



1983 All-Area Football

Charlie Riedel

1983 ALL-AREA FOOTBALL — Members of The Salina Journal's 1983 All-Area Football Team are (front row, from left) Eric Keeler (32), Salina South; Mike Rogers (24), Smith Center; Jay Dykla (35), Clay Cen-

ter; Scott Bliss (32), Osborne; Mike Reiber (72), Salina South; (back row, from left) Dusty Trail (11), Osborne; Chuck Eanes (23), Salina South; Stan Wahlmeier (24), Norton; Allen Rietcheck (72), Goodland;

Tony Harvey (40), Salina South; Buck Matson (18), Oberlin; and Dave Johnson, Osborne, Area Coach of the Year.

Conservative Johnson gives credit to team

By BRAD CATT
Sports Writer

Dave Johnson has lived in Kansas for more than three decades but he still calls Biddeford, Maine, home. "I'm a conservative New Englander," Johnson says proudly. "Compared to me, Ronald Reagan is a liberal."

Dave Johnson is also a farmer. He loves the outdoors and makes the 75-mile trip from his Osborne home to his farm on the edge of Kanopolis almost every weekend.

But Dave Johnson is not recognized as a New Englander or a farmer in Osborne. He's become a fixture as the high school football coach in the north-central Kansas community. His 21st season as the Bulldog mentor ended eight days ago on the rain-soaked turf of Manhattan's KSU Stadium when Osborne defeated St. Marys, 12-6, in overtime.

The victory gave Osborne a well-deserved Class 3A state championship and a 13-0 record. And for his

Past winners

- 1977 — Ed Buller, Clyde, and Clayton Williams, Beloit.
- 1978 — Paul Dennis, Abilene.
- 1979 — Jan Bingesser, Sacred Heart.
- 1980 — Larry Friend, Plainville.
- 1981 — Robert Teeler, Victoria.
- 1982 — Roger Barta, Smith Center.
- 1983 — Dave Johnson, Osborne.

efforts in the Bulldogs' success, Johnson has been selected as The Journal's 1983 Area Coach of the Year.

Johnson prefers to give the credit for his team's unbeaten season to his players.

"A coach is only as good as his players," the Osborne coach said. "You've heard it many times before but it's true — coaches get too much credit when they win and they take too much blame when they lose."

Osborne's dream season did not come as a big shock. The Bulldogs returned a talented senior class from a team which went 7-2 in 1982.

"We knew we were going to have a pretty good team," Johnson said.

But when the Bulldogs defeated Norton, the Mid-Continent League's preseason favorite, 39-6, on the second week of the season, Johnson knew something special was brewing.

"We just played a perfect game against Norton," Johnson recalled. "From then on, we knew we could play with anybody."

The Bulldogs coasted to a 9-0 regular-season record and captured their third league title since the school joined the powerful Mid-Continent League in 1976. Osborne then defeated Plainville, Hugoton and Belleville in the opening three rounds of the 3A playoffs before edging St. Marys for the title.

"It was our year," Johnson said. "And it couldn't have happened to a nicer bunch of kids."

Osborne's stars were quarterback-safety Dusty Trail and fullback-cornerback Scott Bliss. Both players were named to The Journal's prestigious Top 11 team. But they were just two of seven Bulldog seniors who had been in the Osborne football program since the seventh grade.

"Our seniors were the catalyst of the team," Johnson said.

Center-nose guard Tony Walters was a first-team All-MCI selection on both offense and defense; halfbacks Kip Boland and Mark Junk both rushed for more than 800 yards; and wide receiver Neil Nu-

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Rogers rare repeater on Top 11 team

By BRETT MARSHALL
Sports Writer

Roger Barta remembers the first time he saw Mike Rogers in a football uniform.

It was four years ago and Rogers was a 95-pound offensive tackle in the eighth grade.

There is little resemblance to the Rogers of then and the Rogers of now.

Rogers is now a sleek, 185-pound speed merchant tailback. For the past two years he has been running roughshod over Mid-Continent League foes and any other team that came his way.

Rogers, a senior, is the ringleader of The Salina Journal's 1983 All-Area Top 11. In the eight years of selecting players for the prestigious squad from north-central and northwest Kansas, Rogers was only the eighth player to be chosen as a junior and just the fifth to repeat as a senior.

Rogers is joined on the 1983 elite group by a quartet of Salina South standouts which helped the Cougars to their best record in school history. That group consists of running backs-defensive backs Chuck Eanes and Tony Harvey, fullback-linebacker Eric Keeler and offensive guard-nose guard Mike Reiber. It's the first time one school has had four players on the All-Area Top 11.

The remainder of the Top 11 consists of Osborne's standout backfield duo of quarterback Dusty Trail and fullback Scott Bliss, Norton halfback-linebacker Stan Wahlmeier, Oberlin tailback-defensive back Buck Matson, Goodland tackle Allen Rietcheck and Clay Center



running back-linebacker Jay Dykla.

Barta remembers those early days when he first saw Rogers in a football uniform.

"He really wasn't much different than any of the rest of the players," Barta said. "But it has been a lot of fun to see him mature into a fine young man and a fine football player."

In his final two seasons as a prep standout, Rogers established himself as one of the premier running backs in Kansas.

He is being hotly recruited by both Kansas and Kansas State and numerous other major colleges.

What stuff is Mike Rogers made of?

All he did as a senior, with an inexperienced line blocking for him, was rush for 1,783 yards and score 21 touchdowns.

"We knew he had the speed," Barta said, recalling Rogers' earlier days. "We moved him to the backfield when he was a freshman. He worked hard on the weights and he dedicated himself to being a good football player. He's achieved a great deal."

Rogers also returned kickoffs and punts, averaging 44.7 yards and 30.5 on those and adding three more TDs.

1983 All-Area Top 11

Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.	Yr.	Pos.
Scott Bliss, Osborne	6-1	190	Sr.	FB-CB
Jay Dykla, Clay Center	6-0	185	Sr.	RB-LB
Chuck Eanes, Salina South	5-9	165	Sr.	RB-CB
Tony Harvey, Salina South	6-1	180	Sr.	RB-FS-K
Eric Keeler, Salina South	6-1	200	Sr.	FB-LB-K
Buck Matson, Oberlin	5-8	157	Sr.	RB-DB
Mike Reiber, Salina South	6-1	210	Sr.	OG-NG
Allen Rietcheck, Goodland	6-4	215	Sr.	OT-DB
Mike Rogers, Smith Center	6-2	185	Sr.	RB-CB
Dusty Trail, Osborne	5-11	165	Sr.	QB-FS
Stan Wahlmeier, Norton	6-2	185	Sr.	RB-LB

"Obviously, his physical stature has increased," Barta said. "But the confidence he has in himself has grown. We've had kids with ability close to Mike but so many times you don't get a kid with his ability and the attitude to go along with it. He's the best I've been associated with in 15 years of coaching."

In his impressive three-year career, Rogers amassed 4,263 yards rushing and an all-purpose yardage total of 5,360 yards and 56 touchdowns.

"He's physical enough to run over somebody, yet he's got the finesse to run away from someone, too," Barta said. "He's smart enough to know when to do each."

Rogers was also talented enough at his cornerback position on defense to force other teams to run away from his side.

"He reads the offense real well and has good natural instinct to break to the ball," said Barta. "I think he's underrated as a defensive back, because most people wouldn't throw in his area."

Salina South's quartet was led by

the explosive running of Eanes, a 5-9, 165-pound scatback.

Eanes rushed for 1,056 yards in leading the Cougars to an 8-3 record and the semifinals of the Class 5A playoffs.

"If you had to start a team, he's the type of kid you'd build your team around," said South coach Mark Frase. "He's a 100-percent. He gives everything he has every second he's on the field."

Eanes also caught seven passes for 170 yards and scored 13 touchdowns. From his cornerback spot on defense, he accounted for 30 unassisted tackles and 32 assists. He also intercepted two passes.

"He does make mistakes occasionally, but it's not because of lack of effort," Frase said. "When Chuck makes a mistake, it's full speed."

Eanes has the distinction of being the only player in the tough I-70 League to earn all-league honors on both offense and defense.

"What can you say about the kid?" Frase said. "He does it all. He returns kickoffs, punts, and was

all-league at running back and defensive back."

Harvey was Eanes' sidekick in the South backfield and responded with 690 yards rushing. He also was adept as a wide receiver, hauling in 18 passes for 251 yards and scored 12 touchdowns.

"Tony's got a tremendous amount of talent," Frase said. "He's got good size, great acceleration and super jumping ability."

Harvey also excelled on the defensive side, intercepting three passes and recovering two fumbles. He was an outstanding punter, averaging 40.2 yards for the season.

"There just isn't much Tony can't do when he puts his mind to it," Frase noted.

The third member of South's extraordinary backfield to make the Top 11 is Keeler, a bullish, but speedy fullback at 6-1, 200 pounds. In many cases, he would have been the standout in a backfield had it not been for Eanes and Harvey. Yet Keeler managed to rush for 500 yards and scored five touchdowns.

It was on the defensive side of the ball, however, where Keeler excelled. He had 50 tackles and 78 assists.

"He plays that position as good as any linebacker I've ever had," Frase said.

Keeler was the team's leader in defensive points. He also ably handled the placekicking chores for the Cougars.

"I don't know if I've ever had anybody who was so fearless on defense," said Frase. "Eric just put

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Nebraska's Rozier wins '83 Heisman Trophy

NEW YORK (UPI) — Running back Mike Rozier, who Saturday night was named the winner of the 1983 Heisman Trophy, already is looking ahead to an honor that means more to him.

"The national championship is what I'm thinking about now," said Rozier, who has led No. 1-ranked Nebraska to the brink of the national title. "Playing (No. 4) Miami (Jan. 2 in the Orange Bowl) will be the biggest day for us. We'll have to prepare, and work hard."

"If it wasn't for the whole team, I wouldn't be here. If I had a chainsaw, I'd cut it (the trophy) up and give the offensive line the heart. They own part of it. I don't know if they (officials) would let me do that."

"I feel good about it, but it hasn't



Mike Rozier

hit me yet. I'm not really surprised. Everybody said I was going to win it."

A victory over Miami for unbeaten Nebraska (12-0) would lock up the national championship for the Cornhuskers and make Rozier the first Heisman winner since Tony Dorsett of Pittsburgh, in 1976, to play for a national champion.

Rozier, who averaged an astounding 7.8 yards per carry, was an overwhelming choice over Brigham Young quarterback Steve Young, taking 482 first-place votes to Young's 153. Boston College quarterback Doug Flutie was third with 23 first-place votes.

Seven other players finished far behind in balloting for the coveted bronze statue.

The soft-spoken Heisman winner said he would give the trophy to his mother, Bea, and also credited his teammates.

Heisman voting

By United Press International

	1st	2nd	3rd	Tot.
Rozier, Neb	482	154	47	1,801
Young, BYU	153	312	69	1,172
Flutie, BC	23	38	108	253
Gill, Neb	11	41	75	190
Hooge, Geo	7	25	41	112
McCallum, Navy	6	18	50	104
Hostetler, WVa	5	17	22	71
Fralic, Pitt	6	10	28	66
Lewis, Ala	4	13	16	54
Esiason, Mary	4	11	17	51

"She helped me through all this," Rozier said. "She told me to keep my head above water and work hard."

Rozier, a 22-year-old from Camden, N.J., gained 2,148 yards in '83 to become the second back in college history to crack 2,000 yards, trailing only Marcus Allen's 2,342 in 1981. Rozier had 128 less carries than Allen did in '81.

He also broke the NCAA record with 29 rushing TDs and that figure tied the overall record set by Lydell Mitchell of Penn State in 1971. Rozier, who attended Coffeyville Junior College for one year out of high school, tied the NCAA record with 11 straight 100-yard plus rushing games and gained over 200 in each of his last four games. His 929 yards over that four-game span is an NCAA record.

Young said he was not totally disappointed.

"It's a great honor to be in this group," he said. "The best man won this trophy. I'd like to congratulate not only Mike, but the entire Nebraska team for the great year they had."

Rozier, the 12th consecutive running back to win the Heisman, is

also sixth in career yardage with 4,780. Only Herschel Walker of Georgia has gained more in three seasons.

Rozier is only the second Nebraska player to win the Heisman. Johnny Rodgers was the first Huskers winner in 1972.

Young was also no stranger to the NCAA record books, with 13 standards, and Flutie led an electrifying offense to earn consideration.

Other players in the balloting were Turner Gill of Nebraska, Terry Hoage of Georgia, Napoleon McCallum of Navy, Jeff Hostetler of West Virginia, Bill Fralic of Pittsburgh, Walter Lewis of Alabama, and Boomer Esiason of Maryland.

In preseason polls, Oklahoma running back to win the Heisman, is

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