(Atlanta Falcons quarterback) Michael Vick because he is not just a football player, he is an athlete.

Is there an accomplishment, other than athletics, you are especially proud of?

Being confirmed to my church.

What are your future plans for football and schooling?

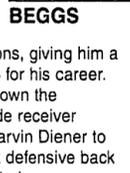
I'm looking to play at the next level, and my schooling interests are computer technology and sports management.

Do you have any specific hobbies you enjoy?

I enjoy sports (football, baseball, basketball and track) and computers.

Phillipsburg coach J.B. Covington on Jarret:

"His quickness is definitely his biggest attribute. He has the ability to start and stop, then accelerate faster than anybody we have ever had. He makes people totally miss on his moves. He has worked hard in the weight room and now shows the ability to run between the tackles.



ABELL

CASEY BEGGS

Salina Central
Not only did Casey Beggs start on both offense and defense, something that seldom happens at Salina Central, he flourished at his wide receiver and defensive back positions.



BEGGS

Beggs finished his senior season with four interceptions, giving him a school record of 13 for his career. His ability to shut down the opposition's top wide receiver prompted coach Marvin Diener to call Beggs the best defensive back to ever play at Central.

Beggs, named to the Ark Valley Chisholm Trail League's first team defense, also provided Central with another offensive threat. At 6-foot-4, Beggs gave opposing defensive backs fits all season. He finished with 421 receiving yards and six scores. He also was an AVCTL all-league punter, averaging nearly 40 yards a kick.

What was the highlight of your high school football career?

Winning the state championship my senior year.

Is there an athlete or non-athlete you use as a role model?

Jesus Christ. I strive to be as Christ-like as I can and set an example.

Is there an accomplishment, other than athletics, you are especially proud of?

I have remained alcohol and drug free my whole life.

What are your future plans for football and schooling?

I plan to go to college and play either football or baseball. I have not decided yet.

Do you have any specific hobbies you enjoy?

I enjoy working on cars and sometimes playing video games.



BEGGS

DAVID DIENER

Salina Central
At the point of what seemed like every defensive stop stood David Diener. The senior linebacker was always at the right place at the right time.



DIENER

That's why it's no surprise that David, the son of Central coach Marvin Diener, leaves Central as the school's career tackle leader with 422. This year, David finished with 157, the

second-most stops in a single season.

He also led the Class 5A state champs with 31 tackles for loss, was third with seven batted balls and second with five sacks. Diener also helped out on offense, rushing for two touchdowns and kicking three field goals. Central didn't allow an opponent to score more than 28 points, shutting out three foes. A good amount of credit should go to Diener, the defense's leader, for that.

What was the highlight of your high school football career?

Having the opportunity to win the state championship with my dad and friends.

Is there an athlete or non-athlete you use as a role model?

My dad has had me involved with the game since before I can remember, and he taught me to love the game and play the game the way I do.

What are your future plans for football and schooling?

Go to college and play football and go to school to become a coach.

Do you have any specific hobbies you enjoy?

Spending time with my friends and playing video games.

Central coach Marvin Diener on David:

"It was such a great experience (to have David on my team), one that I looked forward to for 14 years. You hate to wish for too much, for fear that it won't be what you expected, but it was everything I hoped for and more. It was as fun as it could have possibly been. With the way it ended, with a win, makes it more special. It was incredible."

ZEB ELLIOTT

Hope
How do you judge a player? Many look at the statistics, and Hope's Zeb Elliott certainly put up good numbers.



ELLIOTT

By going over the 1,000-yard receiving mark this season, the senior ran his career total to 2,304 yards and 44 touchdowns. He wasn't too bad on kick returns, either, with 12 scores in his four years.

What was the highlight of your high school football career?

During the past four seasons, Hope's record was 46-4, including a state championship in 2003. The Lions went 12-1 this year, with their only loss coming in the Eight-Man Division I finals.

Is there an athlete or non-athlete you use as a role model?

My parents have both been role models for me. Growing up, they always taught me the value of discipline, responsibility and hard work because they both work hard and take pride in what they do. I think that carried over to the football field and made me a better player and teammate. They also told me to do my best and have fun, and football has always been fun as a Hope Lion.

Is there an accomplishment, other than athletics, you are especially proud of?

Maintaining a 4.0 G.P.A. throughout high school.

What are your future plans for football and schooling?

I hope to play football in college but am undecided where.

Do you have any specific hobbies you enjoy?

I enjoy hanging out with my friends, playing cards and fishing.

Hope coach Jeff Hostetter on Zeb:

"He was an unselfish player. He did whatever it took for the team to win. If he was asked to be a blocker, he would do that. If we needed him to run, he would run. If we needed a receiver, he was a great receiver. He also was a great return man. The thing people didn't realize was that he was also very good on defense. He had six interceptions and over 60 tackles."

BRYSON FLAX

Southeast of Saline
Few passes were ever out of the reach of wide receiver Bryson Flax, one of two juniors on this year's Top 11 team (Jarret Abell is the other).



FLAX

Flax, a standout on Southeast of Saline's state championship team, caught 69 passes for 1,046 yards and 13 touchdowns in his role as quarterback Justin Schropp's primary target.

But it was the way the 6-footer made many of those catches. Several of his scoring grabs came on routes to the corner of the end zone where he had to outjump the defender. Flax also excelled on defense, recording 73 tackles, four interceptions and three sacks. Although his primary defensive position is defensive back, Flax made the switch to linebacker when Nick Hardesty went out with a

ALL-AREA SECOND 11

Player, School	HT.	WT.	YR.	POS.
Derek Bair, Canton-Galva	5-11	175	Sr.	WR-DB
Toliver Bird, Hoxie	6-0	200	Sr.	RB-LB
Rodney Landis, Palco	5-11	181	Sr.	RB-DB
Taylor Lyon, Smith Center	6-0	245	Sr.	OL-DE
Chris Mullin, Salina Central	6-2	251	Sr.	OL
Dane Simoneau, Sacred Heart	6-2	170	Jr.	QB
Lane Smith, Salina South	6-1	243	Sr.	OL-DL
Gabe Smull, St. Francis	5-10	180	Sr.	FB-DE
Mark Starr, Goodland	6-5	250	Sr.	OL-DL
Aaron Wedel, Sacred Heart	5-8	140	Sr.	WR-DB
Brett Ziegler, Oakley	6-0	210	So.	OL-DL

ALL-AREA THIRD 11

Player, School	HT.	WT.	YR.	POS.
Rocky Anderson, Concordia	5-10	175	Sr.	RB-DB
Tyler Clark, Pike Valley	5-9	170	Sr.	RB-DB
Kurtis Crawford, Salina South	5-10	151	Jr.	QB
Dan Fox, Salina South	6-4	215	Sr.	TE-DE
Zach Humphrey, Salina Central	5-9	185	Sr.	LB
Travis Lehman, Washington	6-2	200	Sr.	RB-LB
Chris Mann, Bennington	5-10	170	Sr.	QB
Kyle Maine, SE-Saline	5-10	180	Sr.	OL-DE
Kyle O'Connor, Brewster	5-8	165	Sr.	WR
Brandon Ward, Abilene	5-10	195	Sr.	RB-LB
Brennon Wilger, St. Francis	5-11	240	Jr.	OL-DL

HONORABLE MENTION

Jon Arveson, Chapman; Denton Bailey, Oberlin; Brant Beam, Jewell-White Rock; Mark Belisle, Palco; Travis Bott, Linn; Justin Casey, Plainville; Josh Conway, Osborne; Joey Copper, Northern Valley; Gabe Cox, Weskan; Jason Crawford, Natoma; Dustin Cyr, Clifton-Clyde; Seth Dains, Solomon; Casey Dallas, Salina Central; Heath Dohrman, Quivira Heights; Jordan Dunker, Atwood; Dustin Eagleburger, Chapman; Derek Fenner, Goodland; Troy Forrester, Salina South; Daren Haas, Ellis; Nick Hardesty, Southeast of Saline; Ted Hodges, Salina Central; Will Irvine, Chapman; Seth Jirak, Centre; Cameron Knox, Minneapolis; Brent Kvasnicka, Hillcrest-No. Central; Nathan Larkins, Belleville; Grant Levin, Kensington; Jacob Livesay, Lincoln; Brahn Marrs, Sacred Heart; Joel McAtee, St. Francis; Bryce McElroy, Salina South; Tony Meier, Linn; Seth Moddelmog, Canton-Galva; Chad Modlin, Jewell-White Rock; Casey Nelson, Marion; Clake Nelson, Northern Valley; Anthony Newman, Salina South; Dominic Niewald, St. John's Beloit-Tipton; Brett Nichols, Wilson; Jake Nichols, Smith Center; Kade Odell, Pike Valley; Ray Parker, St. John's Military; Scott Pflughoeft, Quivira Heights; Aaron Racette, Oakley; Kerby Rice, Smith Center; Lance Roe, Norton; Jason Sales, Kensington; Travis Savery, Hope; Mitch Schmitt, Trego; Drew Shaver, Ell-Saline; Travis Sheets, Southeast of Saline; Chase Sperber, Oakley; Ryan Stevenson, Golden Plains; D.J. Stover, St. John's Beloit-Tipton; Craig Venters, Sylvan; Jared VonFeldt, Victoria; Wade Weibert, Hillsboro; Tanner Weigel, Hays; Lance Weis, Hoxie; Garrett Wickham, Phillipsburg; Kyle Woodall, Salina Central; Tyler Zachman, Russell.

broken hand.

What was the highlight of your high school football career?

Winning the Class 3A state championship and being able to experience it with such a close group of buddies.

Is there an athlete or non-athlete you use as a role model?

I really see my dad as a role model. Not only does he teach me a lot about athletics, but also about life. I look up to both him and my mother. They've both made many sacrifices to support me in all that I do.

Is there an accomplishment, other than athletics, you are especially proud of?

Being part of the National Honor Society and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

What are your future plans for football and schooling?

As of now I am undecided on my future at the collegiate level. If I was given the opportunity, I would like to participate in a sport at the next level.

Do you have any specific hobbies you enjoy?

I like to relax and go fishing. I also enjoy hanging out with my friends and playing PlayStation.

Southeast coach Pat Haxton on Bryson:

"Bryson works so hard and is so smart. He is very, very, competitive. He works hard so he can have success. If Bryson feels like he can beat the guy that's defending him, then he's going to ask for the ball. And if he's asking, I know he's into the game and so does everyone else."

D.J. FULHAGE

Beloit
D.J. Fulhage sure knows how to fill up a stat sheet. The senior played 1,175 total yards in Beloit's multiple-threat system. On defense, he intercepted two passes and created problems for many wide receivers.



FULHAGE

But what Fulhage is most known for is his work on special teams. His 40.5-yard punting average has attracted the interest of several Division I schools. He also kicked four field goals, with his longest from 48 yards.

What was the highlight of your high school football career?

The highlight of my football career was just being around my teammates. Our class had 17 seniors out, and

that made it all the more fun throughout high school.

Is there an athlete or non-athlete you use as a role model?

The athlete I admire would have to be Brett Favre. He is a guy who never loses his cool no matter what the situation is. That's what I tried to bring to the field. If we were down, or someone was getting frustrated, I would try to solve those problems.

Is there an accomplishment, other than athletics, you are especially proud of?

An accomplishment I have would be playing the guitar. I taught myself two years ago, and it never gets old.

What are your future plans for football and schooling?

I plan to attend K-State and major in education. I would also like to punt and kick for the 'Cats.

Do you have any specific hobbies you enjoy?

I enjoy fishing, hunting and anything that is new and challenging.

Beloit coach Jon Bingsesser on D.J.:

"D.J. is an excellent athlete, a fine individual, and I have enjoyed coaching him the past four years. He is just an outstanding all-around athlete."

MICHAEL HUBBARD

Smith Center
Two knee injuries would discourage most players and keep many others off the field, but not Michael Hubbard. He wanted to win a state title his senior season and go out with a bang like many of his friends did last year.



HUBBARD

Hubbard and the team's other three seniors got what they wanted. Smith Center once again went 14-0 and once again defeated Pittsburg Colgan in the finals of the Class 2-1A playoffs.

From his offensive guard spot, the 6-foot-2, 200-pounder, helped the Redmen rush for 5,931 yards and average nearly 51 points per contest. As Smith Center's middle linebacker, Hubbard recorded a team-best 99 tackles and also had two sacks.

What was the highlight of your high school football career?

Beating Pittsburg Colgan for the second year in a row and playing in that game because of the huge crowd and the atmosphere they made for us.

Is there an athlete or non-athlete you use as a role model?

My dad. He supported me and never stopped believing in me through two knee surgeries.

Is there an accomplishment, other than athletics, you are especially proud of?

My grades.

What are your future plans for football and schooling?

I am undecided at this point.

Do you have any specific hobbies you enjoy?

Ping pong and hunting.

Smith Center coach Roger Barta on Michael:

"Michael had a knee injury and surgery as a sophomore, and again as a junior. He had a long process of rehab each time, but continued to play football. He is as tough of a player as we have ever had at Smith Center. Not many young men could, or would, do what Michael did to play the game of football. He has great respect from all coaches and players at Smith Center."

TAYLOR JONES

Smith Center
Running backs have always thrived in Smith Center coach Roger Barta's wishbone system. Taylor Jones took that to a whole new level this year.



JONES

Jones racked up 2,430 yards on the ground, a new Redmen single-season record. The senior did it on 216 carries, giving him an incredible 11.3 yards per carry. Jones also rushed for 34 touchdowns.

What was the highlight of your high school football career?

His work on defense made him a complete player. Jones had 78 tackles and two interceptions from his safety spot and was in charge of making all the secondary calls. The Redmen have won 28 straight games, the longest active winning streak in the state.

Is there an athlete or non-athlete you use as a role model?

My role model is my dad because he has worked hard his whole life and started his own company to support me and my family in everything we do.

Is there an accomplishment, other than athletics, you are especially proud of?

My grades.

What are your future plans for football and schooling?

I am undecided as to where I am going to college. I would like to become an architect.

Do you have any specific hobbies you enjoy?

I enjoy being with my friends, playing ping pong and hunting.

Smith Center coach Roger Barta on Taylor:

"Taylor is a very gifted, athletic young man. He is very intelligent about the game of football and has a great work ethic to be the best he can be. He has great vision, can find a hole and has balance to make great plays out of nothing. He is very dedicated to accomplishing his goals. Taylor is a very gifted athlete, one of the best we have ever had at Smith Center."

CALDER KELLER

Oakley
Coach Randall Rath calls Calder Keller the best back he has ever had. The 5-foot-9 senior running back certainly did a lot for the Plainsmen this season.



KELLER

On just 188 attempts, Keller rushed for 1,562 yards (8.3 yards per carry) and 25 touchdowns. Keller also led his team in receiving yards (445 and six scores), kick-off returns (39.3 yards per attempt) and punt returns (34.8 average with two touchdowns).

What was the highlight of your high school football career?

But what made Keller a complete player was his work on defense. He totaled 107 tackles from his free safety spot, fourth-most on his team, and had three interceptions. Oakley went 12-1 this season, and Keller was a first-team All-Northwest Kansas League selection on offense, defense and special teams.

Is there an athlete or non-athlete you use as a role model?

I've always thought of Darren Sproles as being my role model because he's not a tall guy like me. So he has to use his other strengths and abilities to beat his opponent.

What are your future plans for football and schooling?

I have planned to go to K-State for quite a while now. Who knows, maybe I'll walk on to the KSU football team. (HaHa)

Do you have any specific hobbies you enjoy?

I enjoy hunting and hanging out with friends.

Oakley coach Randall Rath on Calder:

"Calder is a tremendous person. He is a very hard worker that

always put the team first. Calder is a personable person and plays with tremendous effort every snap."

JUSTIN SCHROPP

Southeast of Saline
For opposing teams like Garden Plain, Conway Springs and Silver Lake, the gameplan was simple: stop Justin Schropp. None of the aforementioned schools could accomplish that goal.



SCHROPP

The senior quarterback, who led Southeast of Saline to its first state title in school history, enjoyed one of the best dual-threat seasons in state history. Schropp went for 3,954 total yards — 2,197 passing and 1,757 rushing — and accounted for 47 total touchdowns. Even more impressive was his efficiency as he completed 54 percent of his passes and rushed for nearly 7.0 yards per carry.

What was the highlight of your high school football career?

Winning a state championship in my senior year was my highlight. It made things even better being able to do it with a group of guys as close as me and my teammates/coaches were.

Is there an athlete or non-athlete you use as a role model?

My parents have always been there to set a good example for me in anything I do. They push me to do my best at everything. Also, my grandparents have always been there for me and have supported me in all of my activities. An athlete role model for me is Brett Favre. I like how he plays the game and I think he plays it for the right reasons.

Is there an accomplishment, other than athletics, you are especially proud of?

I'm part of my school's National Honor Society and I am also involved in my school's Big Brother/Big Sister program.