

Top 11

(Continued from Page 23)

been a tremendous asset to our program not only because of what he has done on the field but also the example he has been to the rest of the our players."

Berens, a 6-0, 190-pound running back-linebacker, actually had better offensive numbers last season when Victoria won the Class 2-1A state championship. He gained 1,200 yards this year on a 2-7 team which suffered from inexperience on the offensive line.

Still, Berens gained even more respect from Mid-Continent League coaches because of his hard-running and hard-hitting nature. He was a first-team all-leaguer on offense, defense and punter (38-yard average).

Defensively, Berens claimed 80 solo tackles and 50 assists this season. Offensively, as a four-year starter, he accumulated more than 3,000 total yards.

T.J. BRANSFIELD

Bransfield was another outstanding two-way player and punter (38.1 average). Bransfield is best known for his offensive exploits at running back where he amassed a Sacred Heart season-record 1,300 yards and another school-record 21 TDs this season as the Knights finished 9-2 and reached the 3A regional playoffs.

In addition, Bransfield, a 5-10, 165-pound speedster, set a single-game rushing mark of 284 yards, tied a single-game touchdown record of four and rushed for more than 100 yards in seven of his team's last eight games.

No one appreciated Bransfield's offensive talents more than Sacred Heart head coach Bob Warkentine, but Warkentine was equally impressed with Bransfield's defensive capabilities at cornerback.

"People are going to remember him for his offense," Warkentine said, "but I'm also going to remember him for some of the tremendous hits he made on defense."

RUSTY CARTER

The one word used among area coaches to describe Carter's play this season was "dominating." At 6-2, 220 pounds, Carter, a burly, well-stocked farm kid, was able to create big holes from his offensive tackle position and caused havoc for quarterbacks and running backs at defensive end.

Carter was a first-team All-NCAA player both ways this season. He had 83 tackles and knocked down 12 passes this season, and had 31 quarterback sacks in his three-year career.

"Rusty is a very fine football player," said Beloit head coach Geary Labuary. "He's the type of kid I would love to have another year with because he really came on strong the last half of the season and the playoffs."

Carter was the leader of the Trojans' offensive line which allowed Beloit to lead the NCAA in rushing for the second straight season.

BILLY MADDY

At 150 pounds, Maddy may be the smallest player on this year's Top 11 team, but the split end-safety more than made up for any physical limitations with his skillful hands. Whenever Stockton needed a big pass play this season, all quarterback Danny Holloway had to do was get the ball close and Maddy would always seem to make the catch. He had 46 receptions for 545 yards this season in helping Stockton reach the Class 2-1A state championship game. The constant threat Maddy created for opponents was perhaps a greater weapon for the Tigers than his hands.

1986 all-area teams

SECOND TEAM				
Offense				
Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.	Yr.	Position
Jerry Teel, Lenora	6-4	205	Sr.	End
Drew Myers, Norton	6-1	202	Jr.	End
Randy Hull, Smith Center	5-10	202	Jr.	Linebacker
Jamie Hommerschmidt, Plainville	5-10	170	Sr.	Linebacker
Craig Passom, Norton	5-9	170	Sr.	Linebacker
Rob Bosgall, Victoria	6-0	215	Sr.	Linebacker
David Klawer, Hillsboro	6-0	165	Sr.	Linebacker
Brian Carlton, Norton	6-1	165	Sr.	Quarterback
Tavis Collin, Northern Valley	6-0	165	Sr.	Running back
Mark Payton, Atwood	6-0	150	Jr.	Running back
Robert Winters, Stockton	5-10	155	Sr.	Running back
Defense				
Pete Cisneros, Ellisworth	5-10	220	Sr.	Linebacker
Jerol Skinner, SE-Saline	6-2	215	Sr.	Linebacker
Brett Badore, Stockton	5-11	190	Jr.	Linebacker
Chris Bina, Centre	5-11	190	Jr.	Linebacker
Tracy Buford, Atwood	6-0	235	Sr.	Linebacker
Kyle Gunnerson, SE-Saline	5-9	185	Sr.	Linebacker
Nathan Grabill, Beloit	6-2	215	Sr.	Linebacker
Pat Maeres, Sacred Heart	5-10	165	Sr.	Back
Rodger Swanson, Hill City	5-11	175	Sr.	Back
Charles Veal, Salina Central	5-9	150	Sr.	Back
Mark Griffey, Norton	6-0	170	Sr.	Back
THIRD TEAM				
Offense				
Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.	Yr.	Position
Dave Christensen, Salina South	5-11	180	Sr.	End
Jim Anderson, Clifton-Clyde	6-2	175	Sr.	End
Klay Gross, TMP-Marian	6-1	200	Sr.	Linebacker
Mike Rains, Sharon Springs	5-11	205	Sr.	Linebacker
Tony Potter, McPherson	6-0	200	Sr.	Linebacker
Kent Kesinger, Smoky Valley	6-0	205	Sr.	Linebacker
John Koenigsman, Tipton	6-1	185	Sr.	Linebacker
Danny Holloway, Stockton	6-0	165	Jr.	Quarterback
James McDonald, Centre	5-10	150	Sr.	Running back
Tim Winter, Linn	6-1	205	Sr.	Running back
Terry Hawks, Norton	5-8	140	Sr.	Running back
Defense				
Mitch Guthrie, Norton	6-0	205	Sr.	Linebacker
Darin Ives, Hays	6-2	220	Sr.	Linebacker
Jason Schwab, Clifton-Clyde	5-10	211	Sr.	Linebacker
Richard Loewen, Hillsboro	6-0	155	Sr.	Linebacker
Mike Tripp, Canton-Galva	6-0	190	Sr.	Linebacker
Troy May, Mankato	5-10	190	Sr.	Linebacker
Tim Fix, TMP-Marian	6-1	180	Sr.	Linebacker
Laird Carter, Chapman	5-10	160	Sr.	Back
Kevin Dougherty, Abilene	6-0	175	Sr.	Back
Guy Tarstrom, Smoky Valley	6-0	180	Sr.	Back
Bart Heinz, Wheatland	6-1	160	Sr.	Back
HONORABLE MENTION				
Offense				
Quarterback — Tracy Barlow, Lenora; Matt Bechard, Clifton-Clyde; Blaine Ginther, Atwood; Curtis Lowry, Northern Valley; Tim Radtka, Lincoln; Mike Stigge, Washington				
Running back — Mark Johnson, Eastern Heights; Ray Mognani, Cheylin; Corey Moyer, Salina South; Darin Ross, St. Francis; David Seibel, Sharon Springs				
End — Jim Cooper, Wheatland; Craig Mai, WaKeeney; Craig Naylor, Lucas-Lury; Wade Porter, St. Francis; Alan Tillberg, Ell-Saline				
Linebacker — Doug Berndt, Ell-Saline; Rick Eicher, Brewster; Ron Fritschen, Wilson; Joel Hrobe, Kensington; Jamie Ottot, Linn; Alfred Paley, Washington				
Defense				
Linebacker — Tim Boudreaux, Southern Cloud; Rick Gasper, Tipton; Paul Haber, Natoma; Randy Meeran, Hanover; Kent Rains, Sharon Springs; Mike Schlottbarck, Mankato; Mike Strko, Centre; Steven Whitney, Northern Valley				
Linebacker — Randy Babcock, Eastern Heights; Jason Douthitt, St. Francis; Craig Reedhus, Osborn; Mike Tholan, Grinnell				
Back — Cam Barnes, Hoxie; Eric Loring, Pike Valley; Mike Stanley, Tescott				

llo, whose team was the 4A state champion for the second straight season.

Sonntag was a three-year starter on Norton's offensive line. He earned all-league the last two seasons. Norton doesn't keep defensive statistics but Sonntag needs no numbers to prove his defensive skills.

"Jerry had two great state championship games the last two years," Melillo said. "He had some of his biggest hits against Baxter Springs (in this year's 4A state game). I felt like he was the best linebacker on the field that day and that includes the 6A game."

MARK VRBAS

The only reliable stats for offensive linemen are team accomplishments and, like Schoen, Vrbas was a big reason why Atwood rolled up big rushing numbers this season on its way to a 9-1 record.

"We were able to rush for 320 yards a game this season largely because of Mark," said Atwood head coach Danny Lankas. "He was also a tough end on defense. Most teams ran away from him, though."

Vrbas' frame — 6-5, 220 — and talent make him a major college prospect and major college is what Vrbas is hoping for. He was an All-Northwest Kansas League player the last two years.

"Mark is the quickest player I've coached," Lankas said. "His great speed (4.7) and quickness make him an excellent lineman."

Vrbas is the second Atwood lineman in two years to make the Top 11. Last year, Nathan Rather made the team.

PAUL WENDEL

Sonntag and Wendel were co-captains for Norton this season. According to Melillo, the players' vote for the two was the most decisive one for team captains in years. Wendel was more of the vocal leader on this year's team. His determination on the field didn't hurt his reputation either.

Wendel collected 1,280 on just 177 carries (7.2 average) and scored 20 TDs. His best outings came in Norton's final two games of the season when starting tailback Terry Hawks was out with a broken hand. Wendel, from his fullback spot, rushed for 207 yards against Beloit in the sub-state and 192 yards on the state championship game. He also returned a fumble 75 yards for a TD in the title game.

"Paul was our workhorse and was an excellent leader," Melillo said. "Paul was so quick and has strong legs that he always seemed to get that extra yard that gave us a first down instead of third and one or two."

Wendel was another three-year starter — rare in Melillo's system. He started at defensive end this year and earned first-team All-MCL honors.

Stockton was able to produce a strong running game.

"Billy has great hands," said Stockton head coach Phil Wilson. "He made so many clutch catches for us."

Maddy earned first-team All-MCL honors for the second straight season. Defensively, however, he wasn't too shabby in intercepting 14 passes, including two in the state title game against St. Paul.

LYLE SCHOEN

Smith Centre rushed for an astounding 5,000 yards this season and much of it can be credited for an outstanding line led by Schoen.

"Many of those yards were right over left tackle where Lyle was," Roger Barta said. "He's the best lineman I've coached. He's another hard worker with a lot of determination. I remember last year when he had a hip-pointer on each side. Lyle could barely walk onto the field, but once he got there, he got the job done."

Schoen also was a two-way all-leaguer in the MCL this season. At defensive tackle, he had 63 tackles and 32 assists and recovered three fumbles.

JEFF SIMONEAU

Like Brooks Barta, Simoneau benefited from an outstanding offensive line. The 195-pound junior eclipsed Mike Rogers' school-record 2,029 yards rushing for a season in his 40-carry, 184-yard effort in the state championship game against Sabetha, Simoneau finished with 2,092 yards — the most by a Kansas running back this season.

"Jeff's a major college prospect," Barta said. "He's got good size, he's quick and has great speed. He also has great work habits. I can remember when I first came here nine years ago. There was a little second grader who always hung around the weight room. He was too

little to be lifting weights, but he tried anyway. Fortunately, he kept those work habits and has made himself into a good football player."

Simoneau was able to run over and around defenders this season. That's what makes him so tough. He averaged eight yards a carry and scored 21 TDs.

Simoneau, who as a seventh grader idolized Rogers, also was a strong force at defensive end. He had 52 solo tackles and 34 assists.

JERRY SONNTAG

Even though he had been a starter for Norton the last two years, Sonntag faced a new and difficult frontier on defense entering this season. With the graduation of all-stater John Jimenez, Norton coach Neil Melillo needed a dependable linebacker, one who could also be a leader. He got one in Sonntag.

"Jerry had a shaky start at linebacker but after four or five games of adjusting, he really played the position well and was as good as Jimenez by the end of the season," said Melillo.

Miller to coach U.S. track team

MANHATTAN — Former Kansas State head men's and women's track coach Steve Miller was named head coach Friday for the United States men's indoor track team at the 1987 World Indoor Championships.

The indoor games will be held March 6-8 in Indianapolis, Ind.

For Miller, 42, it is his third straight year of being selected for an international track and field appointment. In 1984, he was the head coach for the U.S. track team which met West Germany in an international meet. Last year, Miller coached the U.S. team at the Maccabiah Games in Israel.

"I'm really excited to be chosen for this honor," said Miller, now an associate athletic director at Kansas State.

"Next to the Olympics and the World Outdoor Championships, the World Indoor Championships is probably the most prestigious and important track event around."



Miller

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