

# Top 11

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caught nine passes for 148 yards. Hahn may have been one of the smallest defensive ends in the state but earned All-Mid-Continent League honors. He had four interceptions. "Kendall started three years for us and played on some great teams," Melillo said. "He deserves a lot of credit for helping us get to the state final because of the types of things he did by example to get us into the situations we were in."

### TRACEY HOFFMAN

Like Hahn, Hoffman was a three-year starter for TMP-Marian. The 6-1, 181-pound tailback-cornerback was a three-time All-Mid-State Activities Association player. Hoffman was a split end his sophomore season and led the MSAA in receiving. He then moved to tailback last year and led the league in rushing and receiving. This season, TMP didn't have the personnel to throw effectively, so Hoffman caught only seven passes. But he still led the MSAA in rushing with 945 yards on 125 carries. He also led the league in kickoff returns and finished his career with 40 touchdowns.

TMP coach Dan Schmidt believes Hoffman can play major college ball, and hopes college coaches will consider his pass receiving skills.

"I think Tracey would make an excellent wide receiver because he has the good hands and speed," Schmidt said.

"Tracey had a great year this season, considering he was our only returning offensive starter. A lot of people wondered just how well Tracey would do this year with an inexperienced line, but he still had a big year. He flat out made a lot of his yards on his own."

### BRIAN LAMMEY

Smith Center coach Roger Barta usually puts his best all-around player at fullback and linebacker. From 1985-87, Barta's son Brooks occupied those positions and went on to earn Defensive Newcomer of the Year in the Big Eight Conference this season after excelling in his rookie season at Kansas State.

Lammey doesn't have the aspirations of playing college ball that Barta did, but his enthusiasm for the game as a prepster left an indelible memory in Roger Barta's mind.

"Brian enjoyed every minute of high school ball. In all the years I've coached, I don't think I've ever had a young man enjoy playing the game like Brian did," Roger Barta said. "I'll never forget this year's Norton game. Norton had just driven down and scored on us and had us down. I went out to the huddle and there was Brian, bleeding all over because Norton really likes to hit. But Brian rubbed his hands and said, 'Boy coach, isn't this fun?'"

Lammey upheld the Smith Center fullback-linebacker tradition by rushing for more than 2,000 yards, scoring 228 points and making 149 solo tackles the last two seasons. His 978 yards rushing and 90 points on offense and his 87 solo tackles and three interceptions on defense this season earned him All-MCL first team both ways.

### SHANE MEYER

Meyer made big plays on as a wide receiver and defensive back con-

## 1989 all-area teams

SECOND TEAM				
Offense				
Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.	Yr.	Position
Flynn Harvey, Salina Central	6-2	150	Sr.	End
Jason Rice, Kensington	6-0	190	Sr.	End
Chris Harling, Norton	6-0	225	Sr.	Linebacker
Colvin Holt, Marion	6-4	225	Sr.	Linebacker
Jim Wells, Phillipsburg	6-0	198	Sr.	Linebacker
Tim Wilson, Smith Center	6-0	185	Sr.	Linebacker
Brian Withington, Atwood	6-2	190	Sr.	Linebacker
Dustin McEwen, Norton	6-2	190	Jr.	Quarterback
Trent Bobcock, McPherson	5-7	175	Jr.	Running back
Matt McEwen, Belleville	6-1	185	Sr.	Running back
Eric Pearce, Atwood	5-10	165	Sr.	Running back
Defense				
Mark Allison, Minneapolis	6-4	250	Jr.	Linebacker
Scott Bahl, Norton	6-3	210	Sr.	Linebacker
Kalven Cederberg, Lucas-Lury	6-4	230	Sr.	Linebacker
Greg Hansen, Belleville	6-1	240	Sr.	Linebacker
Jared Douthitt, St. Francis	6-2	190	Sr.	Linebacker
B.D. Horton, Atwood	6-2	185	Sr.	Linebacker
Jeremy Lewis, Beloit	6-0	185	Sr.	Linebacker
Mark Wahlmeier, Norton	6-3	210	Jr.	Linebacker
Tye Faulkender, St. Francis	6-2	215	Sr.	Back
David Foster, Beloit	6-1	190	Sr.	Back
David Omlil, Ell-Saline	5-11	155	Sr.	Back
THIRD TEAM				
Offense				
Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.	Yr.	Position
Tony Hansmann, Sacred Heart	5-11	186	Sr.	End
B.J. Westbrook, Kensington	6-0	155	Sr.	End
Chris Allison, Salina South	5-11	225	Sr.	Linebacker
David Bradford, Ell-Saline	6-3	228	Sr.	Linebacker
Matt Konzani, Beloit	6-2	190	Sr.	Linebacker
Scott Urban, Atwood	6-2	220	Sr.	Linebacker
David Whitney, Northern Valley	5-11	180	Sr.	Linebacker
Brendan Glad, Atwood	6-2	170	Sr.	Quarterback
Clint Bedore, Stockton	6-0	190	Jr.	Running back
Travis Marin, Plainville	5-11	185	Sr.	Running back
Eric Pearce, Atwood	5-10	165	Sr.	Running back
Defense				
Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.	Yr.	Position
Dave Anderson, Smoky Valley	5-11	186	Sr.	Linebacker
Ken Fishburn, Atwood	5-4	130	Sr.	Linebacker
Dirk Kannady, Marion	6-3	210	Sr.	Linebacker
Craig Owen, Hill City	6-3	190	Sr.	Linebacker
Jason Baird, Smoky Valley	6-0	185	Sr.	Linebacker
Richard Frost, Pike Valley	5-11	170	Sr.	Linebacker
Conrad Trasi, Belleville	5-10	180	Jr.	Linebacker
Ken Windholz, Victoria	6-0	175	Sr.	Linebacker
Rod Rinker, Hill City	5-11	170	Sr.	Back
Kelly Thomas, Hillsboro	5-9	150	Sr.	Back
Jeff Walden, Colby	5-10	170	Sr.	Back
Honorable Mention				
Ramie Bagler, Weskan (RB); Tony Becker, Hillsboro (OL); Jeff Beemer, Chapman (QB); Jeremy Beems, Clifton-Clyde (OL); Russ Brungardt, Victoria; Brian Burmaster, Tescott (DB); Jim Clark, Washington (RB); Jon Daddridge, Salina Central (LB); Jason Flax, TMP-Marian (LB); Scott Gaschler, Plainville (DB); Kevin Glennemeier, Norton (OL); Mitch Harris, Hays (FB-LB); Chad Higgins, Smith Center (DB); Chad Johnson, Minneapolis (QB); Shawn Koser, Osborne (LB); Doug Keller, Stockton (OL); Mitch Langvardt, Chapman (OL); Bruce Lockhart, Ell-Saline (RB); Troy Lohmeyer, Linn (OL); Jeff Reilbach, Manhattan (DL); Jon Ray, Clay Center (LB); Doyle Richards, Ell-Saline (QB); Jake Robben, Victoria (DB); Kevin Saindar, Bennington (DL); Keith Sides, Northern Valley (QB); Brent Siemers, Salina Central (OL); Bill Steiner, Hays (TE); Michael Streit, Osborne (OE); Kurt Sulzmann, Hoxie (OL); Larry VanDerWege, Smoky Valley (OE); Shawn Wagner, Tescott (DL); Jobie Walker, Grinnell (LB); Chris Windholz, Victoria (OL); Brian Yohe, Southern Cloud (OL).				

makes coaching football fun."

### KIRBY RUST

As a four-year starter, Rust set passing records that may never be equalled. He completed 599 of 987 passes for 7,680 yards and 119 touchdowns. All those marks are state records.

The National High School Sports Record Book doesn't recognize eight-man records because only a handful of states play eight-man football. But if it did, Rust's 119 TD passes would be a record and his 599 completions would rank second all-time.

Rust holds 12 state records, but perhaps his most impressive statistic was his career 60.8 percent completion rate.

Kensington made no secret of its passing intentions. Coach Jesse Jackson knew he had limited talent in the line and at running back, so he took full advantage of Rust's accurate arm and the sticky hands of Jason Rice and B.J. Westbrook.

"It's one thing to throw 75 percent of the time as we did, but it's another thing to complete 60 percent of them," Jackson said. "Teams knew we were going to pass and sat back and waited for it. Kirby still completed them."

This season, Rust completed 208 of 335 passes for 2,587 yards, 42 touchdowns and only eight interceptions. He had only 43 interceptions in his career.

### JEFF VRBAS

Atwood had several outstanding players on its 2-1A state championship team this season. As an offensive tackle-defensive end, Vrbas best symbolized his team's dominating characteristic.

Atwood ran 90 percent of the time to Vrbas' side and averaged more than 300 yards rushing a game, and few opponents dared challenge Vrbas' defensive side. Vrbas was in on 84 tackles and had 13 quarterback sacks.

"Jeff's the best tackle-end I have ever coached," said Atwood coach Dan Lankas. "We switched Jeff from defensive tackle to end and he did a super job there. He's just a super athlete and one of the hardest workers I've ever had. He works five days a week all year in the weight room."

Vrbas was an All-Northwest Kansas League player both ways the last two years.

His brother Mark was on the 1986 Top 11, making the Vrbas' the only brothers to earn Top 11 spots.

### ERIC RICE

Rice, an All-I-70 defensive back this season, had a big year at free safety. His school-record seven interceptions this season gave him a South record 11 for his career. And his 14 total turnovers (three fumble recoveries) is also a school record.

Rice was going to be South's starting tailback this season, but a pre-season injury limited his play to defense early in the year. But with the Cougar offense struggling, Rice was inserted at slotback and sparked the offense, catching a team-high 14 passes for 214 yards.

Butler boasted of Rice's physical talents all season but also respected Rice's intangibles.

"No matter what the situation was or how bad it was going — and Eric had a few bad moments — Eric kept playing and was always a positive influence," Butler said. "He wanted to do anything to help the team. I can't remember a kid who hurt more after a loss. He's the kind of kid who

## Lankas

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I've been coaching."

Atwood's football players may not hit each other in practice, but they are in top shape and have been thoroughly drilled.

"We do a lot of conditioning and do a lot of quickness drills and work on being in the right place at the right time," Lankas said.



Lankas

Maybe it was their coach's unique practice techniques or simply his hard-nosed approach, but Lankas molded the 1989 Buffaloes into a winning machine.

"I knew we would have a good team, but it turned out a lot better than I thought," Lankas said. "They're hard workers and team orientated. We didn't have any superstars, just all-stars. In all my years of coaching, I've never had a team work so well together."

While playing at Kansas State in the final years of the Doug Weaver regime and in the early trials of Vince Gibson's Wildcat reign, Lankas didn't exactly become acquainted with winning.

By taking ideas from the coaches he has played and coached under, Lankas has put together his own philosophy for winning.

"I got to see a lot of different philosophies and I chose from each what would be good for me," Lankas said. "The thing I learned from coaching is to treat every athlete fair, show respect to every athlete whether they're the star

### Coaches of the Year

- 1976 — Clayton Williams, Beloit
- 1977 — Ed Buller, Clyde
- 1978 — Paul Dennis, Abilene
- 1979 — Jon Bingsesser, Sacred Heart
- 1980 — Larry Friend, Plainville
- 1981 — Robert Teeter, Victoria
- 1982 — Roger Barta, Smith Center
- 1983 — David Johnson, Osborne
- 1984 — Jeff Crockett, Minneapolis
- 1985 — Neil Melillo, Norton
- 1986 — Roger Barta, Smith Center
- 1987 — Chuck Fessenden, Northern Valley
- 1988 — Gary Sandbo, Smoky Valley
- 1989 — Dan Lankas, Atwood

or the athlete with the least ability. I'm a real believer in that.

"I hope that our players feel they will be treated fair. I think showing them respect just like we expect them to show respect to our coaches is very important."

And one thing is for sure, Dan Lankas' football program has earned the respect of the community. The red-clad Buffaloes fans are rabid supporters of their town's football team.

"They would do anything to follow the team and see them win. At the state (championship game) we had a plane circle the field for an hour before the game pulling a banner saying 'We Love Our Buffs.' They've traveled with a cannon to every game," Lankas said. "You couldn't ask for better fans."

"It really pumps the kids up. It's a real motivator. (Quarterback) Brendon Glad once made a comment at a pep rally, 'How can we lose with fans like this?' And I agree."

Some might ask the same about their coach.

And one thing seems for sure, the Buffalo football program appears to be in good shape as long as Dan Lankas is sowing the seeds of winning in Atwood.

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## Leonard, Duran to fight again

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Fittingly, Sugar Ray Leonard and Roberto Duran will bring down the curtain on big-time boxing in the 1990s.

After all, they gave the decade its first major fight when Duran outpointed Leonard June 20, 1980, at Olympic Stadium in Montreal.

The stage for their third match Thursday night will be the Mirage hotel and casino.

Mirage — that's what a lot of people thought they were seeing when Duran quit against Leonard in the "No Mas" fight Nov. 25, 1980, at New Orleans.

Quit, he did, however, and "Duran, traitor," appeared on a wall in his native Panama, where he had been idolized as Hands of Stone, the king of maschismo.

"Personally, I wouldn't like to see him fight again," trainer Ray Arcel said shortly after Duran's humiliation. "I don't know if he can pull himself together after a fight like this."

As for a third fight between Duran and Leonard, Arcel said, "There isn't a promoter who would put it on. A lot of people were suspicious about what happened."

Leonard said recently he didn't want to fight Duran again at the time because he worried that it might appear the bout was a setup for a rubber match.

Now that rubber match figures to be one of the richest fights in history.

Both the 38-year-old Duran and the 33-year-old Leonard see it as a chance to sweeten the sour taste left by the "No Mas" match.

While being beaten, but not beaten up, by the taunting Leonard, Duran suddenly muttered "no mas" and quit in the eighth round.

"It was just an impulse of the moment," Arcel said recently. "The guy started clowning around and he (Duran) said, the hell with it, you take it."

Duran claimed he had stomach cramps.

Leonard got the World Boxing Council welterweight championship back, but he didn't get satisfaction because, Duran's act made him the story. It remains one of boxing's most talked-about incidents.

"That robbed me of my accomplishment," Leonard said.

The road to the rubber match has been a rocky one for both fighters. Duran was taunted as a quitter, called "Belly of Jelly."



Sugar Ray Leonard



Roberto Duran

Leonard, whose purse total will hit \$100 million Thursday night, was called foolhardy and greedy for fighting after surgery for a partially detached retina in the left eye and again after a surgical procedure to strengthen the retina in the right eye.

Some members of the media feared for Leonard's well-being when he came off a 35-month layoff to fight Marvelous Marvin Hagler.

He has retired three times and has had only eight fights since beating Duran. He had to get up from a knockdown to beat Donny Lalonde and he had to get off the floor to get a 12-round draw against Thomas Hearns in his last fight June 12.

Leonard relinquished the light heavyweight title, but still holds the super middleweight championship.

Duran, who has posted a 13-5 record, with only four knockouts, since losing to Leonard, appeared to be a shot fighter after dropping a decision to Wilfred Benitez for the WBC super welterweight title in 1982.

Then Duran was reborn as a fighter. He knocked out former welterweight champion Pipino Cuevas, stopped Davey Moore for the WBA junior middleweight title and fought well in losing a unanimous, but-close 15-round decision to Hagler.

On Feb. 24 this year, in his ninth fight since resuming his career in 1986, Duran became the WBC middleweight champion by scoring a 12-round split decision over Iran Barkley.

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