



The Super Team

Members of The Salina Journal All-Area Football team are from left, first row: Steve Sheahon, Sacred Heart (12); Larry Diepenbrock, Herington (77), and Alan Shull, Beloit (31). Second row: Rick Balluch, WaKeeney (36); Amos Donaldson, Norton (64), and Kirk Ellis, Southeast of Saline (67). Third row: Mark Koch, Ellinwood (25); Grant Thierolf, Beloit (50); Jim Ginther, Salina South (14), and Steve Vossman, St. John's-Beloit (86). (Journal Photo by Fritz Mendell)

Journal All-Area team loaded with talent



By Harold Bechard

The Salina Journal's All-Area High School Football team has a bit of everything.

It has a 6-foot-5 end and a 5-foot-9 back. It has a 230-pound lineman and a 162-pound kicker. Its representative schools include a 4A competitor whose enrollment is 1,083 and a 1A school with an enrollment of 66. One player lives 180 miles away; another across town.

Statistics aside, there's one word that describes the unit — AWESOME! Whether they were short or tall, big or small, went to a big school or a small one, the 12 players selected to the Journal squad are winners and have records to prove it.

The combined won-lost record of the 12 players' high schools was 91-26 — an 821 percentage.

The stats on the team are impressive. The 2 of receivers caught 90 passes for over 1,000 yards. The backs passed for over 1,000 yards and ran for around 3,700. The offensive line averages 6-1½ in height and 205 pounds. Rounding out the team is a kicker who has meant the difference in 7 of his team's 9 wins in the last 2 years.

They are the leaders on their respective teams; almost all were standouts on defense also.

Some are major college material, and 3 will be back to give opposing coaches headaches for another year. Here's a profile of each athlete:

Mark Koch — Ellinwood
Mark was one of the reasons the Eagles went 10-2 this year and made it to the Regionals before falling to eventual runnerup Garden Plain.

The 6-3, 170-pound senior split end led the Central Prairie league in receiving 2 consecutive years. As a junior he caught 30 passes for 509 yards and 8 touchdowns, and exploded this season with 55 catches for 631 yards.

As a safety, he intercepted 8 aeriels and piled up 214 defensive points. Against Sacred Heart in the Eagles' 22-0 playoff win, he swiped 2 passes. Tackling, he made 37 solo stops and had 18 assisted tackles for the year along with recovering 5 fumbles, causing 2 others and blocking a punt.

"He had to live with some adversity this year," said coach Robert Shandy. "After (Chris) Urban (the Eagles' fine quarterback) got hurt, we had a hard time getting the ball to him. He had to earn his catches later in the year."

Koch was often double-teamed, sometimes triple-teamed, late in the season.

"He's going to make some college a real fine receiver," said Shandy.

Kansas, Kansas State and Wichita State have all shown interest in the Eagle receiver.

Steve Vossman — St. John's-Beloit
Vossman has as much physical ability as anybody on the top 12. At 6-foot-5 and 185 pounds, he was a tower of strength for the Blue Jays at light end and defensive tackle.

The tall senior snared 35 passes for 561 yards and 7 touchdowns in the Jays' 7-3 season.

He too was double- and triple-teamed during the season and was also the 3rd leading tackler at the defensive end position.

"Not only is he a great receiver, but he was also an excellent blocker for us," said coach Brian Ludwig. "He did a super job leading our ballclub this season. He's one of the best players around at his position."



Member of team
Jim Gouldie of Mankato was the 12th member of the Journal All-Area team. He couldn't make it for the group picture because of an appointment in Hays with an Air Force Academy review board.

Amos Donaldson — Norton
Donaldson was one of 3 juniors to make the elite group. The 6-1, 207-pounder was a terror at defensive tackle this year, making life miserable for opposing quarterbacks.

On offense he was one of the keys to the Norton wishbone rushing attack which averaged around 230 yards a contest. He has excellent speed, running the 40 in 4.8.

"He's unstoppable when he puts his mind to it," said high school coach Ted Stein, "and he can be as good as he wants to be. He's an excellent offensive blocker and is very strong."

The junior was 2nd on the team in defensive points with 178 and one of the big reasons Norton was 9-1 for the season.

"He's undoubtedly the finest off-

sive and defensive lineman I've ever coached," said Stein. "I feel he's one of the best football players to be found on any team in any class in the state."

Jim Gouldie — Mankato
Gouldie was the whole show on both lines for Mankato this season. When the Cougars ran the ball it was over Gouldie's tackle position, and when the opposing team rushed the pigskin, it was away from the 5-11, 210-pounder.

Not only is Gouldie one of the top linemen in the Journal area, he also is a straight-A student. "He is the best lineman I've ever coached," said Mankato head-mentor Don Hague, "and I think he has helped change the attitude of our players here to one of a winner."

Gouldie was a starter on both offense and defense for 4 years. "Jim is an outstanding defensive player and very few teams were able to block him with just one man," said Hague. "He has excellent strength and quickness."

He made 50 unassisted tackles and 14 assists during the season.

Larry Diepenbrock — Herington
Diepenbrock, a 6-2, 185-pound tackle, was one of the big reasons the Railroaders were 10-2 for the season and finished in the top 4 of Class 2A.

The senior lineman was one of the top blockers for Herington and had impressive stats on defense.

He made 24 unassisted tackles and helped out on 97 others. He blocked 2 punts and 3 passes and recovered 3 fumbles.

"Larry was one of our better offensive blockers," said high school coach Stephen Herrmann. "He was one of our more consistent performers and is an outstanding junior college prospect."

Grant Thierolf — Beloit
Beloit runs the veer offense better than any team in Kansas. There's good

reason for it — they had one of the best offensive lines in the state.

The hub of that line was Thierolf, a 6-3, 190-pound junior center. He helped

pave the way for Trojan running backs to run for 3,166 yards during a 13-0

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All-Area team

| FIRST TEAM | | | | | |
|--|------|-----|-----|---------|--|
| Player — School | Hgt | Wgt | Yr. | Pos. | |
| Mark Koch — Ellinwood | 6-3 | 170 | Sr. | END | |
| Steve Vossman — St. John's-Beloit | 6-5 | 180 | Sr. | END | |
| Amos Donaldson — Norton | 6-1 | 207 | Jr. | LINEMAN | |
| Jim Gouldie — Mankato | 5-11 | 210 | Sr. | LINEMAN | |
| Larry Diepenbrock — Herington | 6-2 | 185 | Sr. | LINEMAN | |
| Grant Thierolf — Beloit | 6-3 | 190 | Jr. | LINEMAN | |
| Kirk Ellis — Southeast of Saline | 6-2 | 230 | Sr. | LINEMAN | |
| Steve Sheahon — Sacred Heart | 5-9 | 170 | Sr. | BACK | |
| Frank Wattlelet — Abilene | 6-2 | 183 | Sr. | BACK | |
| Rick Balluch — WaKeeney | 6-1 | 175 | Sr. | BACK | |
| Alan Shull — Beloit | 6-0 | 170 | Sr. | BACK | |
| Jim Ginther — Salina South | 5-10 | 162 | Jr. | KICKER | |
| SECOND TEAM | | | | | |
| Player — School | Hgt | Wgt | Yr. | Pos. | |
| Mark Roadhouse — Osborne | 6-2 | 186 | Sr. | END | |
| Gary Forshoe — Salina Central | 5-8 | 150 | Sr. | END | |
| Brent Bessey — Abilene | 6-0 | 195 | Sr. | LINEMAN | |
| Kent Barbaugh — Salina South | 6-3 | 238 | Sr. | LINEMAN | |
| Kenny File — Beloit | 6-2 | 172 | Sr. | LINEMAN | |
| Kevin Moore — Osborne | 6-1 | 190 | Sr. | LINEMAN | |
| David Metzler — Brewster | 6-0 | 205 | Jr. | LINEMAN | |
| Greg Heftenbach — Chapman | 6-0 | 180 | Sr. | BACK | |
| John Horesky — Norton | 6-1 | 180 | Sr. | BACK | |
| Randy Pfacek — Bennington | 5-10 | 165 | Sr. | BACK | |
| Phil Switzer — Bogue | 5-9 | 170 | Jr. | BACK | |
| Al Woodwyk — Hoxie | 6-1 | 204 | Sr. | KICKER | |
| THIRD TEAM | | | | | |
| Player — School | Hgt | Wgt | Yr. | Pos. | |
| Roland May — Oberlin | 6-3 | 180 | Sr. | END | |
| Mark Killian — Russell | 6-3 | 200 | Sr. | END | |
| Tom Slick — Bennington | 5-9 | 190 | Sr. | LINEMAN | |
| Greg Stephen — Bogue | 5-9 | 180 | Sr. | LINEMAN | |
| Stewart Merrick — Belleville | 6-3 | 210 | Sr. | LINEMAN | |
| Corey Ferguson — Clyde | 6-1 | 180 | Sr. | LINEMAN | |
| George Cobb — Luray | 6-1 | 165 | Sr. | LINEMAN | |
| Bruce Anderson — Salina Central | 5-11 | 160 | Sr. | BACK | |
| John Charbonneau — Clyde | 5-8 | 155 | Jr. | BACK | |
| Junior Hartig — Ellinwood | 6-2 | 205 | Sr. | BACK | |
| Brad Kroneberger — Salina South | 5-9 | 164 | Sr. | BACK | |
| Brent Blau — Brewster | 5-10 | 160 | Jr. | KICKER | |
| HONORABLE-MENTION | | | | | |
| ENDS — Bill Giles, Hays; Steve Briggs, Little River; Greg Thomas, Sacred Heart; Alan Holle, Marysville; Kyle Wentling, Beloit; Rick Bremermen, Tescott; Gary Loring, Scandia; Arnold Carter, Bogue. | | | | | |
| LINEMEN — Sam VonLintel, Quinter; Ron Shuman, Salina South; Bob Mackley, Tri-Plains-Winona; Todd Dauber, Luray; Ron Winder, Osborne; Shawn Nelson, Oakley; Joe Walters, Sacred Heart; Mike Dryden, Waconda East; Doug Shank, Solomon; Lyle Koerber, Clyde. | | | | | |
| BACKS — Scott Siemsen, Lebanon; Mark Schmidt, Thomas More Prep; Greg Andrews, Concordia; Jim Smith, Holsington; Jack Moore, Colby; Tim Heffel, Luray; Ron Rother, Oakley; Roy Procter, Waconda East; Kevin Smith, Washington; Tim Campbell, Beloit. | | | | | |