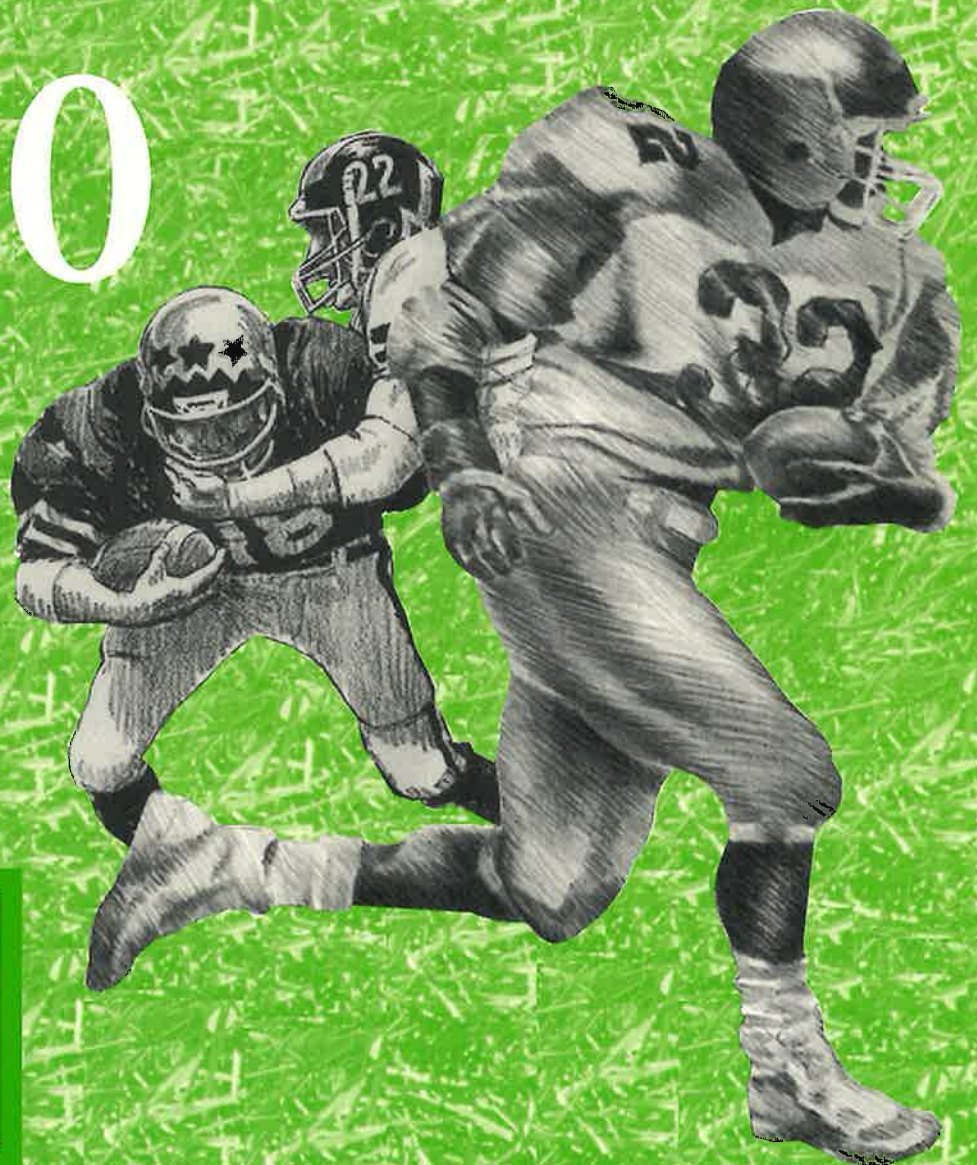


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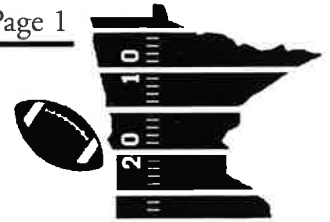
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Minnesota State Football Coaches Association

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Northfield



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President's Message

I would like to thank the MHSFCA for electing me to serve as president for the 2000-01 season and year. It is truly an honor, and I am proud to serve this excellent organization. I would like to thank Ken Belanger for his outstanding leadership this past year. He was able to make some outstanding improvements in our organization. First of all, he was able to motivate coaches to join at an all time high rate, 705 members last year. I hope we can continue to increase our membership this year. Ken also instituted our new service and victory awards for coaches.

I would also like to thank Jim Simser for his many years of leadership and service to our organization. Jim, who will retire as Executive Secretary at the printing of this issue of Minnesota Football, put in countless hours, most of them unpaid, to guide and lead this organization since 1986.

Congratulations to Terry Turek who has been selected as the next Executive Secretary. I know Terry will do a great job. Congratulations also to Dick Strand, our first vice-president, and Dave Nelson, for being elected as second vice-president. As the 2000 football season approaches, several issues come to mind that we will need to address in

the next year or two. The playoff system will be looked at again. A playoff committee, consisting of two coaches from each class, chaired by Dave Hylla, has formed to look at what changes, if any, coaches are interested in. There are several issues within the playoff/classification system. Some coaches feel that keeping a 2 to 1 ratio of school size that our current system is based on is the most important element. Others feel that getting rid of byes is paramount. Still others feel that getting the most teams possible into the playoffs should be our number one priority. There are other issues as well. Whatever changes take place in the future my hope is that we decide based on what is good for high school football and what is good for kids, rather than what is good for us individually.

Another issue currently being talked about is turning our sections into our conferences. I understand this to mean that conferences as we know them would be abolished. We would play our section teams during the regular season. One definite negative would be losing traditional rivalries. Another negative would be the potential to lose our section playoffs, therefore shortening our season. The MHSFCA has been strongly against this in the past. Our A.D.'s were surveyed in



May. This survey required our signatures as well. Each head coach should have had the opportunity to make sure his voice was heard, at least by his A.D., on this issue.

This past spring, several high school coaches met with Gordy Shaw and Tim Allen of the Gopher football staff, on ways to improve our spring Gopher Clinic. The brainstorming meeting was extremely productive. The Gopher staff really emphasized that it is our clinic, and they want to make it as good a clinic as possible. Look for positive changes next spring.

I hope we can continue to work on ways to improve communications within our association. Ken Belanger did a great job of writing letters to keep us informed this past year. I hope to continue what Ken started. An e-mail directory and improved

MHSFCA website are two things I hope to see happen within the next year.

Again, I urge you and all of your assistants to join the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association. An application for membership can be found in this magazine.

Finally, thanks to all coaches who continue to create positive, enriching experiences for young people. Enjoy the rest of the summer and have a great 2000 season.

Respectfully,
Bubba Sullivan
Northfield High School



Austin's Preston Horton (22) is wrapped up by Owatonna's Adam Carlson and Paul Greer during a Big 9 Conference game.

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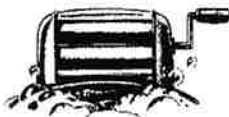
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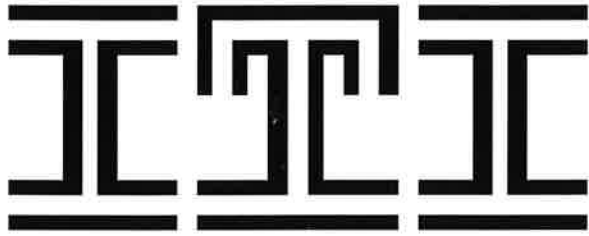
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Our Season of Success

Tom Murphy, Nicollet High School

About the Author



Coach Tom Murphy with wife, Jodi and sons, Sean, 6 and Travis, 3.

As I think back over our successful 1999 season I often think about what made this a successful season. I feel there were many aspects that made our season so memorable. Some of these were things that you can control as a coach, but others are those that you have no control over. I would like to share with you some of our key ingredients.

1. Senior Leadership - Our seniors were very important to this year's success. As the season began they had a very clear idea of what they wanted to accomplish. We place a lot of responsibility on our seniors and they are expected to accept this responsibility. This group was lucky to have many years of playing experience and they were willing put aside personal ideas for the good of the team. Each year we hope that our underclassmen will learn from the examples set forth by our seniors. Each and every one of our

Education: Graduate of Henderson High School 1985. Graduate of St. John's University 1990 (Elementary Education)

Teaching Experience: 4th and 2nd grade teacher at Nicollet Public Schools from 1990 to present.

Coaching Experience: Head Track and Field 1990 to present. Assistant Football 1990. Head Football 1991 to present. Career Record 44-44. Conference Coach of the Year 1992 and 1999. Section Coach of the Year 1999. Coached Nicollet Raiders to the 1999 Prep Bowl (Nine-Man runner-up).

Ten years ago I came to Nicollet High School right out of college. Never did I imagine coaching high school football. In the fall of 1991 I took over a program that had not won a football game in three years. It took until the last game of my first year to break a 36 game losing streak. It's taken a lot of hard work, sweat, and determination to get to the dome this past year, but it was all worth it. Many thanks over the past ten years go to my wife, my children, my assistant coaches, and mostly to the players. Thank you to all of you and how you have contributed to the success of Nicollet Football.

seniors realizes that they are a very important part of the Nicollet Raider Football program.

2. Injury Free - This was probably the biggest key this year. During the entire year we probably had only a handful of injuries to key players. In fact, only once during the season did we have a starter miss a start. This is probably due to luck more than anything. We do place a lot of emphasis on conditioning and hope that this played a role in this factor as well. We do realize that this may never happen again. We'll take good luck every season.
3. Make Practice Fun - We try to find ways to make practice fun. At times we can get too serious as coaches. In fact, there are times when I feel coaches can want things more than the athletes. When this happens at Nicollet we take a step back and see what we can do to put the fun back into football.



The best thing we did this past year was to play soccer on Mondays. During the season our JV plays their games on Mondays. Since we only have 35 players in ninth through twelfth grade this only leaves about half of our players for practice. On JV game days we watch film right after school and then when we are finished we go out and play soccer for an hour. The kids have a great time together and they get an hours worth of conditioning on top of it.

We also do other things like punting and field goal kicking contests, flag football to work on our passing game, and playing mock games. As coaches we need to remember that this is a kids game and that a majority of them play it to have fun. We let our kids have fun if they agree to give us hard work and concentration at learning times. This has worked here at Nicollet.

4. Keep It Simple - This is as basic as it sounds. Since most of our kids play both ways we can't afford to make any one area of the game too complex. This past year on defense we played basically one main set. This defense was introduced the very first day of practice and was practiced day after day. By the end of the year our kids understood our defense extremely well. In fact, during the season when we would suggest changing to a different defense the players would usually prefer to stay in our base and find a way to make it work. This shows the confidence they have in our defense. This confidence comes from keeping it simple and practicing with many quality repetitions. On defense we stress playing as a team and also playing extremely aggressive. These same principals are also expected to be followed in our junior high and JV levels.

On offense we tend to be a little more complex. When possible we try to use multiple sets. We like to give opposing teams something to prepare for. The offense that we use is always selected to fit the personnel that we have. Since we are not a big school it does not allow us the luxury of doing the same thing from year to year. In 1999 we threw the ball more than the average nine-man team because we had the quarterback and the surrounding personnel to do so. Regardless of what we use, we do try to maintain as much consistency as possible. All of our skill people have numbers that do not change much from offense to offense. We also developed a passing

tree of ten routes a few years ago. This helps to keep our passing routes consistent from offense to offense, and it allows make changes much easier within the context of a game. These routes are even taught in our elementary school football program. This consistency allows us to have fun with our offense and open it up as much as we can.

Special teams is another area where we keep things simple, but it also something that we believe is a big part of the game. We begin by implementing our special teams strategies the very first day of practice. We are able to get a lot of our conditioning done through our special teams drills. Almost all of our sprints come from our kick-off team work. Early in the year we do these by grade and then we eventually break into 1st unit, 2nd unit, and so forth. Special teams are practiced every single day for a minimum of 20 minutes. It is our belief that the effort we put into special teams will help us to win close ball games.

5. Mock Game - This is something that we just started doing in the past couple of years. At practice everyday, before a game, we go through our entire pre-game routine. We then follow this with a coin toss by the captains. Our mock game then begins. The goal of our mock game is to simulate situations of a an actual game. We follow a script of exactly how we want this done. These situations may include long or short drives, short yardage, two-minute drill, run and pass defense, special teams, safeties, and other realistic game situations. This has done a very nice job of getting our players focused on their game and our game plan. At the end of this practice we always kick a game winning field goal. This helped prepare us for our state quarterfinal game which we won on a field goal late in the fourth quarter. I feel this strategy allowed our field goal unit to get the job done.

I would just like to close by saying that I am honored to write this article for the Minnesota Football Coaches Association. Good luck to all in the upcoming year.



Wildcat Defense

Clay Anderson, Le Center High School

About the Author



Coach Clay Anderson

Clay Anderson graduated from St. Olaf College in 1986 where he had the privilege of playing under Head Coach Tom Porter and Defensive Coordinator and Head Baseball Coach Jim Dimick.

Anderson coached football at Northfield High School for 13 years, the last 10 as defensive coordinator under head Coach Bob "Bubba" Sullivan. In 1997, Clay accepted the Head coaching position at Le Center High School.

In three years the Wildcats have gone 26-9 and this year won the Minnesota River Conference, Section 4A and finished runner up in Class "A".

According to Anderson, "Much of our success can be attributed to my three assistant coaches, Dale Buss, Bryan Strand and Matt Gegenheimer.

"My wife Bobbie and my daughter Kalah (13) are my biggest supporters and fans!"

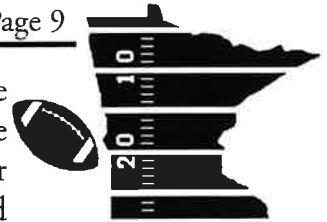
I have been a defensive minded coach all my life. I believe that one's offense should compliment your defense and not the other way around. People, who know me, realize I do not like to throw the football very much. It's not because I don't like throwing the ball or am worried about it being intercepted or falling incomplete, it's because when you throw the football you do not have time consuming drives that keeps your defense off the field. We all got sick of seeing the "Wacker" Gophers lose 48-34 games. The fact is that his defenses were on the field so much, they never had a chance to stop anyone. I have a few other philosophies on defense as well: 1) play your best people on defense (Andy Schmidt was a great athlete who played QB and Safety for us this past year, people would ask me if I was worried that my QB might get hurt on defense. I would tell them that really my starting safety is just playing QB! 2)

All your stud defensive players, who can run, should be on your kickoff and punt teams (use KO & Punt return to get your backups playing time) 3) KEEP IT SIMPLE - We play a 5-2 base defense, I mix in a little 4-3, but only on rare occasions. All through our system 7-12, our kids are playing our 5-2 defense. The reads and techniques are the same at all levels. This gets our kids really comfortable and confident in our 5-2. 4) Play 2 Cover!

2 COVER Vs 3 COVER!

2 Cover gives us some great advantages that 3 Cover doesn't. 1) 2 cover is easy to teach and play.

Here are the basics: Both Cornerbacks and Safeties play pass first. To us this means take your first step back and then react to the run (we tell our safeties that it is pass, then pass, then run).



The CB's play head up and within 5 yards of the receiver. They must force the WR to go INSIDE and hopefully after a little contact. If you have great athletes, get them in the WR face and smack them every play. If you lack a little foot speed, play them back a little. Because the CB's are close to the LOS and have only flat responsibility, this will add great support to the opponents outside running game. On film sometimes it looks like we are playing a 7-2! If the WR takes a huge outside release the CB must make contact and then run with the WR. A CB's run support is like a Defensive End: outside in. If the corner has a TE only on their side, they should have a 3-3 to 3-5 relationship and read that TE!

The Safeties play halves. They are responsible for all deep receivers that were released inside by the CB's. If two receivers are in the same deep zone, tell the safety to take the deepest one and react when the balls in the air. Run support is inside out like the LB's have. 2 Cover allows our safeties to really be aggressive in run support. The rule is: if the run comes to your side, and you didn't first read pass, come hard, knowing the other safety will cover for you! Our safeties have had great success in reading run/pass from the guards. I like to go back in the secondary and challenge our safeties to who can read run/pass correctly first, them or me, I usually win! Play action usually fools the safeties more than the Corners because the guards will do a good job trying to initially disguise the play action. That is why we tell our safeties to play pass, then pass, and then run!

2) Most teams play 3 cover. A lot of the teams we face play 8 in the box so they have to play 3 cover. This past season, the two teams that gave us the most problems throwing the football were Cook County and Lester Prairie, both 2 COVER teams! One of the reasons I think we struggled against them is that we are not used to seeing 2 COVER.

3) Stop the run first! With a few exceptions, the teams that make it deep into the playoffs year after year, are great running teams. I tell our kids that we want the other team to throw the football. I can count on one hand the number of teams that, in 13

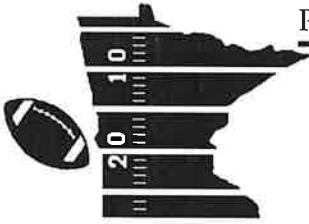
seasons at Northfield and Le Center, beat us throwing the ball. It is difficult for 3 cover corners to give you the kind of run support that 2 cover CB's can give.

4) KISS principle. One year I learned a valuable lesson, we were playing Detroit Lakes in Prep Bowl XII, and all year we had been sitting in our cover 2. When we scouted Detroit Lakes, we thought we would be better off in cover 3 in a couple of situations. On paper, it was the right call, but the first time we faced that formation and went to cover 3, DL (as we affectionately call them around the Northfield area) threw a 50-yard touchdown pass. The rest of the game we stayed in 2 cover and did great, even when 3 cover might have been the better coverage to be in. I learned that because our athletes were used to and more comfortable with 2 cover, they played with added confidence and less confusion. Today, our teams at Le Center do play some 3 cover, but I make sure that at the beginning of the year I point out the formations that we need to switch into 3 cover, and we work from day one on it. 3 cover is something that we would change into due to the offensive formation; we almost never break huddle and line up in it.

5) Give them the slant. Grady Rostburg at Hutchinson always would throw a lot of slants against us. I probably would too. With our CB inviting inside release, the quick slant is open for a short time. 2 things to emphasize with your players, 1) we only give up 4-5 yards, and they'll misfire once in awhile. 2) Our LB/S's will light up that WR once or twice that will help make the receiver gun-shy.

Playing cover 2 is easy to teach and understand. It has allowed our players to play aggressively, confidently, and with great success!

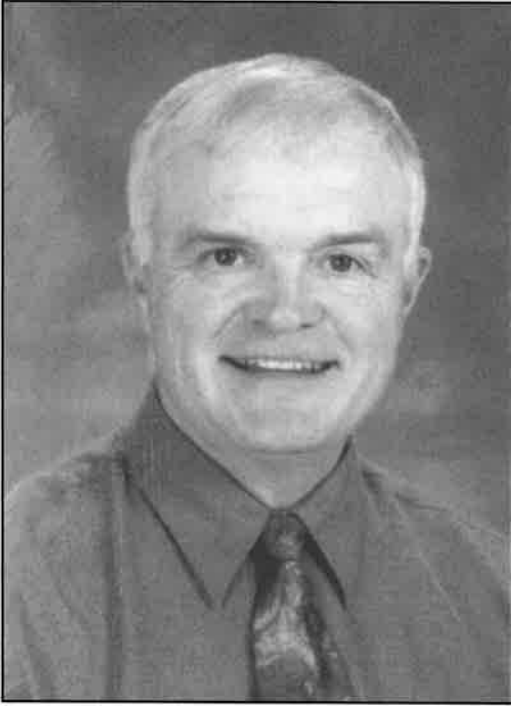




Passing by the Numbers

Stuart Nordquist, International Falls High School

About the Author



Coach Stuart Nordquist

I have been most fortunate to teach and coach in two communities (Adams and International Falls) which take great pride in their high school teams. Both communities foster an outstanding work ethic among their student athletes. Work ethic combined with talent and dedicated assistant coaches have made it possible to win ten Conference Championships overall and six Section Championships in the last 12 years. My present staff of longtime assistant Howard LaVigne and newcomers Mike Mannausau and Timm Ringhofer have made a smooth transition to a diverse passing game. We have always been a ground-orientated, eat-up-the-clock, ball-control football team. We run the Wing T offense. The Wing T has made it easy to adapt to our *passing by the numbers* game. We use

Education:

I graduated from Hoffman High School in West Central Minnesota and from the University of Minnesota - Morris in 1967. I earned my master's degree from Bemidji State University. My first teaching and coaching position was at Adams, Minnesota, from 1967-1974. While at Adams a school consolidation took place to create Southland High School. After one year at Southland-Adams, I had the opportunity to go north to International Falls. International Falls has become my teaching and coaching base for the next 26 years. Presently I am the dean of students and head football coach.

Athletic Experience:

Football - 7 years at Adams/Southland (43-17-2)

Football - 26 years at International Falls (178-87-0)

Basketball - 20 years (head coach and assistant coach)

Track/Field - 13 years (boys and girls head coach and assistant coach)

Athletic Director - 7 years

First let me say a Big Thank You to the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association for their tremendous job done in promoting our great game of high school football. Also, a thank you to the MHSFCA for the opportunity to share a part of our offensive football at International Falls.

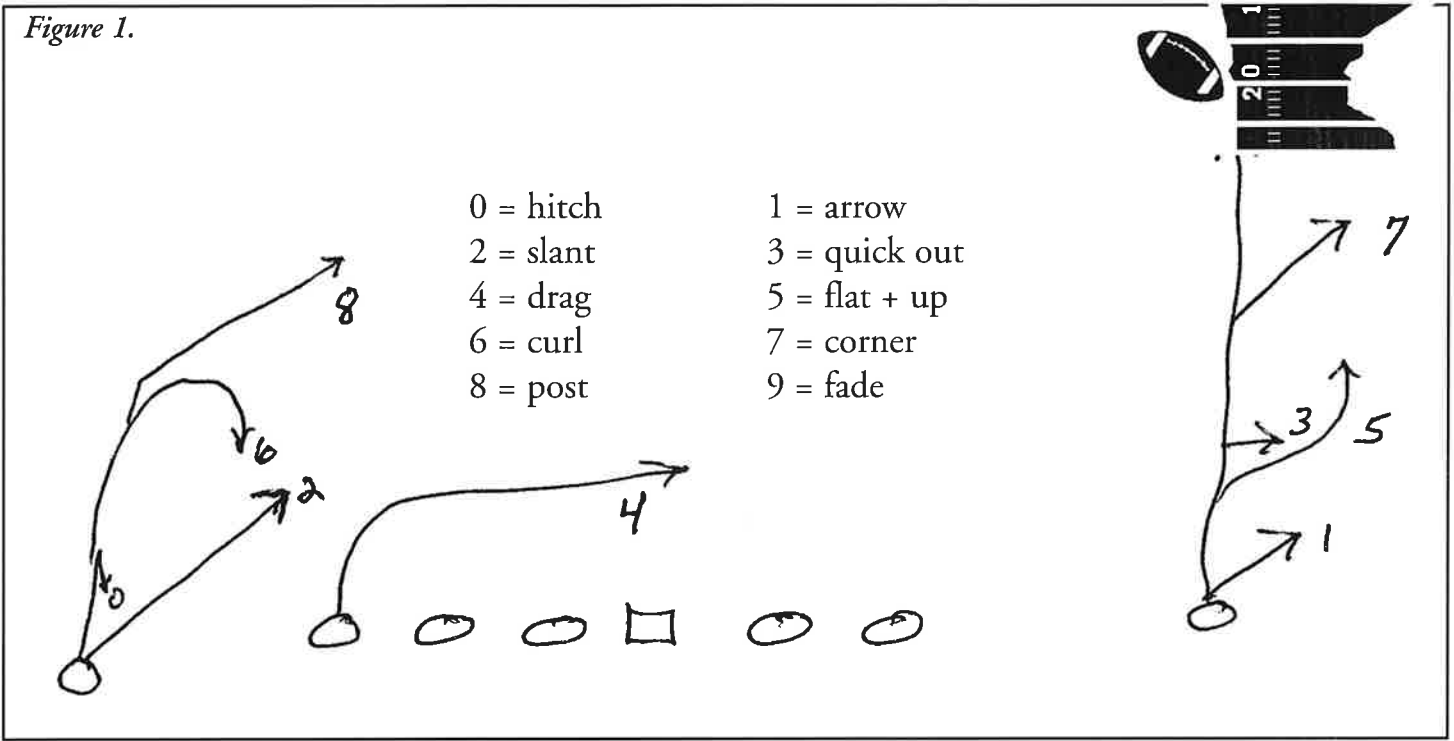
many formations but pass by the numbers.

Passing by the Numbers is not new. It has the advantage of quickly creating patterns to attack various coverages or defensive personnel. The passing tree is the foundation of our numbers system. The passing tree consists of ten basic patterns. All numbers follow two simple rules. The first rule is all odd numbers are away from the center and all even numbers are toward the center. The second rule is for length of the pattern. The smaller the number, the shorter the pattern. In all pass routes, receivers run to or come back to green grass. Do not stay covered! Our passing tree is shown in Figure 1.

Numbers are called from left to right. Each pass

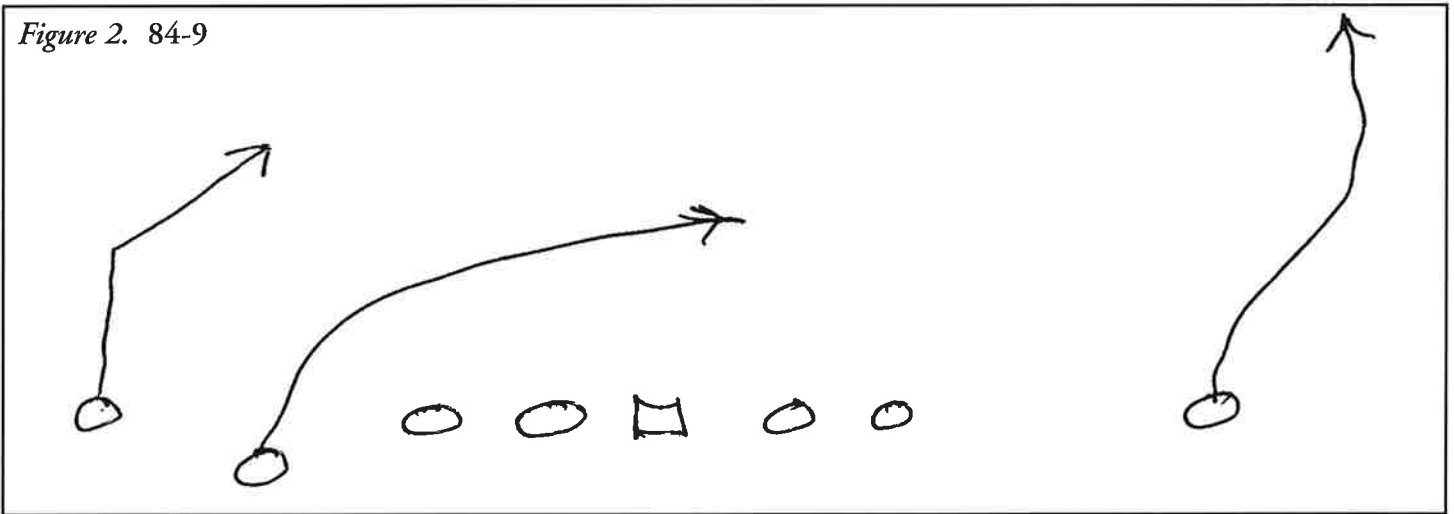


Figure 1.



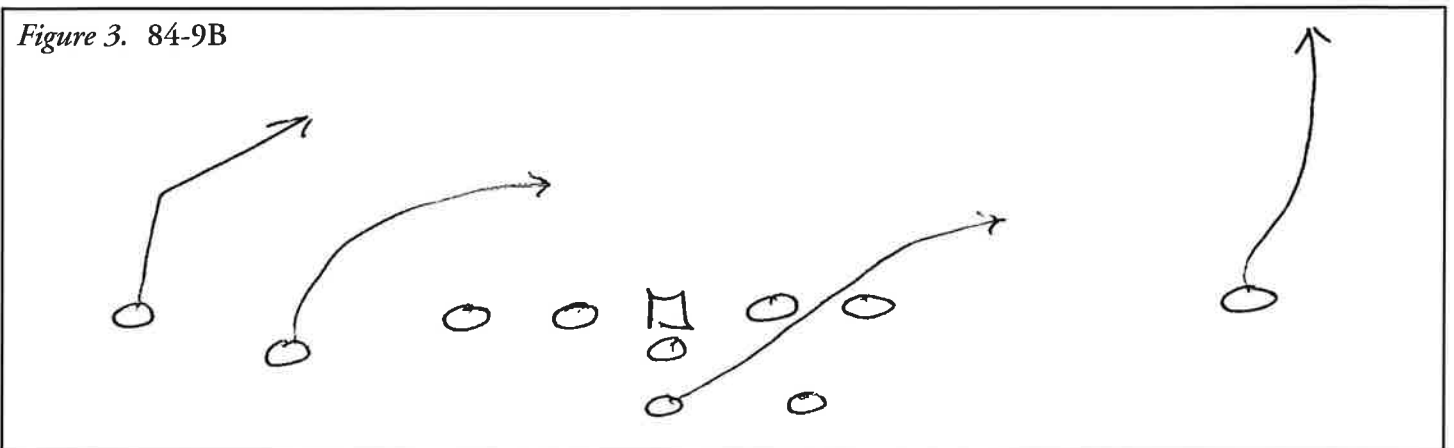
route has a physical signal so that the receiver/quarterback can change a pass route at the line of scrimmage. Figure 2 shows a typical pass play.

Figure 2. 84-9



If we wish to release a back, the pass play would become 84-9B. Either back can release according to a set rule. Figure 3 is an example.

Figure 3. 84-9B



If we go to four wideouts, a play would be numbered 99-89 as in Figure 4.

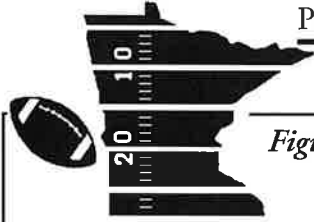
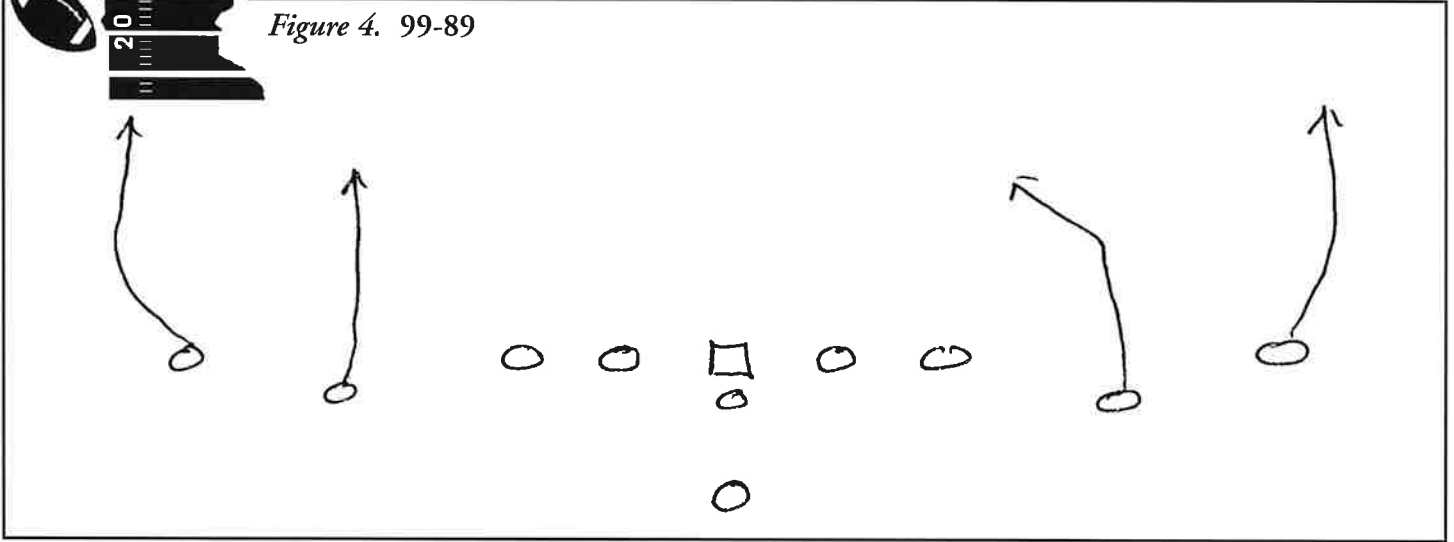
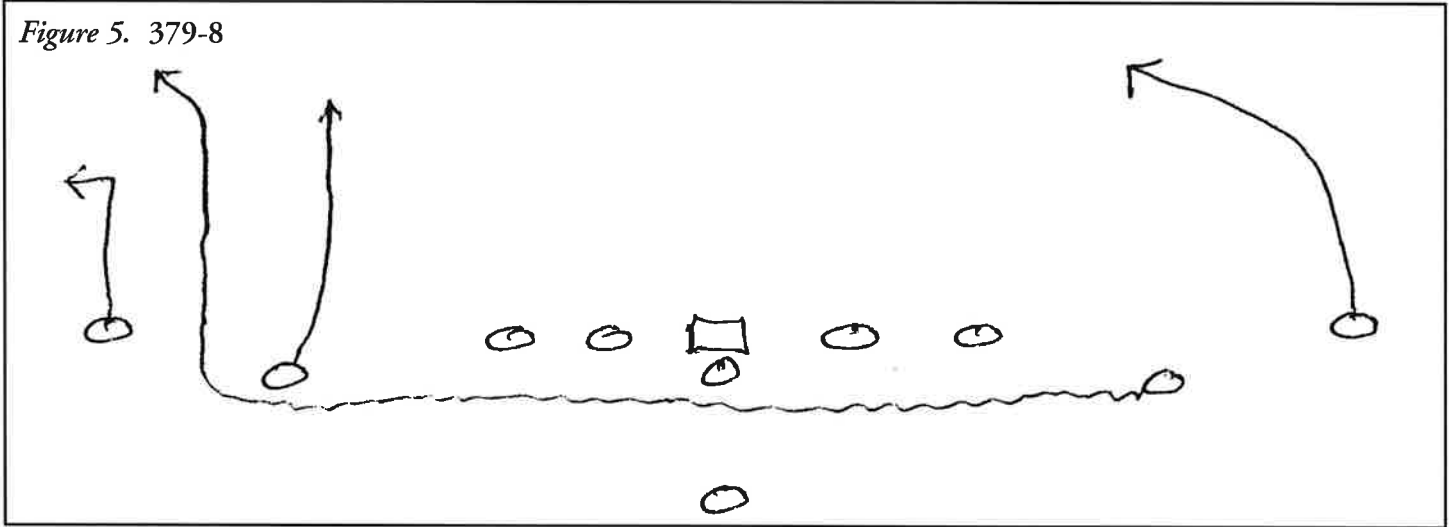


Figure 4. 99-89



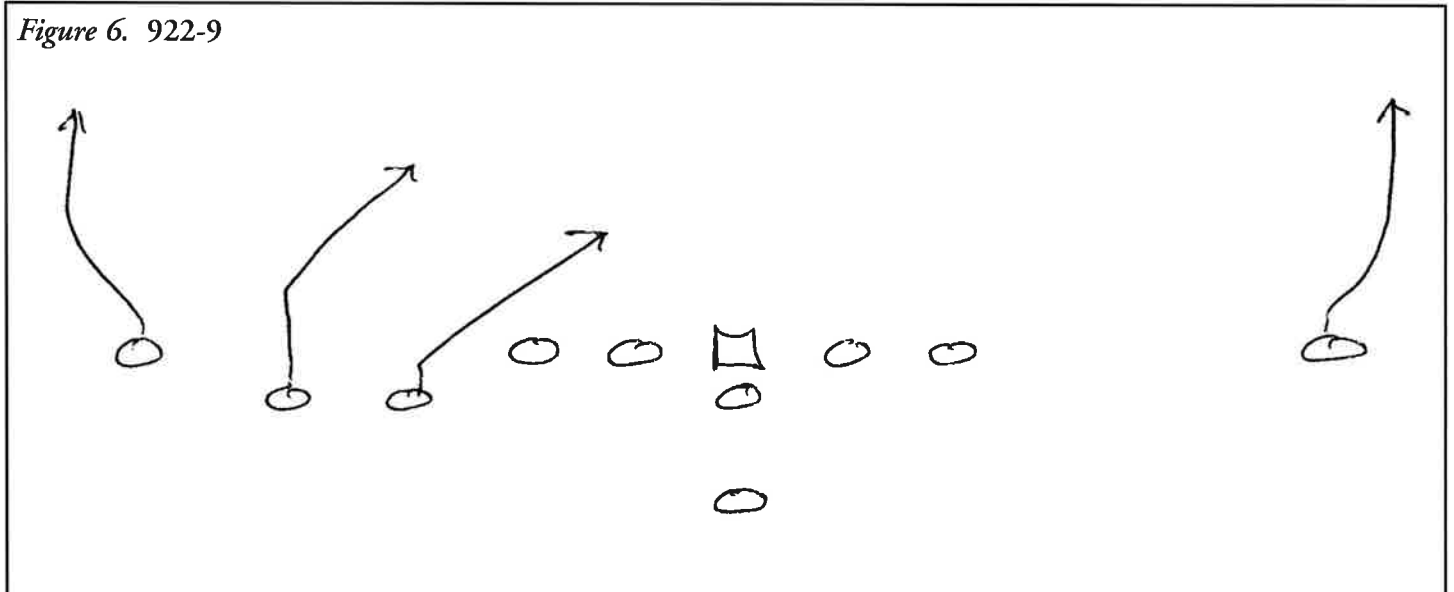
If we use four wideouts and motion to trips, a play would be numbered 379-8 as in Figure 5.

Figure 5. 379-8



If we use four wideouts and wish to begin with trips to one side, a play would be called 922-9 as shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6. 922-9



If we use four wideouts starting with trips and wish to motion to twins, a play would be numbered 84-59 as in Figure 7.

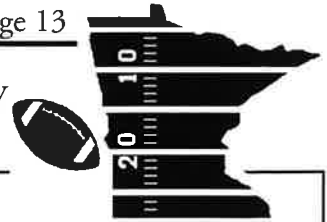
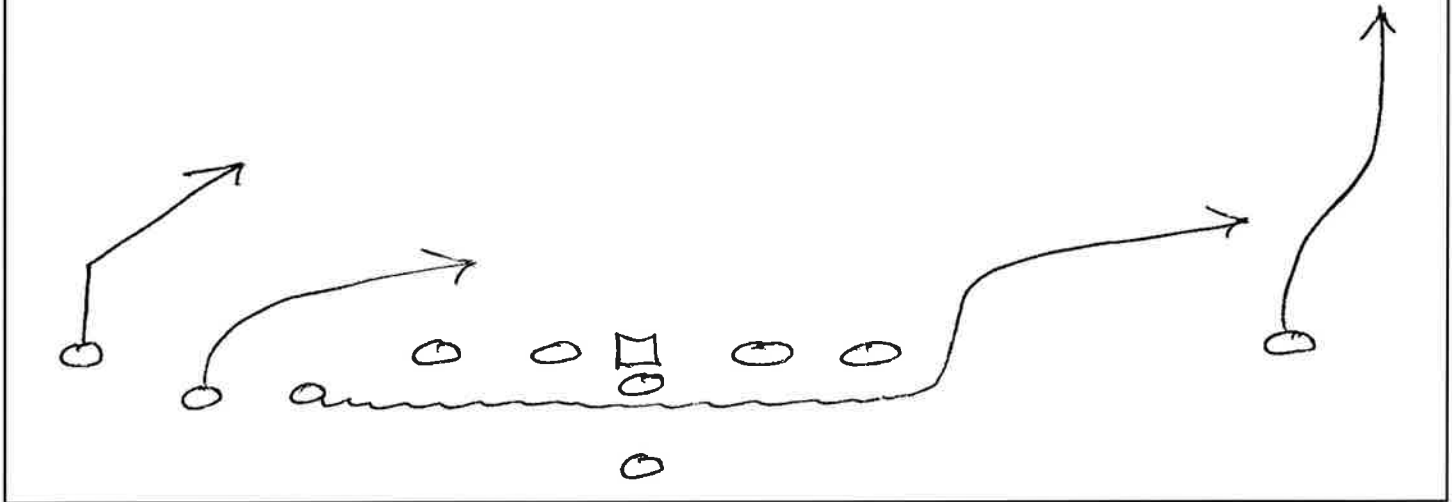
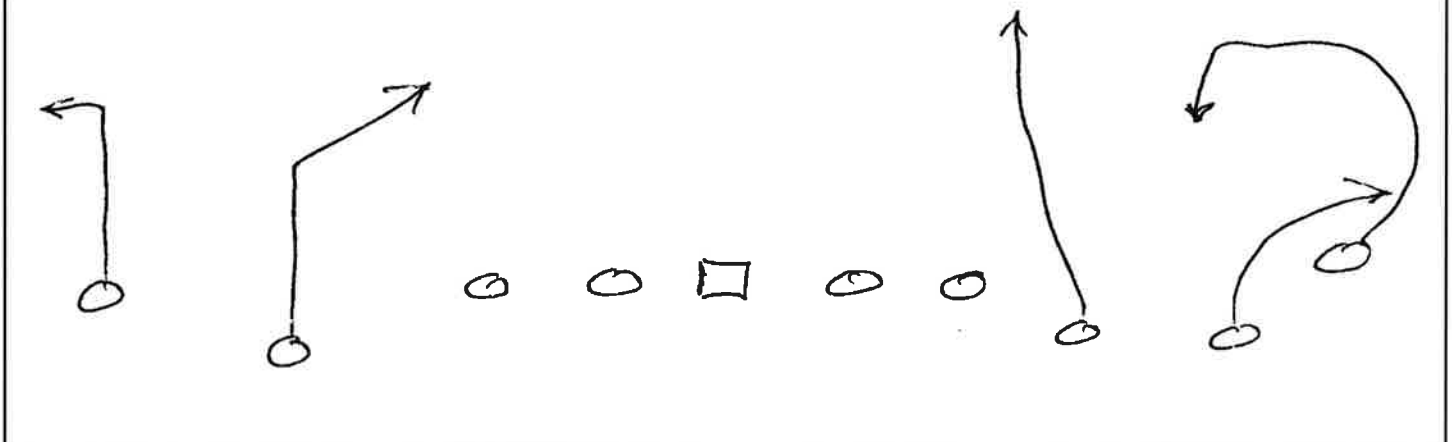


Figure 7. 84-59



Last is our no back which works on the same numbering system. Figure 8 shows a 38-956 pass play.

Figure 8. 38-956



Pass plays are sent in by formation, type of protection, and the numbers to be used. We have been able to easily utilize two, three, or four wideouts using this simple numbering system. We also use motion to create various formations. We usually start each play with two running backs. This gives us a good running threat. The same numbering system is used for both tight and spread formations.

In conclusion, the passing by the numbers has made it possible to create multiple patterns. It also makes receivers easily interchangeable to attack defensive coverages or personnel. We have been most satisfied with the results. Although passing is like candy, we know that the bread and butter of our offense is still the running game. Passing by the

numbers and personnel has definitely given us a sweet tooth.

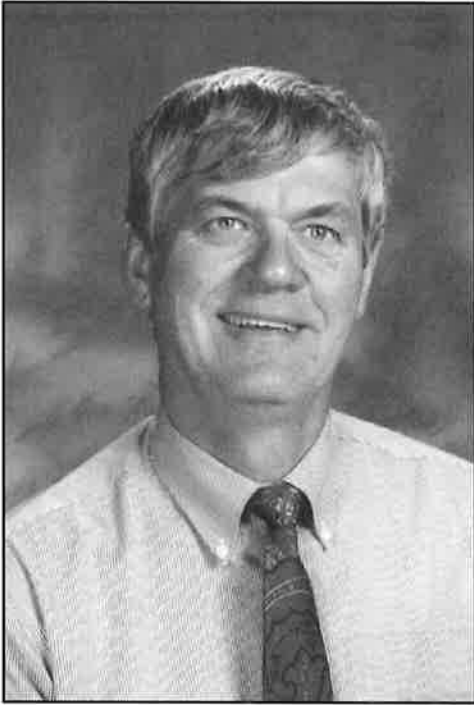




About the Cretin-Derham Hall Football Program

Rich Kallok, Cretin-Derham Hall High School

About the Author



Coach Rick Kallok

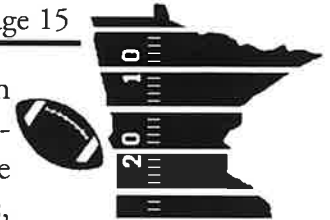
It is an honor for me to contribute to our State Coaches Magazine. Hopefully I can generate an idea or two for you that will be of use to your program. At Cretin-Derham Hall, we feel our success (107W, 15L, from 1990-99 and 10 straight state tournament appearances) is due to the following factors: a great tradition; great players; a balanced approach to the game; continuity in the coaching staff; and effective use of practice time. I am going to spend the majority of this article on tradition.

Great players simply mean great kids who love the game, will work hard, who believe in the system and who value the experience as one of the greatest in their lives. This comes from tradition. A balanced approach to the game means you establish an identity, a trademark that your teams become known for. At CDH, our offense trademark is the drop-back passing game complimented by an effective, simple running game we developed out of multiple sets.

Cretin-Derham Hall is a private Catholic school of 1245 students grades 9-12. They compete in the city conference and play in class AAAAA football. They are the only school that petitions up a class in the state. Rich Kallok, who has been at Cretin-Derham Hall since 1980, coaches CDH. He has been head coach or co-head coach since 1989. Prior to Cretin, Rich coached at St. Bernard's HS in St. Paul from 1970-1980, 7 years as head coach. Rich began his career at Andean High School in Merrillville, Indiana from 1967-1970. Rich is "D" coordinator at CDH. Mike Scanlan is the offensive coordinator and has been on staff for 11 years. Andy Bischoff coaches offensive and defensive lines and coordinates scouting, game filming and pre-practice rituals and has been a member for 8 years. Charlie Reed is running back coach and has been a volunteer coach for 9 years. Derek Weinke is a graduate who has assisted Andy Bischoff with the offensive line for the past 2 years. Ed Stark is another alum who volunteers and works with the defensive line. He has been with the program 4 years. Dan McQuillan assists Rich Kallok in defense and he works with DB's. Dan is another alum who volunteers and he has been part of the program for 7 years. Frank Jackson volunteers also and assists with DB's. He has been at CDH for 5 years. Stan Eskerka works with wide outs and runs the scout team. Stan also is an excellent scout. He has been with the program 5 years. Finally, Mal Scanlan, former head coach at Cretin and coach at University of St. Thomas assists with quarterback and offensive game planning. He and Rich go back 20 years!

Our defense is known for its aggressive, hard-nose toughness. We are opportunistic, cause turnovers and look for ways to score. We develop this out of a 4-4 look, with variation, stunts and games. Our kicking game is known for its big play capability, both offensively and defensively. Since I began at CDH in 1980, we have returned at least 1 kick off and 1 punt for a touchdown each year.

To develop the offense, defense and kicking game we have studied, researched and experimented. To make sure we are proficient we practice each phase of the game every day. In order to be able to understand our offensive, defensive and kicking philosophy, and to get better each year, we have been fortunate to have the same varsity staff together for an extended period of time. Each coach is allowed to coach, to make suggestions, to have input. Each coordinator develops their system and is responsible for teaching and explaining that system to the other



staff members and to the players. Position coaches are allowed to select starting players; each coach is assigned special teams responsibilities and they are allowed to select their personnel for those teams. Our continuity has allowed us to develop trust and understanding and has allowed us to define those offensive and defensive and kicking personalities. The system you choose is not important, but your understanding of its strengths and weaknesses and your ability to teach that system is important.

In order to be proficient in each phase of the game we allow practice time each day for each phase of the game. We have a 2-hour limit on our practice, so we pre-plan the week each Sunday. We provide individual time; group time and team time for both offense and defense each day. We do at least 2 kicking teams each day and work on extra points and punts everyday. Individual time always works on fundamentals; group time allows us to work on coordinated phases of the game like pass rush, perimeter, stunts on defense; hot reads, blitz pick up, pass and run blocking on offense. Team time allows us to put it all together after learning the parts. We usually script this part of practice. Once again how you organize your time can vary depending on the number of kids you have, the time you have, and the number of coaches you have. We don't quite have enough players or coaches to have offensive and defensive practice simultaneously so every player has an offensive and defensive position and we practice offense first one day and defense first the next.

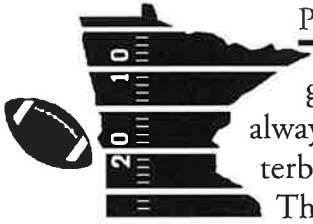
The above factors, great players, balanced approach, continuity of staff, and organization leads to what I feel is the most important part, albeit an intangible, the tradition of the team.

Tradition begins somewhere, somehow, by someone. At CDH it began long ago when Cretin was a powerhouse of the 40's, 50's and 60's. Then there was a period when teams became average, so-so. The tradition was revitalized in 1982 when Mal Scanlan became head coach. He was a Cretin alum who recalled the glory days, picked out what was important then and added all of the factors I talked about earlier. Hopefully we have been able to sustain that tradition.

To me, tradition is nothing more than high

expectations (our goal each year is to be state champions), great work ethic (we practice Saturday mornings, we have in season lifting before school), belief in one's self and one's teammates (we become a second family throughout the year), personal responsibility for one's actions and for the success of the program (we asked each player and coach to each become a "little bit better" when we lost to Champlin Park in '98 so it wouldn't happen in '99). Belief in the system and putting the team ahead of personal glory (our players accept position changes and understand the need to do whatever is necessary for the good of the team) is also critical.

In order to accomplish this, you must be able to create a sense of loyalty in your players. This loyalty is to one another, to the program and to the team rules. You must also create a sense of your loyalty to the players. You accomplish this by giving seniors the first shot at starting. The heart and soul of our team year in and year out are the overachieving, average ability players who love the school, love the sport and have worked as hard as they can to earn their spot. As long as they perform and are at least equal to the junior, they play. We have never started a freshman or even had a freshman with us at the beginning of the year. The only 2 who have been with us at the end of a season have been Carl McCollugh and Steve Rosga who both became Division I college players and they were brought up after their freshmen seasons were over and we had injuries on the varsity. At CDH freshman ball is identified with learning fundamentals and getting to know classmates and developing camaraderie with those classmates. We practice sophomores with the varsity for the first week of conditioning, known as "hell week". This enables us to identify the sophomore who is capable of physically competing at the varsity level and who might start or be a first line sub. The others will play sophomore ball to get playing time and we dress different sophomores each week depending on their efforts in practice during the week. At the end of their season, we invite all sophomores to practice with the varsity throughout the playoffs. This allows them the opportunity for more practice and allows varsity coaches to get a



good look at the future. We always dress the sophomore quarterback for the varsity game. They chart plays and when possible do "mop up" work at the end of games. We also accomplish loyalty during the previously mentioned "hell week". We create an atmosphere of intense physical and mental stress. We continually preach helping each other out and making it though the ordeal together. During meetings we spend time talking about our tradition, specifically what it means to be a "Raider", our past teams accomplishments, our expectations of them as players, students and good citizens. We keep 16x20 team photographs that we exhibit and they recognize the stars from when they were grade-schoolers. We have a team Mass for players and parents to develop the spirit of community. We work harder on this theme of this being a special time in their lives than we do on X's and O's, because it makes the X's and O's more important later on.

At the end of hell week, we have a ritual that perpetuates the traditions we are instilling. On that Friday, we have one long practice. We close that practice by running "350's" around the perimeter of the field. Each year we break the last year's record and every team member completes them all. After the "350's" we do our team bonding ceremony when they are first addressed as "Raider Football Team". We explain that being a member of the team means accepting each other, accepting team rules and promising one another to be faithful and loyal to the program throughout the season. You may see us "circle up" after a win, this is the vehicle we use. Each person is part of the circle, but the circle is one. At the same time, our coaches unveil the team slogan for the year by wearing the team shirts for the first time. These shirts are available only to the team and they become very special to the players. We have used phrases like "talk is cheap"; "performance says it all"; "believe it"; "kill the will"; and last season it was "simply the best". We started playing Tina Turner's recording at the beginning of the playoffs, before and after the games. After the Prep Bowl the kids didn't want to stop playing it. Finally, for the first time we call them Raiders. When we are finished the parents have a watermelon feed for the

whole squad. We then go to the locker room for a "team only" meeting where this year's team rules are developed. We have our school rules, our High School rules and our legal system rules, which are minimum. The team creates rules over and above the minimum and pledges to one another to abide by the rules they set. It is expected and accepted that anyone who violates a team rule will turn in their gear. If teammates witness a violation of team rules they are expected to tell the captains and coaches. We have had great success with this approach. Our simple rule is to do what is right. Everyone knows right from wrong. Our guideline for that is if you don't want your mom to see you doing it, it's probably wrong. I may be naive, but we feel we get almost 100% compliance during the season. We have had self-reporting and teammates reporting violations. More importantly, teammates look out for each other and remind each other of their commitment. This first week is critical into molding and developing the traits of loyalty, honesty and integrity and also feeling the sense of pride in getting through some tough days to become a "Raider".

The final way to develop the sense of loyalty is to make sure each member feels important and to make sure each person's contribution to the team is recognized. Each coach is instructed to make sure they talk to each of their position players at least once during the week about their progress. Each person's integrity is upheld by making sure they know that what is said is confidential. "What's said here, stays here". Each player knows our rules for lettering: anyone who comes to practice every day, who works up to their ability and who is positive on and off the field can earn a letter. We do not cut a player and we usually have 98% of players letter. After games, we always salute the "scout squad" for helping us prepare. We all acknowledge we are as weak as our weakest link, everyone is important and everyone is an equal part of the squad. Does it work, we think so. Our varsity has between 75-90 players, maybe one or two quit early, but after the first 2 weeks no one leaves. Not everyone can start or play a lot, but they all feel a part of the team. We make sure after games no one is left alone. They go out to eat together in groups. The kids are great about not belittling anyone on the team.



In conclusion, I firmly believe that each successful program does have a tradition that stems from the head coach and is bought into by the other coaches and the players. Regardless of the systems you use, if you believe in it, understand it and can teach it, you can make it work. You can establish traditions and make the experience special. We have a team meal before each game; we have donuts at practice on Saturday mornings and its fun to see how close knit the team becomes and how they remain in tune with past players. We get calls, notes and letters every year from past players wishing us well. I have had teachers give me examples of writings on how the team experience has been an important part of their lives. Teammates from prior years remain close friends. At our games you see Alumni from the past years cheering us on. Our first state championship belongs to not only the '99 raiders, but to every team that has had that goal in the past.

If you would like to go over our offense, defense or kicking game, we would be honored to share that with you. If you would like to talk about practice organization that fits your system, we would be happy to do that too. I am proud to be a High School Football Coach in the State of Minnesota and am proud to be associated with so many others who love the game and are developing exceptional young adults out of the players who wear the school colors. Be true to yourself and your beliefs and success will be there. The wins are nice, but the greatest rewards are the letters and calls from players who still feel the experience of that tradition as a special time in their life.



The Rocket's of Rochester John Marshall and the Huskies of Owatonna clashed in Week 3 with the Big 9 Title on the line. Both teams would finish 7-1, but the Rockets prevailed this night 13-12 in a hard-fought contest.



Continuity and Developing A Philosophy

Clark Bergloff, Mora High School

About the Author

A 1967 graduate of Cambridge High School, Clark played for Cambridge coaching legend George Larson. He then played 4 years of college football at Bemidji State University and spent 1 fall as a student-assistant coach there.

His head coaching duties have included 4 years as head coach at Turtle Lake High School (ND), 2 years as head coach at Larimore High School (ND) and the past 21 years as head coach at Mora High School.

His over-all record is 211-65 with 14 conference championships, 6 section championships, 2 state runner-ups and 1996 Class A state champions. He lives in Mora with wife Gayle and has 2 daughters, Katie age 20 and Jenny age 25. Longtime assistants Karl Deis(20 yrs), Gary Gauffin (21 yrs), Mark Antonson (15 yrs) and Joel Thompson (12 yrs) have been an invaluable asset to the Mustang program.

When asked to contribute to the annual football magazine of the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association, I was not sure which topic I could write on. I know that a lot of our program has been developed and "borrowed" from many sources and little if any is new or revolutionary.

I certainly do not consider myself an expert on "X's and 0's" and still, after all these years, enjoy listening and learning more than talking and teaching. One area however, that did come to mind was the process of developing and maintaining continuity in a program. When looking at this, we at Mora strongly believe in the importance of developing a sound philosophy that guides our program in all areas we may encounter.

Coaching football has become a situation of constantly dealing with old and new challenges. We as coaches have to deal with problems in areas such as Fall Leagues and participation in winter and spring sports during our season, Summer camps and passing leagues, year round weight programs, athletes work schedules and increasing academic demands on our athletes.

Because we seem to face new challenges each day, we believe it is even more important to develop a

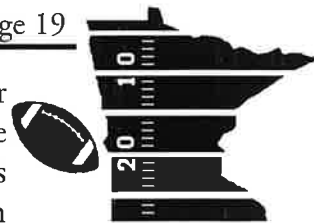
philosophy that we are comfortable with in terms of what type of program we want to provide for our student-athletes. This philosophy then becomes the backbone of our program and contributes to some continuity in our program in grades 7-12 year after year.

Over the past few years, I have had numerous conversations with other coaches concerning how to approach players participation in other sports during football season, what to do with relaxed rules on coaching our own athletes during the summer and off-season weight programs and players commitment to it.

In dealing with difficult areas like these, we believe we must have a consistent philosophy to guide us. Our philosophy is simple:

- A. We want dedicated, totally committed players playing for us during the football season.
- B. We want as many kids as possible to experience the great game of football.
- C. We do not want to lose football players for any reason between the months of November and August.

This simple philosophy guides us on how to handle many of these questions. Accordingly, we



here at Mora have adopted the following approach.

- I. Players on our J.V and Varsity squads are not allowed to participate in any other sport camps, leagues, clinics or "captains practices" during the football season. We want them totally committed to our season and their teammates.
- II. "Quality over Quantity" in our approach to summer football camps. We believe you have to give kids the opportunity to be kids. We provide a 4 day-mornings only, unpadded camp for grades 9-12. It is totally voluntary but highly structured. We do not want to dominate our athletes free time, we just ask for 4 mornings in the summer. Any participation at other camps or passing leagues is totally up to the individual player and they know that there are no repercussions if they do not attend.
- III. Weight Program-an OPPORTUNITY to get better. Our weight program is also totally voluntary during the off-season. We make it as appealing as possible with several motivational incentives and rewards. The bottom line however, is to again, not lose players from November to August. We never give an ultimatum of lift or don't play. We want to motivate-not punish. Provide opportunities-not create conflict.
- IV. Practice Organization-Valuable Time! We give our athletes a schedule for all pre-season practices in May. We also, like most coaches, post our daily practice schedules with every minute accounted for. We want them to know we will always stick to the schedules. If we say we will be done with a practice at a certain time, they know we as coaches will stick to that. This structure also helps us emphasize our time on the field is valuable and how we do things during that time is crucial. Our practices are intense but not long drawn-out affairs. We try to be precise about everything, including when we start and when we finish.
- V. Discipline. Every coach knows the importance of discipline. We believe in being organized and let-

ting each player know what we expect. We stress things like being on time, being reliable, treating others with respect and representing themselves and our football team well in public. The first 5 pages of our playbook are a code-of-ethics outlining our expectations for our team.

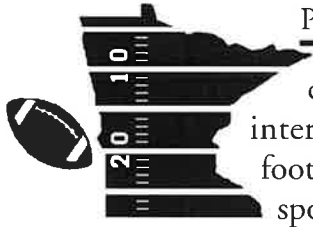
This includes everything from team rules and consequences on practice attendance, being on time, M.S.H.S.L rules, Mora H.S. rules, guidelines for injuries and injured players, curfews, team and individual behavior, academics, homecoming activities and participation in other sports. We spend much of our first practice going over this with our team. We want every member to know what is expected.

In trying to maintain continuity in our program, we also insist on the same drills, terminology, numbering system, stretching and conditioning routine through-out our program. To help with this, we have an annual summer coaches clinic for our entire staff where each varsity unit coach teaches the fundamentals, techniques and drills for his unit to the coaches in grades 7-9. This helps in the carry-over from year-to-year and in our teaching progression.

We also make sure the lower grade coaches understand what type of athlete we are looking for at each offensive and defensive position. This cuts down on the position changing from grade to grade and allows our players the opportunity to play and learn a specific position.

In conclusion, I think all of us quickly develop an offensive and defensive philosophy that fits our particular situation. We feel, that while that is important, it is also important to put a lot of thought into the question of how you are going to develop a program that is attractive to your students and how you can maintain a program that will attract and keep quality student-athletes in your program.

High School football today is fighting a lot of obstacles. Sport specialization, jobs, outside developmental programs in other sports to name a few. In many ways football is at a huge disadvantage in



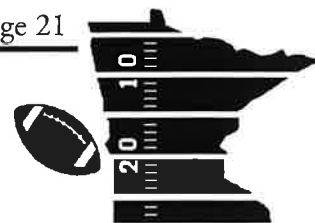
competing with these other interests. We at Mora believe football may be one of the few sports left where a kid can play it, enjoy it and have success in it without expending unbelievable time and money. They can enjoy a great sport and still enjoy a normal life. We try use that as a positive in selling our sport.

We compete in a conference with 3 other class AAA schools and 4 class AAAA schools. We are not one of the larger schools in our conference. We need

all available athletes and have in the past enjoyed very good numbers for a school our size. We have been fortunate to enjoy some success over the years and we try to do the best we can to assure that each athlete that participates in our program walks away with a positive experience that will better prepare him for success in life.



In the Tri-Valley Conference, speedy Irish defenders such as Ian Andrus (43), Brendan Mooney (24), and Tyler Decker (32) has success all season in running down opposition ballcarriers.



The Ten Best Things We Do

Rick Sutton, Mankato West High School

with assistance from Tom Boone, Aaron Miller, Mike Sipe and Tim Walz

About the Author



Coach Rick Sutton with wife Carmon and daughters Kelsey and Maggie.

I would like to thank the MSHSFCFA for this opportunity to share our thoughts on our football program. I would also like to thank my co-authors, members of my staff without whom the growth and success of our program would not have been possible. We have been extremely fortunate through the combination of hard work and good players to take our program at Mankato West from the depths to the Class AAAA championship. Although I am constantly reminded of how much I still need to learn about the game of football with every clinic I attend, these are the things that we feel have had the greatest impact on bringing our program to a competitive level. As in any presentation, it is our hope that you can take something away from this article that you can adapt to your philosophy and what you do in your program.

1) Strength Training - Every program encourages strength training, and we all know it can be difficult to get this started. Our philosophy is to try to make strength training as accessible as possible. We run a Spring Strength and Conditioning Program that is available to all students. In the summer we have

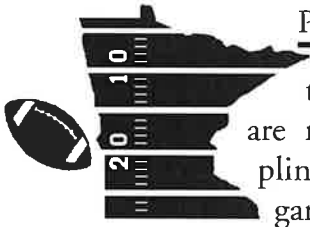
Rick Sutton has been the head football coach at Mankato West for the past six years. In 1999 the Scarlets were Class AAAA State Champions. Previously, Sutton was the head coach at Cottonwood High School (1985-89) and Brooklyn Center High School (1991-93), compiling a career record of 75-62 with four conference championships. He has also coached track and field for 14 years. Sutton lives in North Mankato with his wife, Carmon, and daughters Kelsey, 13 and Maggie, 10.

both morning and afternoon sessions to avoid most job-related excuses. In-season we lift during practice, not after, with different position groups lifting together. We feel that by having lifting as part of practice it reinforces our commitment to strength training. Our philosophy is that although obviously strength training improves strength, flexibility and quickness, more importantly it develops an attitude of hard work and camaraderie that is the key to success.

2) Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance

- We pride ourselves on great preparation both as a coaching staff and as a team. We break our preparation down into film study, practice intensity and mental awareness. A major part of our game preparation is in regard to our scout teams. We constantly tell our players that they are the best scout team in the state and are integral in preparing and improving our starters. The more we can convince them of this, the better look we receive.

3) Focus On The "Little Things" - We believe that if you emphasize the little things, the big things will



take care of themselves. We are relentless in enforcing discipline during our practice and game warm-up -- straight lines, staying together, everyone looks the same. We will dress up our huddle and get a good break every time. Practice schedules are always posted so players know what to expect. Our practice emphasis is individual technique from Day 1 through the end of the season. We insist that we excel at the things that require no talent -- effort and discipline.

4) Stress The Balance Between Student/Athlete - We rarely have athletes who are poor citizens in the building because we make a strong effort to stay in contact with other teachers and deal with problems while they are still minor. We feel that our emphasis on discipline both on and off the field has a positive carry-over in both directions.

5) Teach The Big Picture - When we install our offense, defense and special teams in fall camp, we make a great effort in following the progression from individual technique to group scheme to team. we emphasize learning how all the parts fit together, rather than just learning "your job" through rote memorization. We want our players to understand our entire scheme and why we do the things that we do. This produces the confidence for players to make on-field adjustments and to suggest ways we can attack our opponents.

6) Emphasis On Special Teams - When we started our rebuilding at Mankato West we knew that most of the time we would be at a physical disadvantage against most of our opponents. We made a philosophical decision that we would emphasize special teams, an area that many people take for granted, as a way to level the playing field. We have convinced our players that our special teams will be better than any of our opponents'; this provides us with a certain level of confidence going into every game. We believe that field position is the most important factor in a football game, and we are usually able to gain an advantage in this area with our special teams.

7)11 To The Ball! - We have adopted this statement as the overriding philosophy of our defense. We

stress tremendous pursuit and getting all eleven defensive players into the video screen. We feel this philosophy has greatly increased our defensive aggressiveness as well as providing the confidence that each player needs only to fulfill their function within the defense. We incorporate this philosophy into all of our pursuit drills and scout team reps.

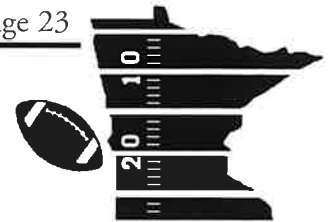
8) Great Staff Communication - We work very hard at fostering communication within our coaching staff. As a head coach, I strongly believe in delegating responsibility and letting assistant coaches coach. In order for this system to work, we must always be on the same page. Each coach has a clearly defined role and the opportunity to provide quality input in all aspects of our program. this allows us much greater flexibility and practice and game co-ordination. We work to develop a consensus in our decision-making process, although it is also understood that the head coach always has the final word.

9) Don't Try To Outcoach People - We believe that we face outstanding coaches both in the Big 9 Conference and in the playoffs. Rather than trying to outcoach our opponents, we focus on our strengths and the things we feel we need to accomplish to be successful. We greatly appreciate the challenges we face each week from opposing staffs and feel that they constantly force us to improve our coaching.

10)Have Fun - Never forget that the game is supposed to be fun, and we're dealing with 16, 17 and 18 year old young men.

In closing, these are the things that we believe in. We may not carry these out the best, but they are the best things that we do. Our advice is to identify the best things that you do, and do them well. We have found you almost always get from kids what you truly expect of them.





Playing Defense the Knight Way

Mike Frisch, West Central Area High School

About the Author



West Central Area Knight Football Coaching Staff --Top row: Randy Walters [head 9th grade coach], Mike Flint [offensive and defensive line coach], and Greg Jacobson [9th grade assistant coach]. Bottom row: Kraig Hunter [offensive coordinator], Mike Frisch [head coach], and Pat Anderson [defensive coordinator].

Here at West Central Area High School we place a great emphasis on playing good defense as we believe that in order to win championships, whether it be a conference, section, or state championship, that a team needs to be outstanding on the defensive-side of the ball.

Our defensive philosophy starts with an emphasis on stopping the run. In our conference (the Heart O' Lakes) and section, the traditionally good teams are able to run the ball and we feel in able to compete on a consistent basis we need to be good against running teams.

We play an eight-man front defense and try to do a good job of being sound in terms of alignment against any formation that we face. However, we realize that there are no magical alignments that automatically result in good defensive play. Rather, having good football players who have a clear under-

Mike Frisch is a 1981 graduate of Wyndmere (ND) High School where he lettered in 3 sports and a 1986 graduate of Moorhead State University. Frisch has coached and taught at West Central and West Central Area High Schools in Elbow Lake and Barrett since 1988. He served as head football coach at West Central High School for five years and then assisted Keith Swanson for six years when Hoffman-Kensington and West Central High Schools merged to form West Central Area. Frisch took over as head coach when Swanson retired at the end of the 1998 season and guided the '99 Knights to a 13-1 record and state runner-up finish. Frisch and his wife, Ginny, reside in Elbow Lake with their two daughters, Sarah (age 7) and Hannah (age 2).

standing of their roles and responsibilities and then play at high level of intensity is the key to good defense. Therefore our focus is on developing our players physically during the off-season and then doing a good job of coaching them to play fundamentally sound football and to have a clear understanding of their defensive responsibilities. The following is a look at some things we do to try to accomplish our goals.

1. Offseason conditioning

Since this is an article about defensive play and not conditioning I won't spend a lot of time discussing our offseason program. I will tell you, however, a couple of our beliefs about the importance of strength/speed/agility training. First, we believe having a good conditioning program in this day and age does not guarantee success on the field, but we



believe the lack of such a program almost certainly guarantees failure. Our coaches believe that it is no coincidence that the two section championship teams (1995 and 1999) we've had since our school has been in existence since 1993 have also featured our two best groups of weight lifters.

Second, not only do we believe in the obvious results of conditioning (increased size, strength, speed, etc.), but also think having well conditioned athletes is important to our defensive play because it gives our athletes added confidence not only in their personal abilities but in our team's abilities. We think we've played a physical brand of defensive football the past couple of years and that's largely due to our players' commitments to our conditioning program and the confidence they gain from conditioning. One of my challenges for the future is to continue to try to find ways to help our athletes motivate themselves to condition.

2. A solid "base" defense

As I said earlier, one of our beliefs is in being sound in alignment versus formations/plays. The eight-man front we play has proven to be sound against many of the teams we've played. This is important for the obvious reasons, but having a sound base package also allows us to have good continuity not only during the season, but from season to season. While we do make slight adjustments each week to try to stop an opponent, our base package is sound and therefore we rarely make huge adjustments. Doing the same things from week to week without a great deal of change helps our players to be able to play with confidence and reckless abandon rather than having to worry about whether or not they're "doing the right thing."

Looking back at our state championship game loss to a very good Waterville team last fall, a mistake I made was putting us in a pass protection package that we had not used much during the course of the season rather than staying with our base plan. While we may not have stopped the outstanding passing attack our opponents had, I think we would have given our players a better chance for success by being in our basic coverages.

3. Intense Play

We think "playing hard" was one of our keys to success last fall. To try to foster this, we limit our practice sessions to two hours (and often shorter) and try to work at a very fast rate in practice. In an effort to practice and play with intensity, we strive to coach with great intensity and passion, demand that our players run from drill to drill, and then try to design competitive drills that promote "playing hard." We think playing hard in a game is a result of developing that habit in practice so we constantly look for ways to promote practice intensity.

4. Meaningful Practice

We try to accomplish a couple of things in practice that we feel are important to playing good defense. First, during our breakdown periods, we try to have each position coach do a good job of drilling what we feel are important fundamentals each and every day. To accomplish that goal, we have developed a defensive-position play book that details things like stance and alignment, reads and keys, responsibilities and techniques for each position. The booklet also contains a list of drills appropriate for developing these skills. In addition to fundamental work, we also try to plan meaningful group periods, "hull" sessions in which we utilize and practice our fundamentals and techniques against the upcoming opponent's various offensive sets and plays out of those sets. As was stated, these hull sessions not only allow us further work on fundamentals but they prepare our players for that week's opponent's offense. Depending on the opponent and their offense, we utilize defensive pass hull, an inside hull where we drill our inside players vs an opponent's inside running plays, outside hull where we drill our defensive ends, outside linebackers/secondary people vs an opponent's outside running plays. Since we play a "call-side" defense, we also drill our strongside players vs the coming opponent's strongside run and pass plays and do the same on the weakside.

The last two years we have done a great deal of this style of practicing as opposed to playing "defensive team" against the scout team offense as we feel we do a better job of coaching in smaller group settings and feel we get better "looks" from our scout players in this setting.



5. Good Gameplanning

A coaching motto we have at West Central Area is that we don't want to lose a game because of something we didn't do as coaches. That means we want to prepare our players as best we can every week. To do that we try to break down an upcoming opponents game tapes as a staff rather than relying on our defensive coordinator to do that because six sets of eyes are obviously better than one and because that allows our entire staff to do a good job of coaching our position players during the week.

Once we've broken down the tape, then we try to develop a game plan that will give our players the best chance to stop the opponent, but by utilizing our base defense as best as we can.

From there, we try to determine offensive tendencies by down and distance and from various formations. We try to alert our players to formation tendencies during the course of preparation during the week. Down and distance tendencies are utilized in calling any stunts and coverages and are also communicated to our defensive captain during the game when appropriate.

One final thought in gameplanning is to not worry about the unexpected.

Early in my coaching career I often filled my head with "what-ifs" during the course of game preparation. Now our focus is on stopping what we know an opponent will do, rather than worrying about what they might do. If the unexpected occurs we rely on the soundness of our overall defensive package and our players' abilities to play with reckless abandon.

While these gameplanning ideas are things I'm sure most coaches do, we try to do a very thorough job of these things as we think they are some of the little things that when combined become important to success.

In conclusion, we have no secrets here at West Central Area. We do, however, believe in what we're doing defensively and think that our style of play gives us a good chance to be successful. Hopefully, I've shared a thought or two here that will help you be successful. Good luck in 2000!



In the Central Lakes Conference, All-Conference linebacker Brody Maack (2) of Alexandria tackles All-Conference running back Kyle Berg (20) of Brainerd in the Section 8AAAAA final at the Fargodome. Other Alexandria players are: Amos Hartsell (47), Evan Amundson (33), Martin Andrade (66), Kyle Pender (58), and Rustin Robinson (18). Other Brainerd players are: Scott Imgrund (22), Brian Burke (62), and Conrad Binsfield (71)



Mariner Kick Return Package

Doug Conboy, William M. Kelley High School

About the Author

Doug Conboy, Head Football Coach of William M. Kelley High School of Silver Bay, Minnesota. Married for the past 27 years to wife Bev, four Children, Lindsay, age 22, John age 20, Jared age 17 and Alex age 15. Conboy graduated from Augsburg College, Mpls in 1973 with a B.A. and received his masters degree from the University of St. Thomas in 1985. While at Augsburg, Conboy earned letters in Football, Hockey and Baseball, serving as captain in both Football and Hockey. After Graduation he was hired as a teacher and coach in Silver Bay, Minnesota and has been there ever since. While teaching at Silver Bay, Conboy has coached Hockey -- both as head and assistant coach, Baseball -- both as head and assistant coach, and Football, and has been the head Football coach since 1979.

I am honored to have been asked to write an article for this years Minnesota State High School Football Coaches magazine. I have enjoyed and learned from all of the articles that I have read in this publication over the years and hope to impart some useful knowledge to those who read this article as a chance give back to a magazine that I have gotten a wealth of information from.

I will talk about the Kick return package that we use here in Silver Bay as well as how we practice it and the philosophy behind what we do.

Philosophy:

We have a goals sheet that is used to chart our performance on the Kick return, our goals for the kick return are:

1. To score on the kick return, I have found that if you don't expect to score, you seldom do. We try to make returning kicks a priority of our special teams and touchdowns are expected from the kick return unit.
2. We expect to return every kick-off to our 40 yard line. This is another goal that we shoot for knowing that it is not always possible but it is our objective if we can't score. This

shortens the field for us and increases play selection for our offense.

3. We will not get penalized on the kick return. This is a key factor and obviously, can really put you in a bad state of mind regardless of your field position. We have run kicks back for a touch down only to have the score called back for a clip or hold, this is very hard on the team mindset.

Our Kick Return Package-

Our kick return is divided into three groups of players.

1. Wall/ Front Line players, (5 players)
2. Wedge players, (4 players)
3. Returners, (2 players)

Wall/Front Line players-3---2---1---2---3

Responsibilities: Stance- our front line players all face the ball with hands ready in the event of an onside kick. Their stance is like that of a shortstop in baseball.

Our Wall/ Front Line players job is to first make sure that the ball is kicked deep, then to make a running lane for the returners. There are three possibil-



ities for the returners. We have a right, left and middle return each designed to give those returners a chance to go coast-to-coast. For a right or left return, our Wall player to the return side right or left #3 lines up with the man on the opponents kick-off team that is third from his side-line. This alignment is important since our sideline return sets up a wall much like many punt returns. The third man from the sidelines is our landmark for setting the wall. After seeing that the kick is a returnable one, the front line follows the right or left #3 player in an effort to make a vertical wall going up the field from a landmark determined by that #3 player. His rule is to keep number three on the kick-off team to his inside, and to run straight down field until he gets to a point five yards up field from where the ball is caught by the returners. With the other four Wall/Front line players close behind him they set up a wall looking to the inside and closing up their gaps so that no opposing player can run between any two of the wall players. Each wall player is instructed to protect his down field gap.

Wedge players--W-1 .. W-2. . .W-3. . .W-4

Responsibilities: The players in our wedge are all Tight-end/ Full-back type kids who can block, and can run with the ball in the event of a short or pooch kick.

Stance- our wedge players stand in a ready position prepared to either catch and run or to drop for a deep kick. The wedge players position themselves as follows, the two outside wedge players, (W-1, and W-4) line up mid-way between the Front Line #2 and #3 players, their depth is determined by the scouting report and how deep the opponents kicker kicks the ball. They are always on the alert for a pooch kick and must be able to cover that kick. The inside Wedge players, (W-2, and W-3) line up between Front Line #1 and #2 on their respective sides, and five to ten yards deeper than W-1 and W-4. These players are instructed to field any kick that they do not have to reach up to catch. If they catch the kick they are to run where the blocking is going to be. They do have the option to get what they can if the kick is drastically away from the wall. Seeing that the kick is going deep, the wedge players sprint back to spot approximately ten yards upfield and

directly in front of the returners. On the "Go" call from the returner the entire wedge sprints for the wall and has the following blocking assignments. W-1 has number 1 closest to the sidelines on the opponents kick-off team, we want W-1 to block that man OTF (off the field). W2 is back up on #1. If W-1 gets #1, W-2 is to scrape the outside of the wall. W-3 has #2 on the opponents kick-off team. His job is the same, to block #2 OTF. W-4 has the same back up role on #2, if W-3 gets #2, W-4 scrapes the wall.

Returners-- R-L-- -R-R

Responsibilities: We want our returners to have good speed and good vision; they need to be good natural ball carriers and most importantly, have good hands. We place the returners on the right and left hash marks and determine their depth by the scouting report. As a rule of thumb, we place them about 5-7yds deeper than we think the opponents kicker can reach. The returners are instructed to maintain their hashmark distance in separation. This allows for them to execute a reverse/fake reverse hand-off to get the return going. We have found that using this hand-off slows the kicking team and takes some of their players away from our return to honor our fake. The returners maintain their separation and the one making the catch calls "GO" on the catch. At that point; he and the other returner make the fake/ hand-off and head to the return. The wedge is waiting for their call so it is of vital importance that the call be made. The rest of the return for the returners is simply making good decisions and running like mad. Note: The returner going away from the return has an important job as well, if he carries out his fake well; he will take from two to five of the opponents players with him. If they only break stride to check him, he has done his job. (See Figure 1).

This return is run to the right or left as a mirrored play and is effective vs most any kick-off scheme. The feature of this return I like the best, is, that you have to block only two players to get a good return. If you are able to get a good block on the opponents #1 and #2 players out on the sideline you have a chance to go all the way. We like to give our



players every chance possible to succeed and this return has been a great source of pride among our players for years. I can remember several games over the years including a hard fought 6-0 win in 1986 in which our kick return ended up being the deciding factor in the game.

one's way not to knock anybody down. In the event that the kick is extremely wide and away from the wall, we call "BROKEN". When the kick return team hears this they know that the returners are not coming their way and that they should go to the ball and try to make a play. We also run this return "Naked". This means that the returner with the ball is going to be the one who is going away from the wall. This is effective in keeping the opponents from loading up where ever they see our wall forming and in keeping the kick-off team in their lanes as long as possible cutting down on the number of people we are forced to block. We have scored touch downs on the right, left and naked returns!

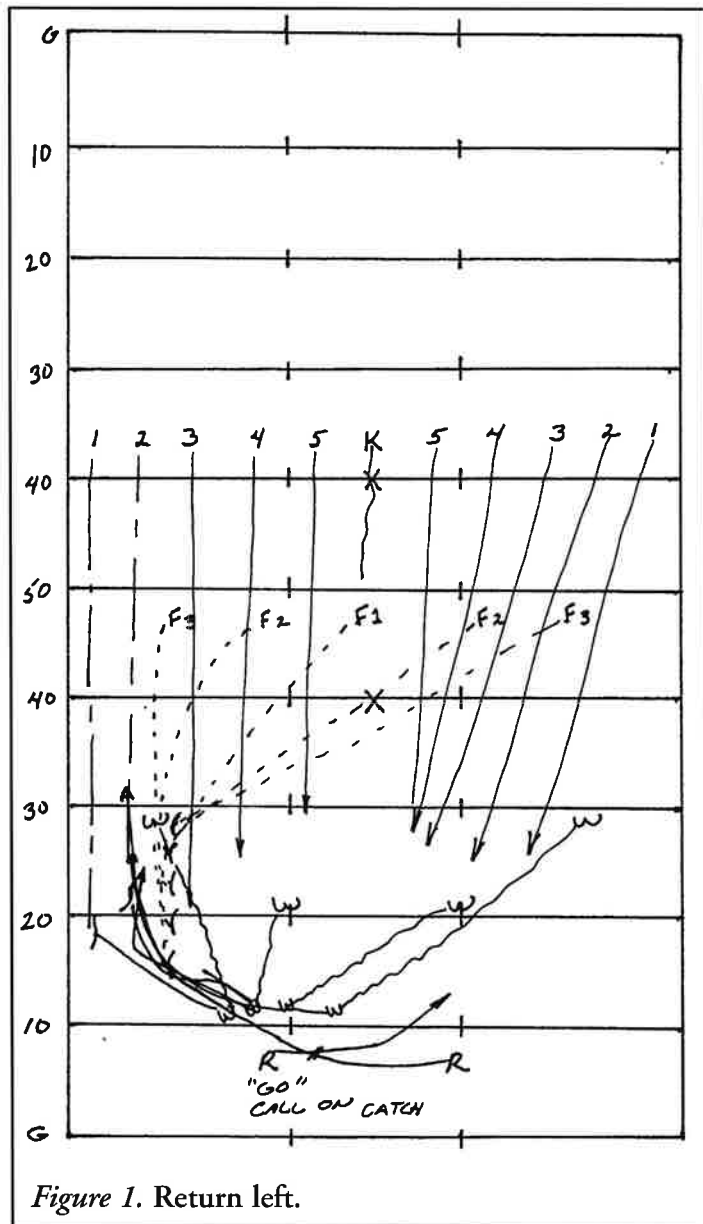


Figure 1. Return left.

Coaching points - We watch our returners on the hand-off; If they aren't going to carry the fake out, they won't be returning kicks. I watch the hand-off each time. I'm looking for a good job of hiding the ball and for speed in doing it as well. Our Front Line players can be any one, they don't need to be big, simply mobile. Their job is to get in some-

Middle Return-

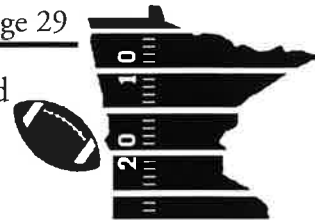
We align our players exactly the same as for our right or left return.

Wall/ Front Line players--

Responsibilities: #1's job on the middle return is to stalk the kicker. Today's rules prevent a return team player from blocking the kicker until he has gone down field so we simply stalk him and wait for him to come to us. Both #2's are going to block the first man from the kicker on the side opposite where they line up. They drop and cross to get to their blocks. It is wise to practice having one of the these players stay upfield all the time so that they don't end up blocking each other. Both #3's have the same job on the second man from the kicker opposite from the side they line up. The #3's should drop a bit farther before they attack their blocks. The distance of the drop is adjusted for the depth of the kick. For most kickers , we have the #2's drop about ten yards and the #3's about 15 yards. You will have to tune this to your team's speed and abilities.

Wedge players-

Responsibilities: Same alignment as for a sideline return. The wedge on the middle return drops in front of the ball as before, but on the "GO" call sprints straight up field running hard and low and ready for impact. They are going to try to create a crack in the wave of kick-off covering defenders for the returner. This is not a job for those who don't seek out contact! The wedge players should strive for



close alignment, no more than a yard apart as they head upfield. Their basic rule is: no one crosses your face with out being hit. Continue up field as far as you can go keep running as long as no one crosses your face.

be of use to you as you read this article.

Returners--

Same alignment as for the sideline return.

For the middle return we don't fake the reverse, instead the returner who is not going to field the ball takes up a position on his side of the wedge and becomes a wedge player for this play. It is important for the returner not to get too close to the wedge. If he does;he could in all probability make a great play for the opponents by tripping over a wedge player, or a player that has been blocked by the wedge. He is looking for a seam and when he sees that seam his job is to burst into that seam and Score! (See Figure 2.)

We have found that by using this and the sideline return we are able to keep our opponents from loading up on any of our returns. Many of our opponents do not kick deep to us which gives us good field position with out having to return the ball.

Practice-

We practice our returns three days a week as part of our conditioning. This allows us plenty of reps and avoids the numerous 40 yard dashes we used to do on Thursdays. By using special teams work for conditioning we also incorporate conditioning with development of football skills and are able to use our practice time more efficiently. We have also found that our younger players profit greatly from this plan since it is hard for them to get enough reps on the special teams with the very limited number of coaches we have on staff. It should be noted that we practice our punt returns as well during these times. Typically we will practice our kick returns for 15 minutes on Tuesday and Wednesday, and run through the return again on Thursday but only three to five reps on Thursday.

After twenty some years as head coach I can't remember very many seasons that we have not scored on the Kick Return and in most seasons we score more than once on these plays. I hope they will

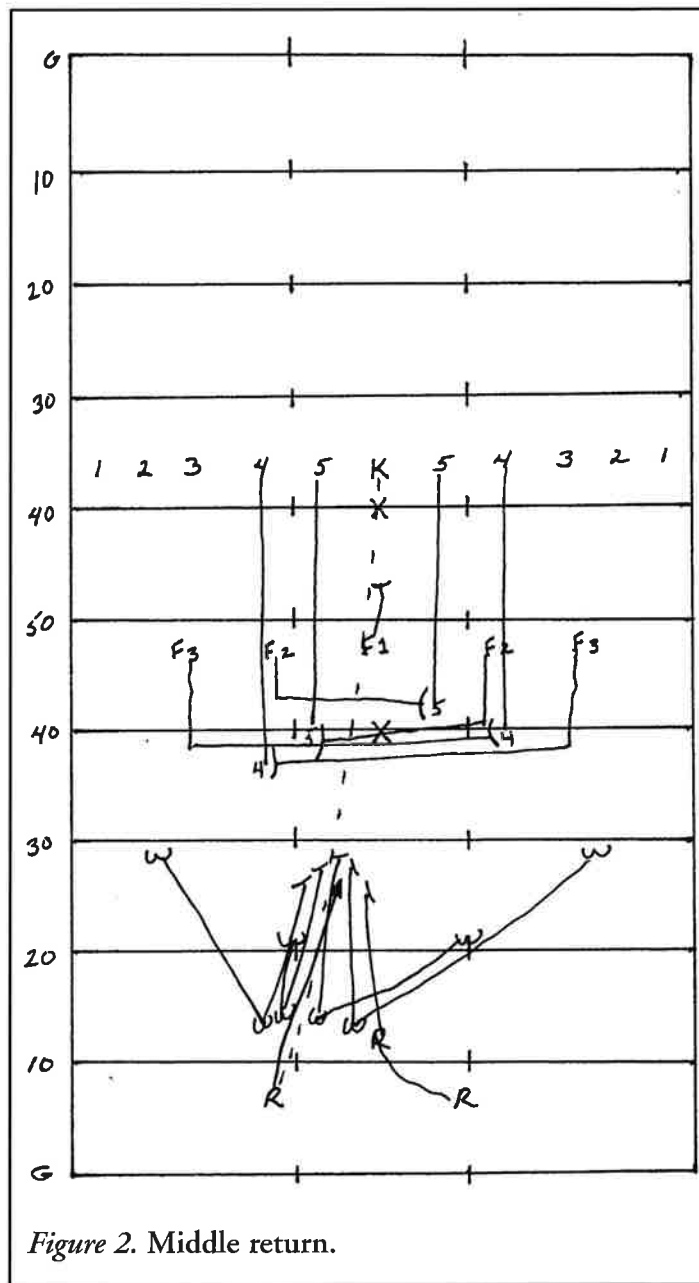


Figure 2. Middle return.



Fundamentals of Coaching: From the Ordinary to the Extraordinary

Ralph Bodin, Duluth Central High School

About the Author



Coach Ralph Bodin.

Building a football program is much like building a house, both need to have a plan. An architect has a vision of what the final product will look like and proceeds to work backwards to the beginning or foundation to create the design. All of the architect's previous experiences, work, education, and mentoring will have an influence on the final design. Like the architect, the coach needs to have a vision or goal, and work backwards to develop a coaching foundation and deliver forward toward the vision or goal. This is what will help drive the development of you and eventually your program.

Bill Walsh, the extraordinary San Francisco 49ers coach talks about what it takes to be a champion in his book *Building a Champion*. He didn't know what or how this was going to happen when he first got into coaching, but he did have one unique characteristic that championship coaches have, learning something more about the game. Coach Walsh was a student of the game. His teachers were those he

Ralph Bodin has been the Head Football Coach at Duluth Central High School for the past six years. His coaching career began in 1979 as the Boys Head Track and Field coach and Assistant Football coach and included six years coaching in the Basketball program. Ralph attended the University of Minnesota, Duluth, played football for Coach Jim Malosky, and graduated with a B.A.S degree in Physical Education and Health. He continued to teach and coach in Duluth and worked to complete an Educational Administration Degree from the University of Wisconsin, Superior, and is currently an Assistant Principal and Head Football Coach at Central. His family includes his wife Susan and daughter Libby.

worked with and players who played for him. Many years of developing ideas, strategies, game plans, and players have culminated in the coach he finally became and the team he helped create. This is exemplified in the following quotation:

"The biggest influence on me was the Raider system I learned as an assistant in 1966--and that system emanated from Sid Gillman, who probably learned from Shaughnessy and... well, you get the picture." "With the Raiders, I learned the Gillman system of football, which became the foundation of my philosophy of offense. I received help from the quarterbacks, Cotton Davidson and Tom Flores, and from John Rauch, who had an excellent football mind."

Bill Walsh *Building a Champion*

Coaches teach what they know about the game of football to their players, coaches and sometimes

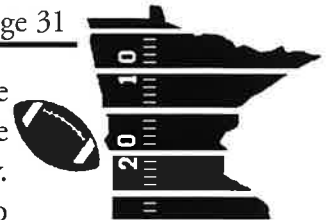
to fans. Some coaches know more than others about the X's and O's, conditioning, motivation, and strategy. Some coaches have experienced playing the game at a variety of levels and share with coaches and players what they have done. Still other coaches are just starting and don't know much about the game, but are eager to grasp whatever is out there to build their foundation. Where do you fit in?

The novice coach, those who are just beginning, tend to be one dimensional in their view of a program. They are trying to establish a base of knowledge about one or more aspects of the game. It could be that they will develop a favorite area like offense, defense, line play, linebackers, etc., and build a greater understanding and method of teaching. Once a novice coach is comfortable with a specific area, then a wider view of the game begins to evolve. With years of watching, learning, experimenting, and evaluating, new ideas begin to develop and an understanding of the big picture starts to take shape. Just like the architect, from the foundation the structure begins to appear. As the coach continues to develop, the one dimensional view becomes three dimensional and a program takes shape. How long it takes a coach to move into the 3-D mode is entirely individual. Some will have no trouble getting to this level, others will take many years and many will never get beyond the one dimensional phase.

Understanding what it takes to develop a cham-

pionship program can be daunting unless you have some help along the way. Self discovery is one way to proceed, but it is not very efficient. Attending clinics, talking to successful coaches, reading articles and books is probably the better road to travel. It will also be helpful to have a staff with at least one other coach who is willing to move out of the one dimensional and into the 3-D world. More than one coach at this level, supporting the direction you wish to take the program, will help model the other coaches as to how they can assist in getting to the common goal.

So let's review what has just been said. You have a vision or goal, it is important enough in your mind that you will spend a lot of time and energy in developing a plan to get the job done. Your individual growth as a coach will eventually provide a greater view and understanding that there is more to the game than just X's and O's. You will need to invest in learning, get help along the way, and find others who share your vision. Remember, this is an ongoing process. Plans to help you get to the goal change as your foundation of knowledge and experience grows. Keeping these ordinary points in mind may lead you down the path to an extraordinary championship program. Best Wishes.



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Getting Younger Athletes Involved

Tony Thiel, Jr., Wheaton High School

About the Author



Wheaton High School Coaching Staff: Shane Lee (assistant coach), Bob Thompson (assistant coach), Tony Thiel (head coach), and Mike Fahleen (assistant coach).

Head Coach: Tony Thiel Jr.
 Career Record: 3rd season 19-11
 Conference Champions-1999 (7-0)

Thiel grew up in Battle Lake, played football for his father and were State Champions his sophomore year in 1977. In 1978 they were State Runners-up and his senior year, lost in the semifinals. My three years as a starter in Battle Lake our record was 36-2. Thiel played two years at Fergus Falls Community College, losing in the

state finals in the freshmen year, and two years at University of Minnesota, Morris, where they won the conference in his junior year. During Thiel's student teaching in Perham, he coached football for one year. Thiel has been involved with the Wheaton program for 8 seasons, 5 as an assistant and 3 as the head coach.

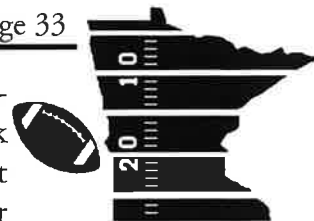
Thiel has been married 10 years to Darla, the head volleyball coach in Wheaton. They have two very active sons, Tyler (8) and Carter (4).

At Wheaton, we have been blessed with athletes that are dedicated to the sport of football, some very talented younger athletes, and a coaching staff that understands their responsibilities for us to be winners. My first two years as head coach at Wheaton we were a meager .500 team with a lot of inexperience and only a couple of seniors the second year. We molded a good group of sophomores, gave them a lot of playing time, and with their dedication and hard work after three years they were conference champions. We have now decided that by playing younger players and having them ready for their junior and senior seasons, we will be rather competitive every year. When we play the younger athlete,

he usually will be on the special teams, unless he can prove that he can play at the varsity level as a freshman or sophomore.

One of the main ingredients for our success is to have the ability to play the younger athletes. Many of these players usually start on our kicking team as sophomores or even freshmen. By giving them this chance to play and see what they can do at the varsity level, we find out if they will be able to play varsity as sophomores.

Last year, on a team that went 9-1, we had 14 different underclassmen start for us somewhere during the season. Considering that we play a nine-man schedule, this is nice to see these underclassmen be



able to compete. Our defense was predominantly underclassmen and we only gave up 14.2 points per game. This coming fall we return a lot of quick players who have played quite a bit of football and we should be solid on defense.

Another key to our program is the younger players have seen that we will play the younger athletes. They realize that they could have a chance to play as a sophomore, and I think that is a big reason that we do get quite a few players out for our football program. If those athletes have some speed, and aren't afraid to make tackles, they will play. This also gives our other athletes that have been playing a lot during the game a chance to rest during kick-offs and returns.

I know that many coaches have different philosophies about playing younger athletes. We feel that on the kick off team this is a great opportunity to see if they can play at the varsity level. I understand that coaches don't want to give up a touchdown on special teams. We have given up one touchdown in the three years that I have been the head coach. The touchdown came late in the game when our older athletes were on the field! Our safety on the kick off team got caught tangled up with another athlete and couldn't recover. We do assign back-ups for each player on the field, this is generally an older group in case we do need them to play at crunch time.

Our kick off return team has quite a few underclassmen on that too. We usually have our younger linemen in on this and we put speed back in the deep position. We make sure that the athletes that are in the deep position have good hands, and again assign back-ups for these positions with older athletes.

Our special teams units are very important to us. We have blocked many punts in the last three years (9), have returned one kick-off for touchdown, and one punt return for a touchdown. Some of the blocked punts have set us up for quick scores or has changed the momentum of a football game in our favor. We go over special teams every week in practice and spend a good hour or two a week on special teams.

Why do we play a lot of underclassmen on special teams? Its good experience that can be valuable

to your program, very seldom anybody returns a kick off for a touchdown, at crunch time use your older athletes as back-ups, more players involved in the game, younger athletes realize they can have a chance to play early (more players dedicate themselves to the program), good rest time for your main athletes that play most of the game, and they find out what it takes to play at the varsity level.

After the first couple of games, changes can occur. We give our players so long to prove themselves if they can be on the kick off team. If they are getting down field and into the action, making tackles, breaking up wedge blocking, staying in their lanes, etc., they will stay on the team. If they aren't getting down field, breaking wedges, missing tackles, then we make the move and get them out. The same is true for the return team. If they aren't blocking, running hard, getting up field, etc., then we take them off the return team. We tell our deep men to catch the ball and get up field as quick as possible, find a seam and go. Don't do any dancing or juking/jiving because you are then in trouble and have a good chance to fumble the football.

It has been truly amazing to watch the younger athletes perform. There are definitely times you will have to make changes, but in the long run you will have younger athletes playing a lot of varsity ball. I am a sound believer to play younger athletes on these teams and give the main athletes on the team a much needed rest at this time. When the fourth quarter roles around your athletes are probably going to be more fresh than the opponent.

This fall we will play a lot of underclassmen again on the kick-off teams and they will definitely be ready when they are juniors or even late in their sophomore years. Believe in them and you will be amazed by what you will see. Tell them what you expect them to do, keeping it simple, and you will be surprised. At that young age they will do whatever you tell them! As a coach you have to believe in them! Thanks for your time and good luck in the upcoming season.





Lyle Anderson of Cook County Named 1999 Football Coach of the Year

Lyle Anderson, long-time head coach at Cook County has been selected as the 1999 Minnesota Football Coach of the Year. Three consecutive State Class IA Championships and three straight Class IA Coach of the Year honors made the decision an easy one for the selection committee.

Lyle was selected from an outstanding group of coaches comprised of the five other class coaches of the year: 9-Man: Jim Guetter, Stephen-Argyle; 2A: Jon Bakken, Waterville-ElysianMorristown 3A: Stuart Nordquist, International Falls; 4A: Rick Sutton, Mankato West; and 5A: Rich Kallock, Cretin-Derham Hall. All six coaches were recognized at the Hall of Fame Banquet.

Lyle is a graduate of Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln where he was an All Conference performer for Roger

Haring. He went on to North Dakota State played for Ron Erhardt and earned All Conference and All American honors graduating in 1972.

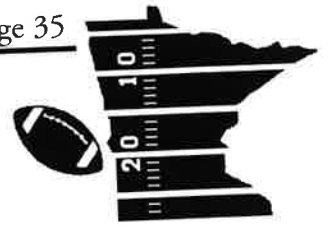
He begin has coaching and teaching career in Cavalier, North Dakota and after three years returned to NDSU coaching the offensive line from 1974-76 and earned his Masters Degree in 1975. In 1976 Lyle took over the head position at Cook County in Grand Marais and has developed an outstanding program with a great group of assistant coaches. Dale Bockovich, State Assistant Coach of the Year in 1997, Mike Boomer, and Mitch Dorr have given coaching consistency to the program.

In the past 24 seasons the Vikings have won 170 games with 82 loses and have earned Lyle five Conference Coach of the Year awards and seven Section Coach of the Year honors. Cook County has the current longest winning streak in Minnesota with 32 consecutive victories.

Lyle also serves at the Cook County Athletic Director. Lyle and his wife of 28 years Shelby, have three children. Jesse is a construction management major at NDSU, Jodie is taking Spanish Education at Luther, and this fall Eric will play football at UMD and begin his studies in Pre-Med. Eric was a star performer the past three seasons for Cook County.

Congratulations to Lyle Anderson for his great football coaching career and the success of the Viking program.





Gary Hansen of Chatfield Named 1999

Assistant Football Coach Of The Year

Gary Hansen has taught and coached for the past 27 years at Chosen Valley High School in Chatfield and has been chosen as the 1999 Minnesota Assistant Coach of the Year.

Gary is a native of Henry, South Dakota where he played 8 man football, basketball and ran track. He continued his track career at Northern State where he graduated in 1972 with a degree in mathematics. He teamed up with head coach Ken Jacobson at Chatfield that year and success has followed both ever since.

He coached football for 9 years at the junior high level, 7 years of B Squad ball, and has been varsity offensive coordinator for the last 8 years. The Gophers won state championships in 1994, 1995 and 1996 and last fall were defeated in the state semifinals 19-17 by eventual champion WatervilleElysian-Morristown. Coach

Jacobson gives Gary much credit for the success the team has had over the past 8 years.

Gary was recognized for his dedication to coaching by being selected as a Butch Nash Award recipient in 1996 and was also selected to coach in the 1996 All Star Football Game. He has also been the head coach of the successful boys track and field team for a number of years. His role as a math teacher was recognized by being selected as the Chatfield Teacher of the Year in 1997

Gary and his wife, Karen, have two children, Michael age 31, and Raymie age 29 and enjoy spending time with their grand daughter. They also keep busy on their hobby farm where their work with horses also gives them great satisfaction.

Congratulations to Gary Hansen for his many contributions to education and football.

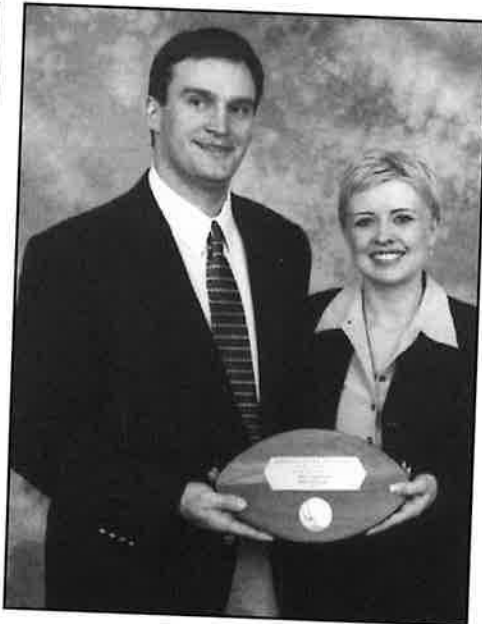




Coaches of the Year ...



Lyle Anderson
Cook County
Class 1A Coach of the Year
Minnesota Coach of the Year



Jim Guetter
Stephen-Argyle
9-Man
Coach of the Year



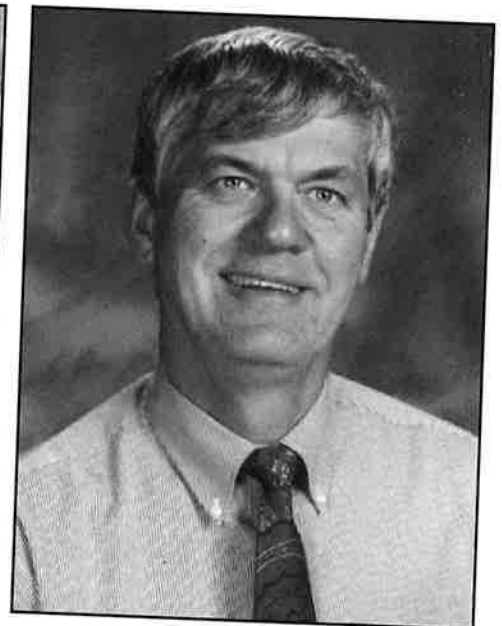
Jon Bakken
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown
Class 2A
Coach of the Year



Stuart Nordquist
International Falls
Class 3A
Coach of the Year



Rick Sutton
Mankato West
Class 4A
Coach of the Year



Rich Kallock
Cretin-Derham Hall
Class 5A
Coach of the Year





Distinguished Service Award Winner Jim Simser

Jim Simser, Secretary-Treasurer of the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association since 1987, was the choice of the President's Committee for the 2000 Distinguished Service Award. Jim now joins Jim Lano, Bud Olson, Bob Roy, Don Swanson, Bill Etter, Tom Mahoney, Sam Samuelson, Dick Walker, Jim Dotseth, and Randy Shaver in being recognized by the MHSFCA for this prestigious award.

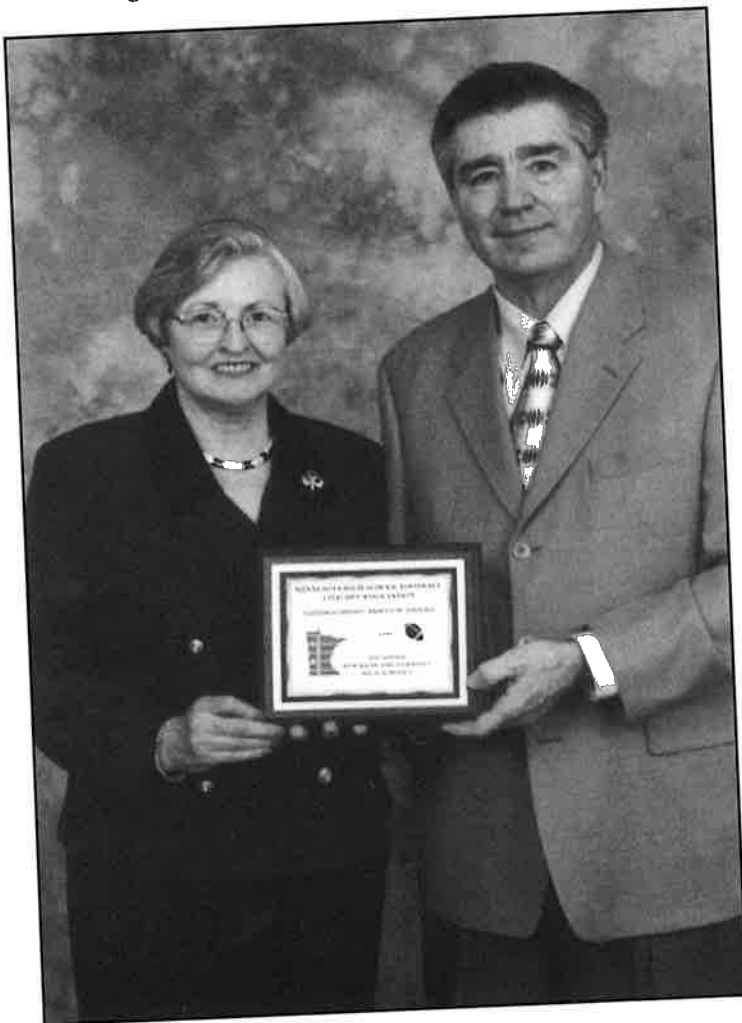
Jim was recognized at the 2000 Hall of Fame Banquet. He was presented a plaque and a beautiful watch donated by Stan & Judy Skjei.

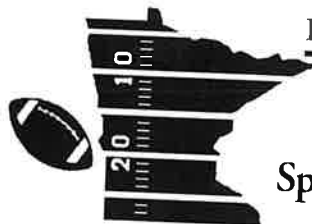
When Jim hung up his whistle after the 1999 season completing 32 years as a head coach at New Richland- Hartland and Fairmont he had compiled a coaching record of 223-91-1 with two state cham-

pionships. He was also inducted into the Hall of Fame at the banquet.

But it is for his work off the field and behind the scene that Jim was recognized with this award. He has been a member of every committee of the MHS-FCA during his years of coaching. He served as MHSFCA President in 1986-87 and since January of 1987 has been the Association Secretary-Treasurer.

Jim retired as activities director at Fairmont High School in 1998 and has kept busy driving a medical van and sneaking in an occasional round of golf. Jim and his wife of 37 years, Winn Ann, have four sons who all played for dad at New Richland-Hartland. With five grandchildren they will be busy for many years to come.





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1965

Bernie Bierman
Frank Cleve
Bernie Cole
Jake Christiansen
Vein Morrison
Bronko Nagurski
Ted Peterson
Lew Swearingen

1966

Bert Batson
Lester S. Barnard
Red Hastings
John Gagliardi
Lefty Ranweiler

1967

Francis "Pug" Lund
Louis Todnem
Paul Giel
Cliff Morlan
Joe Markley

1968

Lee Brockmeyer
Sid Hartman
Charles "Bud" Wilkinson
Elmer Wigen

1969

C.P. Blakeslee
Dick Bradley
Ray Christenson
Jim Byrne
Lloyd Hollingsworth
Pete Guzy

1970

Ed Widseth
Adrian Christenson
Jake Christiansen
Walter Hertz
Frank ORourke
Les Knuti
Bud Grant
Wendell Vlasin

1971

Manny Marget
Butzie Maetzold
George "Butch" Nash
Harold M. "Snooks" Sullivan

1972

Dick Wildung
Jim Lee
Jerry Krueger
William F. Broekmeier
Fred Vant Hull

1973

Earl Teas
Chuck Elias
Ralph Anderson
Jerry Dahlberg
Bruce Smith
Mary Helling

1974

Oats LeGrand
Jerry Ekstein
Kenneth "Red" Wilson
Edor Nelson
Doc Watson

1975

Art Haas
Les Neil
Bob Collison
Russ Helleckson
Dick Mahar
Bernie Lusk

1976

Kermit Anderson
Will Gullickson
Dwayne Hoberg
Jack Malevich
Jim Pederson
George Roscoe
Murray Warmath

1977

Frank "Butch" Larson
Herschel H. Lysaker
Art Avis
Jim Carrington
Lee Krough
Jim McLaughlin
Leo Sebastian

1978

Chuck Dixon
Chauncey Martin
Ted Meinhover
Roy "Chip" Rasmussen
George Reedy
Marti Rossini
John Vucinovich

1979

Bruce Bakke
Herman Frickey
Bill Hanson
LeRoy McMahon
Dick Mulkern
Harry Newby
Milt Osterberg
Bob Schrank
Steve Silianoff
Lloyd Stein

1980

Bruce Bennett
Neal Davis
James Gustafson
James Molnar
Norm Wagner
Jim Wallace

1981

Lou Barle
Irv Nerdahl
Glenn Redmann
Clayton Tonnemaker

1982

Bob Gove
Wally Hitt
Gary Olson
Don Nyland
Dale Scholl

1983

Stan Nelson
Joe Mrkonich
Jim Gotta

1984

Dick Lawrence
Tom Briere
Jim Henkes

1985

Don Swanson
Bob Roy
Bruce Frank
Don Riley
Giffy O'Dell

1986

Chuck Halsted
Ralph Hagberg
Pete Herges
Ike Pesonen
Cliff Senne

1987

Terry Egerdahl
Lauren "Huns" Hagge
Donald "Bill" McMoore
Jerry Sullivan
Angelo Taddie

1988

Herbert Claffy
Mac Dahl
Art Fredrickson
Ralph Peterson
Ron Raveling
Cal Stoll

1989

John Drugg
Don Fox
Jim Griffin
Bill Severin
Harvey Shew
Tony Thiel

1990

Roland Bromberg
Gary Gustafson
Tom Mahoney
Bob O'Neil
Dick Rezanka
Al Siegle

1991

Morgan Brandrup
John Davies
Earl Gramling
Roy Hokkanan
Ron Scott
Bob Youso

1992

Stay Canakes
Dan Devine
John Hansen
Joe Mayer
Warren Olson
George Wemeier

1993

Les Dreschel
Ken Mauer
Tom Porter
Dana Powers
Dick Walker

1994

Dick Bakke
George Larson
Jim Malosky
Andy Nelson
Marsh Nelson
George Smith

1995

Gerry Brown
Bruce Frank
Norman Johnson
Bob Peterson
Pat "Bruno" Waldner

1996

Jim Christopherson
Mary Gunderson
Mike Morrissey
Lloyd Peterson

1997

Bill Beck
John Drews
Ross Fortier
Andy Lia
Jerry Peterson

1998

John Conzemius
Frank Fredlund
Bob Sullivan
Jerry Wallskog
Wes Wistrom

1999

Bill Martin
Gerhard Meidt
Grady Rostberg
Buz Rumrill
Mal Scanlan
Omer Sieben

2000

Jerry Hegna
Andy McCarty
Elmer Menage
Ed Mettner
Jim Simser
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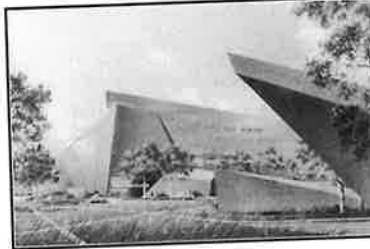
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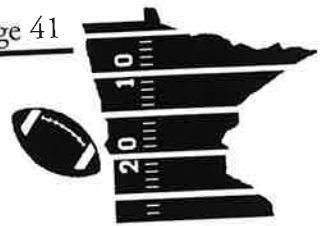


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2000 Hall of Fame Inductees

Football Hall of Fame

Annual Banquet



Jerry Hegna, Moorhead (Game Official)

An All-State football and basketball player, Jerry Hegna earned 13 letters in four sports before graduating from Granite Falls High School in 1960. After

attending the University of Minnesota for a year, he transferred to Moorhead State where he earned All-Conference honors in football, basketball, and baseball.

Upon receiving his bachelor's degree from Moorhead in 1965, Jerry taught and coached football and basketball at Hawley High School until 1972 when he earned his master's degree from his alma mater and then returned as an assistant football and basketball coach for the Dragons.

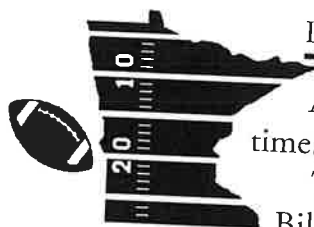
In 1976, Jerry's career took a somewhat different course when he left coaching to become a sporting goods salesman and a high school sports official. Over the next 23 years, this path would lead him to refereeing hundreds of high school and college games and such memorable events as the 1985, 1990, and 1996 Prep Bowl Championships in the Metrodome. He also worked many important college football games including the NCAA Division II Semifinals in 1989, the Division II Championship game in 1994, and the Quarterfinals in 1996.

A proud member of the Moorhead State Athletic Hall of Fame, Jerry and his wife, Sharol, live in Moorhead and have two daughters, Jennifer and Tracy.



**Andy McCarty,
Park Rapids High School**

The youngest in a family of 13 children, Andrew McCarty dropped out of high school in Ortonville after his sophomore year. He returned to school a year later where he earned two letters in football and baseball and one in basketball before graduating in 1950. He then served four years in the Air Force during the Korean War and was stationed in



Alaska during much of that time.

Taking advantage of the GI Bill, Andy enrolled at Moorhead State in 1955 where he played running back and linebacker until a shoulder injury two years later ended his football career for the Dragons. After graduating in 1959, he taught and coached football, basketball, track, and summer baseball for three years before returning to Moorhead in 1962 to complete his master's degree in education. From 1963 to 1970, he taught and coached a variety of sports at Parkers Prairie including wrestling, a sport he would come to be involved with almost as much as football.

In the fall of 1970, Andy moved his family to Park Rapids where he taught physical education and coached football and track for 17 years and wrestling for five. During that time, he directed the football team to a record of 104 wins and 60 losses, but 23 of those defeats came in his first three years at the school under some difficult circumstances. In 1983, Park Rapids lost to Hutchinson in the state championship game and a year later were upset by Centennial, thus preventing them from making a repeat appearance in the Prep Bowl. During his reign, Andy coached Park Rapids to six Mid-State

Conference championships, five section titles, and was honored by his coaching peers on three occasions as Conference Coach of the Year. He also served as head coach for the Outstate team in the 1984 High School All-Star football game. He retired from coaching football and track in 1987 but continued to referee wrestling meets, including ten state tournaments, until he retired from teaching in 1993.

In 1995, Andy came out of retirement to coach football at Menahga and the team scored more points in their first two games than they had the entire previous season. In his first four seasons, Menahga won 21 games and lost 17, but last fall his team failed to win a game mostly due to low numbers, injuries, and inexperienced players. Rather than risk further injuries to his physically undermanned squad, Andy chose to forfeit the first game in his 32-year coaching career. In spite of criticism, he later explained his decision to a local reporter in this way: "Losing doesn't bother me in the least. Losing kids is what bothers me. This isn't the way I wanted to go out, but I'll survive. I can go to sleep at night knowing I did the right thing."

Andy and his wife, Karen, raised a family of six children -- three boys and three girls. They enjoy spending time with their family which now includes 17 grandchildren.



**Elmer Menage,
Luverne High School**

A native of Rock Rapids, Iowa, Elmer Menage was AllState in football and basketball and held the 100-yard dash record in the Hawkeye State for twenty-five years. He was All-Conference in football and baseball at Morningside College in Sioux City where he earned his bachelor's degree in physical education and social studies in 1961.

Elmer began his teaching career in Iowa where he coached three sports at Nashua High School from

1961-63 and at Garner the following year. He then spent a year at Kearney State College in Nebraska helping coach football, wrestling, and track while earning his master's degree in education. From 1965-67, he taught physical education and assisted in football and track at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa.

Elmer moved his family to Luverne in 1967 where he became head coach in football and track and launched his many years of continuous service as activities director for the school district. He directed the Cardinal track team until 1981 and when he retired from coaching football two years later, his career record on the gridiron was 108 wins and 98 losses. During his tenure, he led Luverne to a pair of Southwest

Conference titles and a state quarterfinal appearance.

During his many years of service as a teacher, coach, and activities director, Elmer has received many awards from his peers including conference, district, and regional Coach of the Year honors. A long time member of the Minnesota State High School Football Coaches Association, he has served as a conference representative, been a member of the All-Star selection committee and coached the High School All-Star football game. Elmer and his wife, Karen, are proud that all three of their children are teachers, and both of their sons are in the football coaching profession.



Son Tom Mettner accepted for Ed Mettner, Cloquet (Game Official)

A highly respected sports official for more than four decades in the Northland, Ed Mettner graduated from Cloquet High School in 1940 where he

played football and was a member of the ski jumping team. He received training as a machinist at Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis and worked for a short time in Omaha before serving with the Navy Seebies in the Pacific during World War II. After completing his military service, he worked full-time as a machinist for the Potlatch Paper Company in Cloquet until his retirement in 1987.

An ardent outdoorsman and conservationist, Ed also started officiating high school football and baseball during the mid-1950s. Over the course of the next forty years, "Eddie" as he was affectionately known, would establish himself as "legend" among coaches, players, fans, and fellow officials. Many letters were received in support of his Hall of Fame nomination, but the following excerpts from several are typical and probably best summarize Eddie's dedication and love for high school and college officiating.

"Mr. Ed Mettner has officiated at all levels of football in our region for the past 42 years. He was officiating while I was playing high school and college games and continued to officiate for my high school football team. It was always a pleasure to have Ed involved in our games because he kept the game in perspective. He was always in control and kept his sense of humor throughout his career. He had no problem with difficult calls and made them immediately without wavering. If you yelled at him, he would yell back, then crack a smile.



Consistency is important for officials and he was one who would always call the game as the rules were intended to be

interpreted."

Another stated:

"Ed made the art of learning officiating an enjoyable experience. He had the privilege to be able to officiate for more than one generation of families in the northern Minnesota area. His

excellence was recognized by the MSHSL by inviting him and his crew to officiate at Prep Bowl II in 1983. He was not only an official for more than forty years in football, baseball, and softball, but also for many years in basketball. Ed could often be found observing high school hockey games on off nights. His donated wood carvings have been auctioned off at numerous fund raising events within this area. His enthusiasm and hard work will be sorely missed."

Jim Simser, New Richland and Fairmont High Schools

A three-sport athlete at Blue Earth High School, Jim Simser graduated in 1957 and enrolled at Mankato State where he lettered in football. After earning his bachelor's degree in 1961, he served a tour of duty with the U.S. Navy in the Pacific.

Jim started his career in education at Norwood-Young America in 1965 teaching science and physical education and assisting in football and serving as head coach in wrestling. He moved to New Richland-Hartland High School in 1968 as head football coach and wrestling assistant. For the next 22 years, the Cardinals consistently finished among the top teams in the Gopher Conference and were the State Class "C" champions in 1976 and accomplished the same feat in Class "B" two years later. Jim was honored by the State High School Football Coaches Association as "Coach of the Year" in 1978 and by the New Richland-Hartland Education Association as their "Teacher of the Year" in 1979. He earned his master's degree from Mankato State and later served as athletic director at New Richland-Hartland before moving to Fairmont in 1990. His record at New Richland-Hartland was 150 wins, 62 losses and one tie. Included in this enviable record were nine conference championships, one section and two state championships.

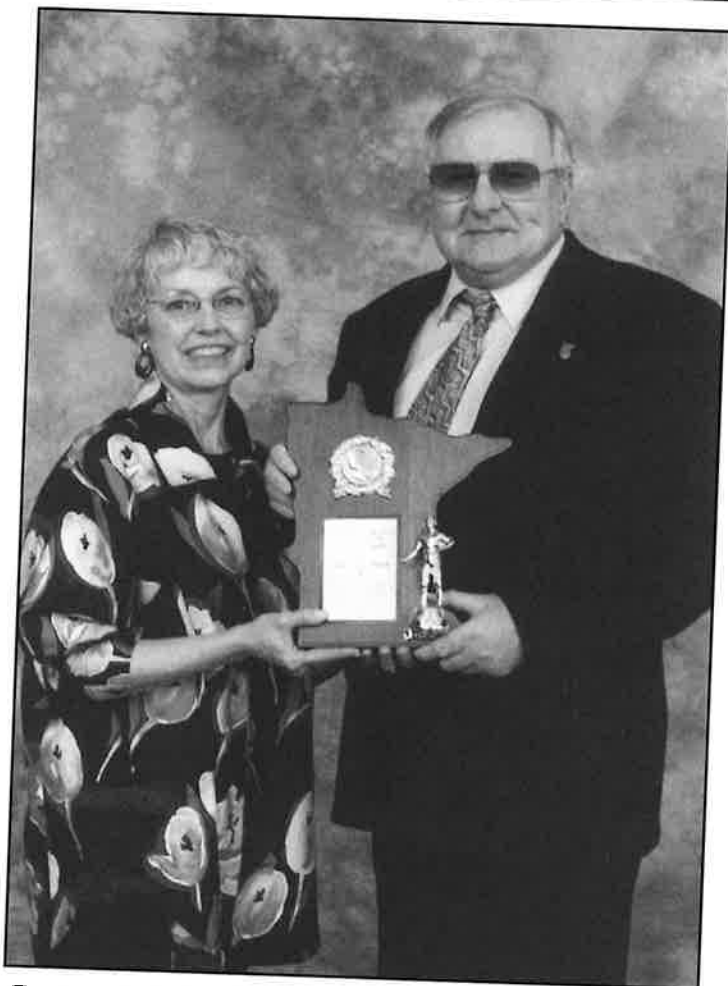
Jim took over the football program from the legendary Tom Mahoney at Fairmont in 1990 and directed the Cardinals to a record of 73-29 over the



next ten seasons. He led Fairmont to five South Central Conference championships and three sectional titles while also serving as activities director. When he hung up his football coaching whistle at the end of last season, his overall football coaching record was 223 wins, 91 losses, and one tie.

Jim Simser is the epitome of service and dedication to the football coaching profession in our state. A long-time member of the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association, he has served on numerous committees, coached in the High School All-Star football game, and is a past president of the Association. Since 1986, he has provided hundreds of hours of service in his role as Executive Secretary for the Football Coaches Association.

Jim and his wife, Winn Ann, are the parents of four sons, all of whom played football for their father when he was coaching at New Richland-Hartland High School.



George Thole, Stillwater High School

George Thole graduated from high school in Petaluma, California in 1957 lettering two years each in football and track. He played a year of football at Utah State before transferring to North Dakota I State University in Fargo where he became a two-way starter for two years. He earned his bachelor's degree in 1962. After working briefly for the recreation served in the United States Navy where he was involved with "Operation Sea Orbit." Thole earned a master's degree from Moorhead State in 1966.

From 1965-67, George taught physical education and coached football, basketball, and track at Central Cass High School in Casselton, North Dakota directing the football team to three undefeated seasons and a perfect 27-0 record and three conference titles. He then spent a year as a graduate assistant at the University of Minnesota coaching the freshman team for Murray Warmath. The next two years of his career were at Richfield High School teaching physical education and coaching under

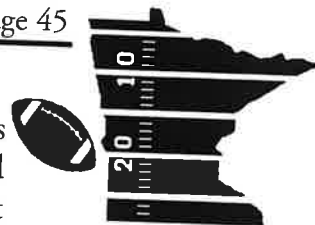
Dick Walker.

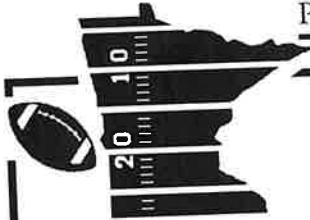
In 1971, George was hired as head football and assistant track coach at Stillwater where his teams were to establish themselves as perennial powers on the Suburban Conference gridirons. During

the next 29 seasons, the Ponies won 15 conference, 12 section and state championships in 1975, 1982, 1984, and 1995. Stillwater also finished as state runner-up in 1977 and 1989 and achieved an enviable record of 258 wins and 69 losses and a pair of ties under his mentorship. Combined with his first three perfect seasons as a head coach, George Thole is presently the second winningest coach in Minnesota High School history with an overall record of 285 wins and 69 losses and two ties (.803 winning percentage). His teams averaged nine victories each season and participated in 18 state tournaments.

A "character with character," George has truly established himself among the legendary coaches in high school football in Minnesota. For more than three decades he has been a loyal, dedicated, and outspoken member of the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association, rarely missing a meeting or function, serving on numerous committees, and leading the Association as president in 1995. He is the recipient of more than 75 honors and awards including large school Coach of the Year in 1975, 1982, and 1995 and State Coach of the Year in 1982. George coached All-Star teams in Minnesota and in Ireland.

George and his wife, Karen, have two children, Eric and Kiersten. Eric quarterbacked for his father on the 1982 state championship team and is now an assistant Washington County Attorney. Kiersten is a teacher at Park-Cottage Grove High School.





Coach of the Year Football Clinic

February 9, 10, & 11, 2001
Our 29th Year

The Upper Midwest's Finest & Oldest Football Clinic
Will Proudly Feature the Following Speakers:

- National Coach of the Year
- Big Ten Championship Coach
- Minnesota High School Coach of the Year
- Championship Coaches from the Upper Midwest & Canada
- Plus Many More Speakers and Activities

Mystic Lake Hotel -- Shakopee, MN 55379

Questions? Call Clinic Director Don Swanson at:

612/ 533-9083 (H) or 988-7332 (W)

Assisted by Dave Nigon/ Totino- Grace H.S. 571-9116

and Jim Dotseth/ Mpls. 544-2970

REGISTRATION FORM

\$70 per coach **before** February 2nd -- **\$75** per coach **after** February 2nd

School Name or Organization _____

Address _____ **City/ State/ Zip** _____

Telephone _____ **Payment Enclosed \$** _____

List all coaches included in payment (please print) PLEASE NOTE - NO REFUNDS AFTER FEBRUARY 1ST

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

Make all checks payable to: **Coach of the Year Clinic**

Please Mail registration to: **Don Swanson, 4222 Chowen Avenue North, Robbinsdale, MN 55422**



1999 Minnesota Conference Football Coaches of the Year

Conference	Coach	School	Conference	Coach	School
Prairie North	Jim Sutherland	Bertha-Hewitt	Wright County	Merrill Pavolvich	Delano
Prairie South	Chuck Kavanagh	Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sundburg	Wright County	Dave Dose	Glencoe-Silver Lake
Rum River	Clark Bergloff	Mora	212	Steve Solem	BOLD
Sea Range Small	Bob Schwartz	Greenway	Big Nine	Jeff Williams	Owatonna
Sea Range Large	Dave Mooers	Duluth Denfeld	Central Lakes	Ken Heitzman	Willmar
South Central	Marc Bachman	St. Peter	Central MN	Mark Messman	Holdingford
Southeast	Jim Reinhardt	Rushford-Peterson	Classic Lake	Ken McDonald	Hopkins
Southern Confederacy	Thomas Murphy	Nicollet	Gopher Valley	Randy Olson	Maple River
So. Minnesota East	Jerry Kral	Cedar Mountain	Gopher Valley	Chad Gimbal	Blooming Prairie
So. Minnesota West	Gary Hindt	Wabasso	Great Northern North	John Thompson	Little Fork-Big Falls
Southwest	Dennis Hale	Worthington	Great Northern South	Keith Bergstedt	Cromwell
Southwest	Bill Magnuson	Windom Area	Great River	Eric Graham	Braham
Southwest Ridge	Carter Ross/ Leo Theisen	Westbrook-Walnut Grove	Heart O'Lakes	Mike Frisch	West Central Area
St. Paul City	Rich Kallok	Cretin-Derham Hall	Hiawatha Valley Gold	John Austinson	Byron
St. Paul Suburban	Bob Majeski	Hastings	Hiawatha Valley Blue	Ivan Kroulik	Kasson-Mantorville
Three Rivers	Ken Jacobson	Chatfield	Lake	Mike Grant	Eden Prairie
Top of State	Scott Parker	Marshall County Central	Little Sioux	Randy Strand	Adrian
Tri Metro	Tony Johnson	DeLaSalle	Metro Alliance	Wally Malmstrom	Mahtomedi
Tri-Valley	Gary Porter	Maple Lake	Minneapolis	Mal Edwards	Edison
Twin Cities			Minnesota River	Clay Anderson	LeCenter
Suburban American	Gary Engen	Mounds View	Missota	Tony Buthe	New Prague
Twin Cities			Missota	Bob "Bubba" Sullivan	Northfield
Suburban National	Dave Nelson	Blaine	North Star	Pete Naugle	Walker-Hackensack-Akeley
Valley Plains	Les Drechsel	Red Lake Falls	North Suburban	Gerard Rohl	Buffalo
W. Central North	Jim Mader	Albany	North Tri County	Darrin Byklum	Climax-Fisher
W. Central South	Steve Hill	Minnewaska Area	Northern Lakes	Dave Kuehn	Crookston
			Pheasant	Tony Thiel	Wheaton
			Polar North	Lyle Anderson	Cook County
			Polar South	Doug Conboy	Silver Bay

1999 Minnesota Section Football Coaches of the Year

CLASS: 9 MAN -- SECTION COACH

1. Stan Olson, Leroy-Ostrander
2. Tom Murphy, Nicollet
3. Neil Hofland, Chokio-Alberta-Herman-Norcross
4. Richard Risbrudt, Hillcrest Academy
5. Keith Bergstedt, Cromwell
6. John Jirik, Orr
7. Darrin Byklum, Climax-Fisher
8. Jim Guetter, Stephen-Argyle

CLASS: 1A -- SECTION COACH

1. Jim Reinhardt, Rushford-Peterson
2. Dean Deibele, Sleepy Eye Public
3. Gary Hindt, Wabasso
4. Clay Anderson, Le Center
5. Chuck Kavanagh, Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sundburg
6. Jim Sutherland, Bertha-Hewitt
7. Lyle Anderson, Cook County
8. Brian Nelson, Fertile-Beltrami

CLASS: 2A -- SECTION COACH

1. Ken Jacobson, Chatfield
2. Jon Bakken, Waterville-Elysian
3. Bill Magnuson, Windom Area
4. Scott Tiedens, St. Anthony Village
5. Mark Messman, Holdingford
6. Mike Frisch, West Central Area
7. Eric Graham, Braham
8. Steve Ott, Deer River

CLASS: 3A -- SECTION COACH

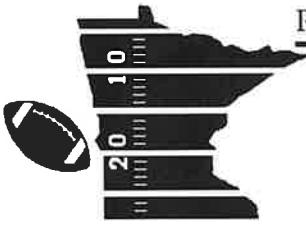
1. Ivan Kroulik, Kasson-Mantorville
2. Marc Bachman, St. Peter
3. Steve Hill, Minnewaska Ara
4. Tony Johnson, DeLaSalle
5. Earl Bauman, St. Michael-Albertville
6. Jim Mader, Albany
7. Stuart Nordquist, International Falls
8. Dave Kuehn, Crookston

CLASS: 4A -- SECTION COACH

1. Bob "Bubba" Sullivan, Northfield
2. Rich Sutton, Mankato West
3. Bob Slater, St. Thomas Academy
4. Dave Nigon, Totino-Grace
5. Mal Edwards, Minneapolis Edison
6. Andy Rostberg, Hutchinson
7. George Larson, Cambridge-Isanti
8. John Ross, Sartell-St. Stephen

CLASS: 5A -- SECTION COACH

1. Jeff Williams, Owatonna
2. Mike Grant, Eden Prairie
3. Bob Majeski, Hastings
4. Bob Jackson, White Bear Lake
5. Rich Kallok, Cretin-Derham Hall
6. Ken McDonald, Hopkins
7. Dave Nelson, Blaine
8. Dennis Kalpin, Alexandria



Academic All-State Football Team Application

School _____ Class _____
 Address _____ Section _____
 Head Coach _____ Phone(_____) _____

The following number of candidates may be listed for each class: 5A-40, 4A-40, 3A-34, 2A-29, 1A-27, 9-man-20; three extra players should be listed also for the purpose of tie-breakers. The 4.00 grading system to 2 decimals will be used, so their systems must be converted. 4.00 is the highest grade used. The grades must be from the past full year.

Applications **must be in** to each class representative by **Oct. 1**. A team champion will be chosen in each class.

Players Name	G.P.A.	Players Name	G.P.A.
1) _____	_____	18) _____	_____
2) _____	_____	19) _____	_____
3) _____	_____	20) _____	_____
4) _____	_____	21) _____	_____
5) _____	_____	22) _____	_____
6) _____	_____	23) _____	_____
7) _____	_____	24) _____	_____
8) _____	_____	25) _____	_____
9) _____	_____	26) _____	_____
10) _____	_____	27) _____	_____
11) _____	_____	28) _____	_____
12) _____	_____	29) _____	_____
13) _____	_____	30) _____	_____
14) _____	_____	31) _____	_____
15) _____	_____	32) _____	_____
16) _____	_____	33) _____	_____
17) _____	_____	34) _____	_____

Composite

Send Team Application to (Fax Numbers):

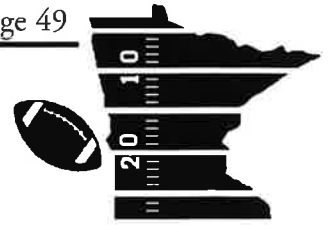
- Class 5A: Dave Nelson, Blaine, 763-506-6503
- Class 4A: Bubba Sullivan, Northfield, 507-645-3455
- Class 3A: Dave Hylla, Proctor, 218-628-4931
- Class 2A: Clay Anderson, LeCenter, 507-357-4825
- Class 1A: Gary Graham, Browerville, 320-594-8105
- 9-Man: Dave Krenik, Cleveland, 507-931-9088
- Chairman: Con Natvig, Phone 320-547-2902

(Signature of verifying school official)

Position

Class 5A, 4A and 3A make copy of page for additional names.

Academic All-State Football Team Concept



Guidelines & Procedures:

- 1) Choose one champion in each class.
- 2) Use 75% of the tournament team number to decide the team G.P.A.

5A - 40
4A - 40
3A - 34
2A - 29
1A - 27
9-Man - 20

Note:

- Each player name and G.P.A. must be listed.
- 3) In addition, three extra players' G.P.A.s will be listed for tie breakers, using them in order.
 - 4) The 4.00 grading system will be used. Other systems must be converted and 4.00 will be the highest possible grade. Grades should be rounded off to two decimal places. No weighted grades.

- 5) Grading Period: The grades should be from the past full year. No summer school or current fall grades will be used.
- 6) Who is eligible? Only teams with a head coach who is a current member of the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association.
- 7) Teams should be submitted to class reps by Oct. 1, and champions submitted to committee chairman by Nov. 1.

Academic All-State Team Committee:

Class 5A:	Dave Nelson, Blaine
Class 4A:	Bubba Sullivan, Northfield
Class 3A:	Dave Hylla, Proctor
Class 2A:	Clay Anderson, LeCenter
Class 1A:	Gary Graham, Browerville
9-Man:	Dave Krenik, Cleveland
Chairman:	Con Natvig, Swanville



INDIVIDUAL Minnesota Academic All-State Football Player Guidelines and Procedures

A review of the Minnesota State Football Coaches Association's basic requirement for the team are:

- 1) Must be a senior varsity letterman for the current season who is a starter on either offense, defense or kicker.
- 2) The player must have outstanding football and leadership ability plus academic excellence.
- 3) Player must carry a 3.0 (4.0 scale) grade-point average in an academic core curriculum in his sophomore, junior and first quarter of the senior year.
- 4) Player shall not have any Minnesota State League eligibility penalties or infractions during his high school career.
- 5) Each class will select a team consisting of the number stated below:

9-Man=11	3A=14
1A=12	4A=15
2A=13	5A=16

- 6) The teams will not be selected by position, but the committee will select the top football players of each class who meet the criteria stated above.
- 7) The Coach submitting the player application must be a member of the Minnesota State Football Coaches Association.

Guidelines & Procedures:

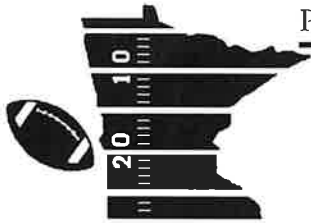
- 1) All applications should be typed or printed with correct names and data.
- 2) The selection committee must have a good summary of not only the player's academic record, but the player's football accomplishments.
- 3) If the first quarter grades are not out for the applicant's senior year, his first quarter senior subjects must be listed.
- 4) All applications must be sent to your class academic team representative. If you have any problems, contact your class representative first. Please check the time deadlines on the application form.

Remember: This is your state's FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION'S endeavor.

Individual All-State Player Committee

9-Man:	Mike Mahien, Verndale
Class 1A:	Gary Graham, Browerville
Class 2A:	Steve Solem, BOLD
Class 3A:	Marv Peters, Rochester Lourdes
Class 4A:	John Heller, Highland Park
Class 5A:	Todd Olson, Edina
Chairman:	Dave Faust, Henry Sibley





INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION Academic All-State Player

Name of Applicant _____ Grade _____

Birthday: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ Height _____ Weight _____

School _____ Coach _____

Football position played as a Starter Offense: _____ Defense: _____

Circle Class: 9-Man 1A 2A 3A 4A 5A Kicking Game: _____

Accumulative High School G.P.A. _____ Attach a Transcript or list subjects completed or enrolled in.

Grade 10 Subjects

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Grade 11 Subjects

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

1st Quarter Senior Subjects

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Use a 4.00 Scale for G.P.A.

Pursuant to the provision of PL 93-380 (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974), I hereby grant permission to release a copy of my academic record and G.P.A. average for use by the Minnesota Football Coaches Association in selecting the Academic All-State Team.

Signature of Parent or Student Applicant if 18 years or older

PLAYER INFORMATION

Coaches: Please use the following format to submit data for your applicant.

School Background Information:

- 1) List academic honors.
- 2) List other school activities and leadership role in school.
- 3) List other sports with varsity participation.

Football Information:

- 1) Football position: List in order of which player has best demonstrated ability (offense, defense, kicking game).
- 2) List all football honors - previous and this season.
- 3) Statistics (list stats from this season and career totals). Mention any school or conference records. Mention if a lineman has any team stats that may be pertinent to the team's success.
- 4) Coaches comment: Please submit a short letter to the academic team selection committee describing your player in terms of ability, performance, potential character and what makes this football player special.

Time Deadlines:

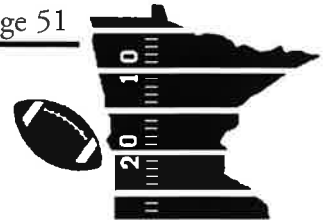
- 1) All applications must be in the hands of the class representatives by Saturday, Nov. 4.
- 2) Class selection committees must have teams picked by Saturday, Nov. 11 and sent to the academic chairman.
- 3) Class representatives must notify all team selections by Tuesday, Nov. 14.

Send Individual Application to (Fax Numbers):

- 9-Man: Mike Mahlen, Verndale, 218-445-5185
- Class 1A: Gary Graham, Browerville, 320-594-8105
- Class 2A: Steve Solem, BOLD, 320-523-1031
- Class 3A: Mary Peters, Roch. Lourdes, 507-289-4008
- Class 4A: John Heller, Highland Park, 651-293-8939
- Class 5A: Todd Olson, Edina, 612-947-1936
- Chairman: Dave Faust, Henry Sibley
Home Phone: 651-450-2362



2000 Football Playoff Section Assignments



Class 1A (72)

Section 1 (10)

Austin Pacelli/Lyle
Dover-Eyota
Glenville-Emmons
Goodhue
Houston
Lanesboro
Mabel-Canton
Rushford-Peterson
Southland
Spring Grove

Section 5 (8)

Brandon/Evansville
Browerville
Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley
Dawson-Boyd
Eagle Valley
Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg
Osakis
Wheaton

Section 2 (10)

Bethlehem Academy
Cedar Mountain/Comfrey
Granada-Huntley-East
Chain/Martin Luther
Mankato Loyola
Minnesota Valley Lutheran
Mountain Lake/Butterfield-
Odin
New Ulm Cathedral
Saint Clair
Sleepy Eye
Sleepy Eye St. Mary's

Section 6 (8)

Bertha-Hewitt
Lake Park-Audubon
Menahga
New York Mills
Parkers Prairie
Pillager
Sebeka
Waubun

Section 3 (8)

Adrian
Fulda
Lakeview
Minneota
Murray County Central
Red Rock Central
Russell-Tyler-Ruthton
Wabasso

Section 7 (10)

Barnum
Carlton
Cherry
Cook County
Cook
McGregor
Mountain Iron-Buhl
Nashauk-Keewatin
Northland
Silver Bay

Section 4 (10)

Buffalo Lake-Hector
Holy Trinity
LeCenter
Lester Prairie
McLeod West
Ogilvie
Onamia
Randolph
Royalton
Saint John's Prep

Section 8 (8)

Ada-Borup
Cass Lake-Bena
Clearbrook-Gonvick
Fertile-Beltrami
Fosston
Greenbush-Middle
River/Badger
Red Lake Falls
Warren-Alvarado-Oslo

Class 2A (74)

Section 1 (10)

Byron
Caledonia
Chatfield
Fillmore Central
Kingsland
Lewiston-Altura
Pine Island
Saint Charles
Wabasha-Kellogg
Winona Cotter

Section 5 (10)

Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City
Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa
Eden Valley-Watkins
Holdingford
Howard Lake-Waverly-
Winsted
Kimball Area
MACRAY
Maple Lake
Pierz
Upsala/Swanville Area

Section 2 (9)

Belle Plaine
Blooming Prairie
Hayfield
Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton
Jordan
Kenyon-Wanamingo
New Richland-H-E-G
Triton
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown

Section 6 (8)

Benson
Breckenridge
Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton
Hawley
Ortonville
West Central Area School
Barnesville/Rothsay
Battle Lake/Henning

Section 3 (10)

B D R S H
BOLD
Canby
G-F-W
Lake Crystal-Wellcome
Memorial
Madelia/Truman
Martin County West
Saint James
Springfield
Windom Area

Section 7 (9)

Braham
Chisholm
East Central
Ely
Esko
Hinckley-Finlayson
Marshall School, Duluth
Rush City
Moose Lake/Willow River

Section 4 (10)

Breck
Concordia Academy
Mayer Lutheran
Minnehaha Academy
Saint Anthony Village
Saint Bernard's
Saint Croix Lutheran
Saint Paul Academy &
Summit School
Lutheran of
Bloomington/West
Lutheran
Saint Agnes

Section 8 (8)

Bagley
Blackduck
Deer River
Lake of the Woods
Mahnommen
Pequot Lakes
Red Lake
Walker-Hackensack-Akeley



Class 3A (72)

Section 1 (8)

- Cannon Falls
- Kasson-Mantorville
- La Crescent
- Lake City
- Plainview/Elgin-Millville
- Rochester Lourdes
- Stewartville
- Zumbrota-Mazeppa

Section 5 (9)

- Annandale
- Foley
- Milaca
- Mora
- Pine City
- Saint Cloud Cathedral
- Becker
- Big Lake
- Saint Michael-Albertville

Section 2 (9)

- Blue Earth Area
- Glencoe-Silver Lake
- Jackson County Central
- LeSueur-Henderson
- Maple River
- Montgomery-Lonsdale
- Saint Peter
- Sibley East
- United South Central

Section 6 (9)

- Albany
- Dassel-Cokato
- Litchfield
- Long Prairie-Grey Eagle
- Melrose
- New London-Spicer
- Paynesville Area
- Sauk Centre
- Staples-Motley

Section 3 (9)

- Lac qui Parle Valley
- Luverne
- Minnewaska Area
- Montevideo
- Morris Area
- Pipestone-Jasper
- Redwood Valley
- Tracy-Milroy/Balaton
- Yellow Medicine East

Section 7 (8)

- Aitkin
- Crosby-Ironton
- Eveleth-Gilbert
- Greenway
- Hermantown
- International Falls
- Mesabi East
- Two Harbors

Section 4 (10)

- Academy of Holy Angels
- Blake School (The)
- Brooklyn Center
- Delano
- DeLaSalle
- Mound Westonka
- Norwood-Young America
- Rockford
- Waconia
- Watertown-Mayer

Section 8 (10)

- Crookston
- East Grand Forks
- Frazee
- Park Rapids Area
- Pelican Rapids
- Perham
- Pine River-Backus
- Roseau
- Wadena-Deer Creek
- Warroad

Class 4A (57)

Section 1 (6)

- Albert Lea
- Austin
- Farmington
- Northfield
- Red Wing
- Rosemount

Section 5 (9)

- Benilde-St. Margaret's
- Columbia Heights
- Minneapolis Edison
- Minneapolis North
- Community
- Minneapolis Patrick Henry
- Minneapolis Roosevelt
- Minneapolis Washburn
- Richfield
- Saint Louis Park

Section 2 (7)

- Fairmont
- Mankato East
- Mankato West
- Marshall
- New Ulm
- Waseca
- Worthington

Section 6 (6)

- Hutchinson
- Monticello
- New Prague
- Orono
- Prior Lake
- Shakopee

Section 3 (7)

- Henry Sibley
- Saint Paul Arlington
- Saint Paul Highland Park
- Saint Paul Humboldt
- Saint Thomas Academy
- Simley
- South Saint Paul

Section 7 (8)

- Cambridge-Isanti
- Cloquet
- Duluth Central
- Duluth Denfeld
- Hibbing
- Princeton
- Proctor
- Virginia

Section 4 (7)

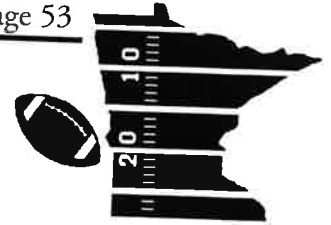
- Chisago Lakes Area
- Fridley
- Hill-Murray
- Mahtomedi
- North Branch
- Spring Lake Park
- Totino-Grace

Section 8 (7)

- Detroit Lakes
- Fergus Falls
- Little Falls
- Rocori
- Sartell
- Sauk Rapids-Rice
- Thief River Falls

SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US

Often we take for granted the magazines and journals which reach us as professional publications. The dues which we pay in this organization do not come close to paying for the publication of this magazine. This magazine is made possible, therefore, by the close support and cooperation of the organizations who advertise. Support those advertisers and when you see them, thank them for their help and support.



Class 5A (59)

Section 1 (8)

Eastview
Faribault
Lakeville
Owatonna
Rochester Century
Rochester John Marshall
Rochester Mayo
Winona

Section 2 (7)

Bloomington Jefferson
Burnsville
Chaska
Eden Prairie
Edina
Minnetonka
Willmar

Section 7 (7)

Anoka
Blaine
Champlin Park
Coon Rapids
Elk River Area
Forest Lake
Saint Francis

Section 8 (8)

Alexandria
Bemidji
Brainerd
Duluth East
Grand Rapids
Moorhead
Saint Cloud Apollo
Saint Cloud Tech

Section 5 (7)

Apple Valley
Bloomington Kennedy
Cretin-Derham Hall
Eagan
Minneapolis South
Minneapolis Southwest
Robbinsdale Cooper

Section 6 (7)

Buffalo
Hopkins
Maple Grove
Osseo
Park Center
Robbinsdale Armstrong
Wayzata

Section 4 (8)

Centennial
Irondale
Mounds View
North
Roseville Area
Saint Paul Como Park
White Bear Lake Area
Saint Paul Central

Section 3 (7)

Hastings
Park
Saint Paul Harding
Saint Paul Johnson
Stillwater Area
Tartan
Woodbury

Class 9 Man (49)

Section 1 (6)

Alden-Conger
Cleveland
Grand Meadow
LeRoy-Ostrander
Medford
Minnesota Academy
for the Deaf

Section 2 (6)

Elmore Academy
Ellsworth/Hills Beaver Creek
Nicollet
Sioux Valley-Rd Lake-Brewster
Southwest Star Concept
Westbrook-Walnut Grove

Section 3 (6)

Ashby
Chokio-Alberta/Herman-
Norcross
Edgerton
Hancock
Lake Benton
Lincoln HI

Section 4 (6)

Hillcrest Lutheran Academy
Laporte
Nevis
Ulen-Hitterdal
Underwood
Verndale

Section 5 (6)

Albrook
Cromwell
Floodwood
Hill City
Isle
Wrenshall

Section 6 (7)

Babbitt-Embarrass
Bigfork
Cotton
Kelliher-Northome
Littlefork-Big Falls
Orr
Tower-Soudan

Section 7 (6)

Fisher/Climax
Norman County East
Norman County West
Red Lake County Central
Sacred Heart, E. G. F.
Win-E-Mac

Section 8 (6)

Kittson Central
Lancaster
Marshall County Central
Stephen-Argyle Central
Tri-County
Goodridge/Grygla-Gatzke





Minnesota State High School Coaches Association, Inc.

2000-2001 UNIFIED DUES APPLICATION FORM

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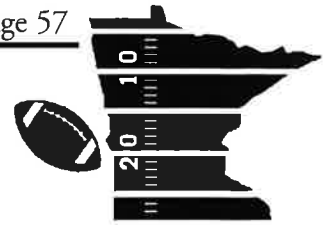
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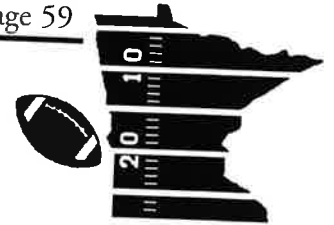


1999 Playoff Results

SECTION		1999 CLASS AAAAA PLAYOFFS			
1 Owatonna (10-1)					
3 Hastings (10-1)	H	Hastings 40-21	H		
		Nov. 19 -- 8:30 p.m.			
		Metrodome			
2 Eden Prairie (10-0)		Eden Prairie 21-14		Hastings 19-13	
4 White Bear Lake Area (7-4)	H				
5 Cretin-Derham Hall, St. Paul (10-0)				Nov. 26 -- 9:30 p.m.	
				Metrodome	
7 Blaine (10-0)	H	Cretin-Derham Hall 29-21	H		Cretin-Derham Hall 42
		Nov. 20 -- 8:30 p.m.			
		Metrodome			
6 Hopkins (9-1)		Hopkins 35-19		Cretin-Derham Hall 42-6	Hastings 21
8 Alexandria (11-0)	H				

SECTION		1999 CLASS AAAA PLAYOFFS			
1 Northfield (9-1)					
3 St. Thomas Academy (8-3)	H	Northfield 56-28	H		
		Nov. 19 -- 6:00 p.m.			
		Metrodome			
2 Mankato West (7-4)		Mankato West 28-16		Mankato West 45-8	
4 Totino-Grace (8-3), Fridley	H				
5 Minneapolis Edison (10-1)				Nov. 26 -- 6:45 p.m.	
				Metrodome	
7 Cambridge-Isanti (9-2)	H	Cambridge-Isanti 35-14	H		Mankato West 35
		Nov. 20 -- 6:00 p.m.			
		Metrodome			
6 Hutchinson (7-4)		Hutchinson 42-28		Cambridge-Isanti 63-29	Cambridge-Isanti 28
8 Sartell-St. Stephen (5-6)	H				

SECTION		1999 CLASS AAA PLAYOFFS			
1 Kasson-Mantorville (11-0)					
3 Minnewaska Area (11-0), Glenwood	H	Minnewaska Area 14-6	H		
		Nov. 19 -- 3:30 p.m.			
		Metrodome			
2 St. Peter (11-0)		DeLaSalle 20-14		DeLaSalle 21-20	
4 DeLaSalle (10-1), Mpls.	H				
5 St. Michael-Albertville (9-2)				Nov. 26 -- 4:15 p.m.	
				Metrodome	
7 International Falls (10-1)	H	St. Michael-Albertville 29-16	H		DeLaSalle 28
		Nov. 20 -- 3:30 p.m.			
		Metrodome			
6 Albany (9-2)		Albany 31-7		St. Michael-Albertville 20-6	St. Michael-Albertville 7
8 Crookston (10-1)	H				



1999 CLASS AA PLAYOFFS

SECTION	Score	Date/Time	Location
1 Chatfield (11-)	10-6	Nov. 19 -- 1:00 p.m.	Metrodome
3 Windom Area (10-1) H	25-13	Nov. 19 -- 1:00 p.m.	Metrodome
2 Waterville-Elysian-Morristown (11-0)	19-17	Nov. 26 -- 1:30 p.m.	Metrodome
4 St. Anthony Village (6-5) H	34-0	Nov. 26 -- 1:30 p.m.	Metrodome
5 Holdingford (10-1)	16-0	Nov. 20 -- 1:00 p.m.	Metrodome
7 Braham (10-1) H	28-0	Nov. 20 -- 1:00 p.m.	Metrodome
6 W. Central Area (11-0), Barrett			
8 Deer River (9-1) H			

W-E-M	34
W. Central Area	0

1999 CLASS A PLAYOFFS

SECTION	Score	Date/Time	Location
1 Rushford-Peterson (10-1)	28-7	Nov. 19 -- 10:30 a.m.	Metrodome
3 Wabasso (11-0) H	21-14	Nov. 19 -- 10:30 a.m.	Metrodome
2 Sleepy Eye (10-1)	26-6	Nov. 26 -- 11:00 a.m.	Metrodome
4 LeCenter (10-1) H	41-14	Nov. 20 -- 10:30 a.m.	Metrodome
5 Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg (11-0)	29-6	Nov. 20 -- 10:30 a.m.	Metrodome
7 Cook Cty. (10-0), Grand Marais H	15-13	Nov. 20 -- 10:30 a.m.	Metrodome
6 Bertha-Hewitt (9-1)			
8 Fertile-Beltrami (9-1) H			

Cook County	14
LeCenter	6

1999 CLASS 9-MAN PLAYOFFS

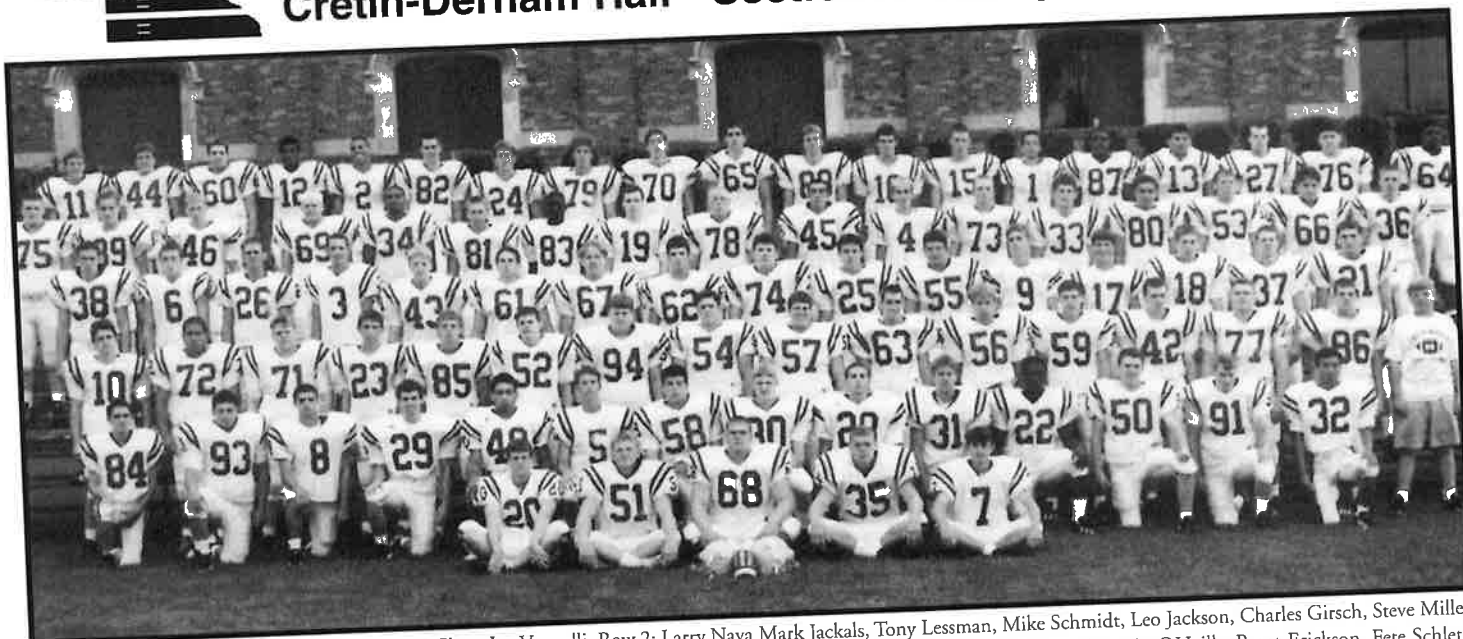
SECTION	Score	Date/Time	Location
1 LeRoy-Ostrander (8-2)	55-30	Nov. 19 -- 8:00 a.m.	Metrodome
3 Chokio-Alberta/ Herman-Norcross (7-3) H	10-9	Nov. 19 -- 8:00 a.m.	Metrodome
2 Nicollet (9-1)	18-8	Nov. 26 -- 8:00 a.m.	Metrodome
4 Hillcrest Lutheran Academy (8-2), Fergus Falls H	10-7	Nov. 26 -- 8:00 a.m.	Metrodome
5 Cromwell (10-1)			
7 Climax/Fisher (8-2) H	52-15	Nov. 20 -- 8:00 a.m.	Metrodome
6 Orr (7-3)			
8 Stephen-Argyle Central (9-0) H			

Stephen-Argyle Central	18
Nicollet	8



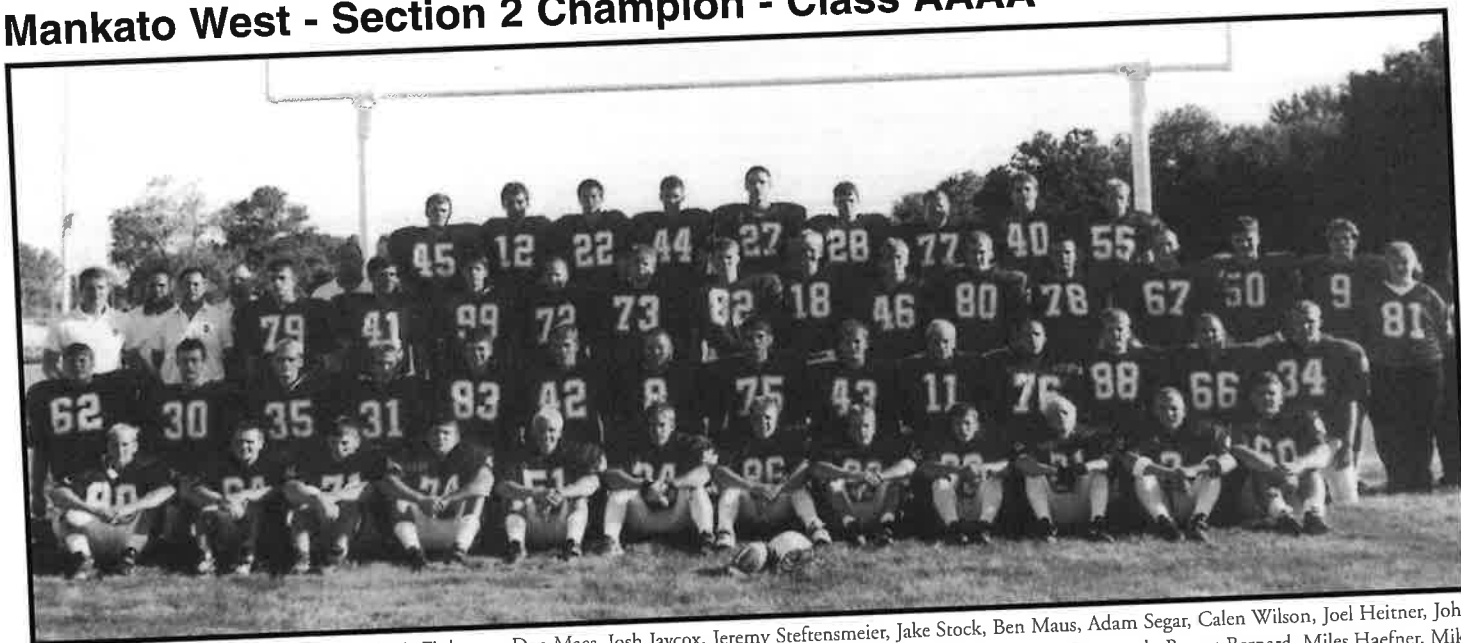
1999 State Champions

Cretin-Derham Hall - Section 5 Champion - Class AAAAA

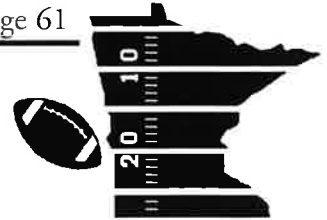


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Mankato West - Section 2 Champion - Class AAAA



Row 1 (L-R): Mike Elbert, Ryan Marti, Travis Finlayson, Dan Maes, Josh Jaycox, Jeremy Steftensmeier, Jake Stock, Ben Maus, Adam Segar, Calen Wilson, Joel Heitner, John Considine. Row 2: Keith Bickett, Steve Mock, Andy Schreiber, Pat Rivers, Luke Meyers, Jake Schmiesing, Jay Nessler, Brady Krusemark, Bryant Bernard, Miles Haefner, Mike Maes, Jason Daullenbach, Nick Ellrich, Aaron Spier. Row 3: Coach Tom Boone, Coach Aaron Miller, Coach Rick Sutton, Coach Tim Walz, Nate Hensel, Eqpt. Mgr. Jim Vihstad, Jason Anderson, Josh Harvey, Blake Klinger, Tim Wussow, Kris Storvick, Nate Erstad, Tom Beetch, Paul Roberts, Matt Laird, Jon Jaqua, David Schoettler, Sean Koomen, Mgr. Lauren Kassuelke, Mgr. Missy Haubrich. Row 4: Jim Baker, Ryan Sjulstad, Brad Dulas, Chuck Wiest, Eric Stenzel, Chris Boyer, Brian Meger, Jon Kozitza, Seth Greenwald. Not Pictured: Corey Petersen, Dan Maes, Paul Woelfel.



1999 State Champions

DeLaSalle, Mpls. - Section 4 Champion - Class AAA



Row 1 (L-R): Sam Erickson, Arthur Gardner, Jeff Kaczmarczyk Mitch Nelson, Raymond Jones, Mall Mahmoodi, Brian Morris, Rod Malone. Row2: Cheo Smith, Kellen Reeves, Nick Thomas, Lucas Kaster, Jared Newberry, Derreck Robinson, Dominique Sims, Justin Baylor, Kris Miller, Mandla. Nkiwane. Row 3: Coach Nick Grue, Brian Carruthers, Nathan Will, Justin Lentz, Andy Schneider, Josh Fors, Zach Babington-Johnson, Chris Connery, Lansin- Tour-, Water Girl Jessica Holron. Row 4: Coach Zac Lerner, Isaac Stone, Kyle McLean, Tommie Hill, Aaron Robinson, C.J. Hallman, Brian Moore, Tyler Pivec, Ryan Virden, Andy Aubert, Coach Ben Williamson. Row 5: Head Coach Tony Johnson, Joe Zierden, Santino Craven, Brad Amelsberg, Alan Anderson, Cory Huggar, David Coyle, Jay Lambert, Mall Horejsi, Coach Ray Holton. Not pictured: Justin Soderberg, Marcu Whitlock, Robin Bell, Natan Rayman, Philip Baeenroth.

Waterville-Elysian-Morristown - Section 2 Champion - Class AA

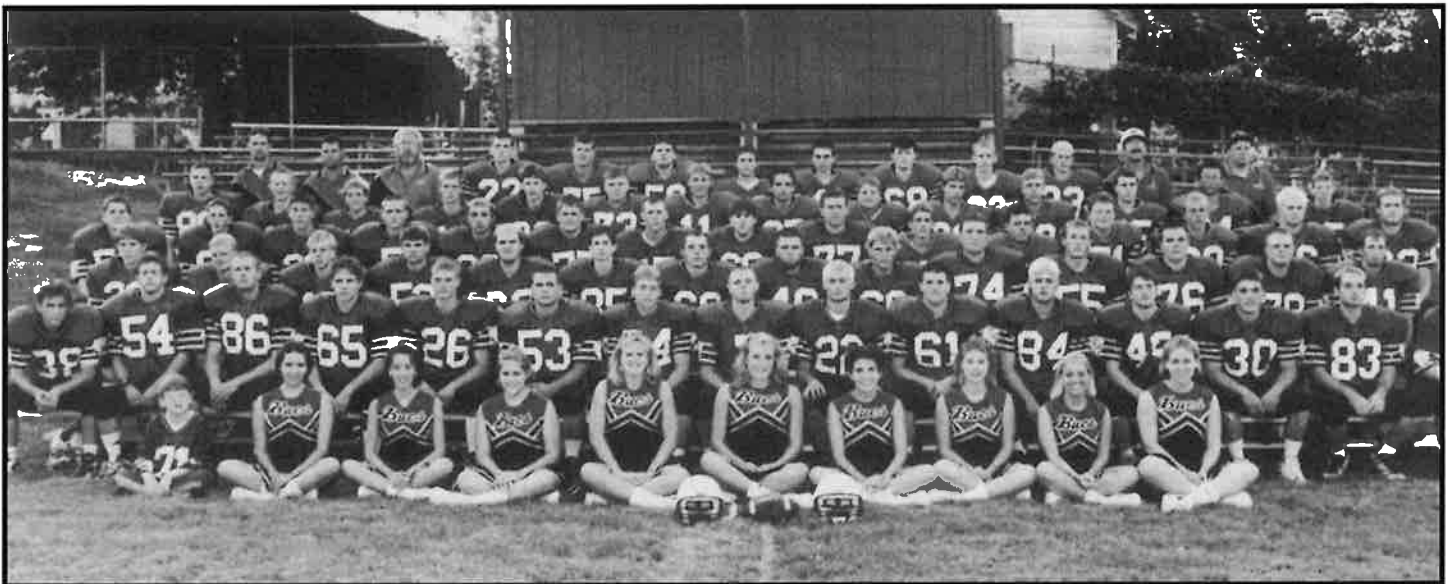
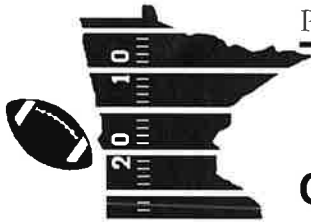


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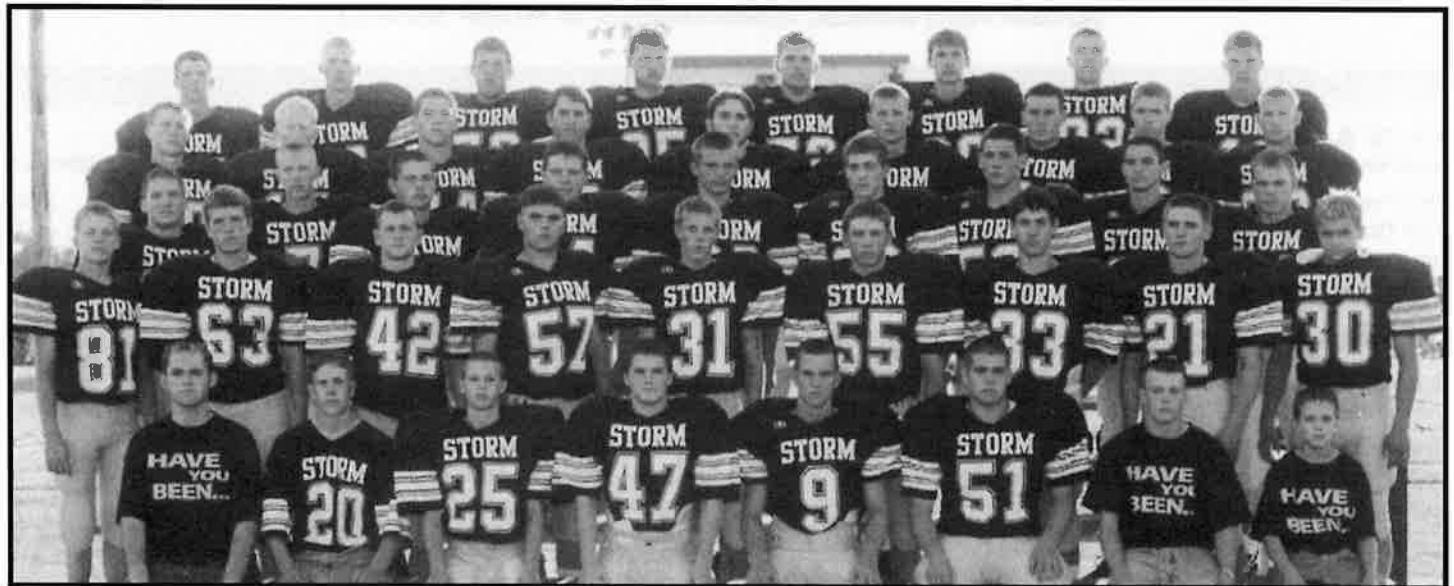
1999 State Champions

Cook Cty., Grand Marais - Section 7 Champion - Class A



Row 1 (L-R): Jesse Kimball, Travis VanDoren, Rick Tavernier, Jeff Mattson, Erik Anderson, Trevor Berneking, Jake Hammond. Row 2: Gunner Arason, Woody Seim, Roger Deschampe, Dustin Nelson, Casey Nelson, Todd Gervais, Richard Bohnen, Troy Berneking. Row 3: Charlie Trovall, Ryan Petz, Coach Mike Boomer, Coach Lyle Anderson, Coach Dale Bockovich, Coach Mitch Dorr, Robert James, Maff Gwash. Row 4: Noah Horak, Grant Brown, Scoff Bauer, Troy Gilchrist, Bruce Smith, Brian Fairbanks, Andrew Strand, Tim Beaster. Row 5: Austin Riehm, Tyler Maruska, Kyler Hawkins, Chris Nelson, Erik Rannetsberger, Bertil Lindquist, Ashley Curtis, Pierre Sherer. Row 6: Kyle Wallerstedt, Matt James, Jason Donek, Lance Rindahl, Craig Georg, Erik Anderson, Seth Williams, Zack Haugen. Row 7: Zack Vogel, Nathan Miller, Jessica Glaza, Laurel Hennessy, Lacy Smith, Sarah Gearou, Corey Huddler, Chris Ekroot.

Stephen-Argyle Central - Section 8 Champion - 9-Man



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The requirements for selection as a recipient of the Butch Nash awards are:

1) An active assistant football coach at the high school level.

2) Although not strictly limited to varsity level coaches, the executive committee set a requirement of being an assistant who is a "front liner" - in the limelight, under the gun, recipient of praise or criticism approaching the level of that endured by the head coach.

3) Certainly, a few younger coaches can meet these requirements, BUT in all candor, years of service to a program will influence the selection committee's choices.

The recipients for the Butch Nash Award for 1999 are:

Dan Alsbury, Byron

Dick Braun, Fertile-Beltrami

Roger Elzenga, Windom

Shannon Gerrety, Blaine

Mike Kleinschmidt, Albany

Mike McCarney, Battle Lake

Mike Quist, Alexandria

John Schilling, McLeod West



Dan Alsbury, Byron
Butch Nash Award



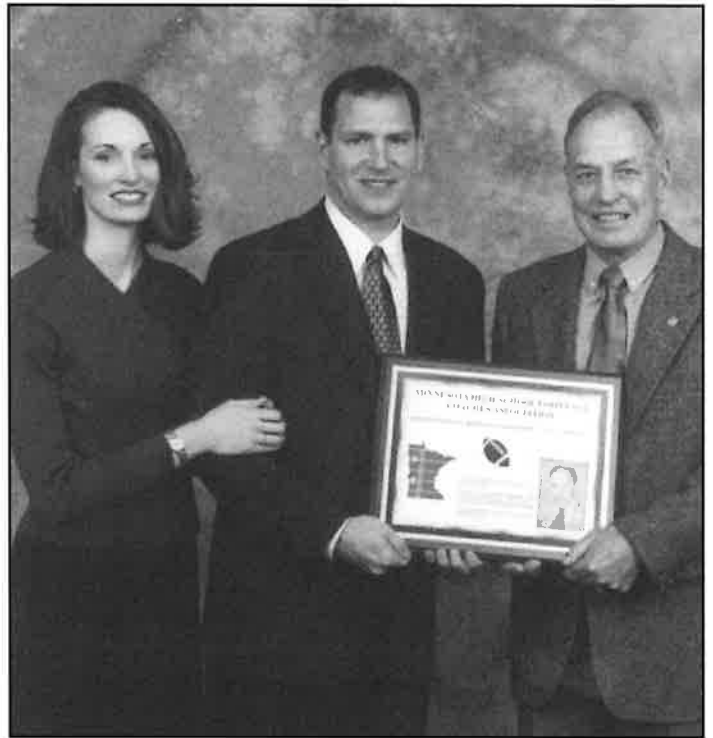
Dick Braun, Fertile-Beltrami
Butch Nash Award



1999 Butch Nash Award ...



Roger Elzenga, Windom
Butch Nash Award



Shannon Gerrety, Blaine
Butch Nash Award

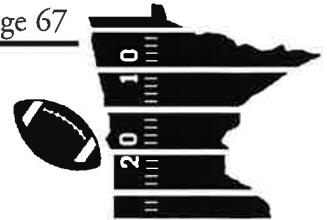


Mike Kleinschmidt, Albany
Butch Nash Award

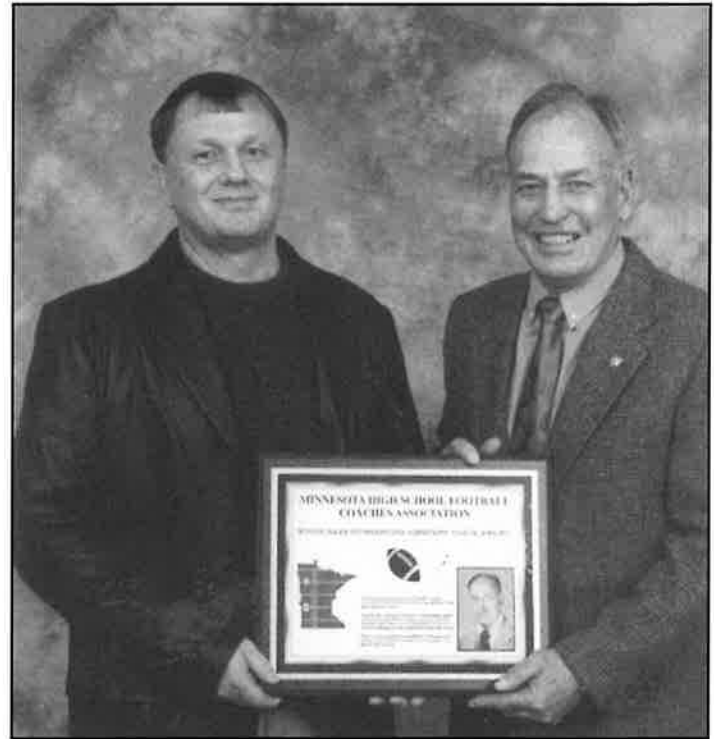


Mike McCarney, Battle Lake
Butch Nash Award

1999 Butch Nash Award ...



Mike Quist, Alexandria
Butch Nash Award



John Schilling, McLeod West
Butch Nash Award

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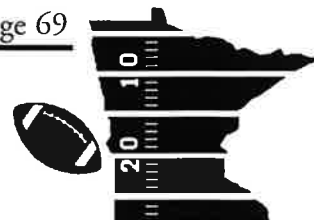


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4. Ron Stolski, Brainerd	255-127-5	38	37. Jon Bakken, Waterville- Elysian-Morristown	131-38-0	15
5. Jim Roforth, Osakis	253-103-2	40	38. Dave Nelson, Blaine	130-48-0	16
6. Mike Mahlen, Verndale	235-73-3	31	39. Dave Hylla, Proctor	130-62-0	19
7. Neal Hofland, Chokio-Alberta	231-82-2	31	40. Terry Ogorok, Kittson Central	129-73-0	20
8. Dave Nigon, Totino Grace . . .	224-87-0	29	41. Richard Risbrudt, Hillcrest Lutheran Acad. . .	129-80-0	22
9. Stuart Nordquist, International Falls/Indus . .	221-104-2	33	42. Bob Jackson, White Bear Lake	129-91-0	23
10. Clark Bergloff, Mora	211-65-0	27	43. Craig Anderson, Dilworth- Glyndon Felton	127-65-0	20
11. DeWayne Johnson, Anoka . . .	203-102-2	31	44. Mike Grant, Eden Prairie	124-53-0	17
12. Ron Johnson, Clearbrook- Gonvick	202-85-0	31	45. Steve Radniecki, Norman County East	124-86-0	21
13. Dave Beadle, Albrook	200-122-3	41	46. Gary Hindt, Wabasso	124-117-0	26
14. Gary Graham, Browerville . . .	197-55-0	24	47. Doug Patnode, Princeton	124-122-0	26
15. Jim Mader, Albany	192-56-0	23	48. Mike Hyland, Wrenshall	123-98-0	27
16. Stan Olson, LeRoy-Ostrander .	191-99-0	28	49. Don Seipkes, Ottertail Central	123-125-0	25
17. Dwight Lundeen, Becker	187-107-2	30	50. Keith Bergstedt, Cromwell . . .	121-24-0	13
18. Dave Brooke, Yellow Medicine East	182-74-0	25	51. Dan Zubich, Babbitt- Embarrass	121-107-0	25
19. Ken Belanger, Zumbrota/ Mazeppa	182-138-2	34	52. Curt Strand, McLeod West . . .	199-74-0	19
20. Merrill Pavlovich, Delano	178-67-0	25	53. Steve Solem, BOLD	118-31-0	13
21. Carl Lemke, St. Croix Lutheran	177-100-0	28	54. Earl Bauman, St. Michael- Albertville	115-88-0	22
22. Lyle Anderson, Cook County .	170-82-0	26	55. Jim Reinhardt, Rushford- Peterson	114-47-0	15
23. Dick Strand, Southland	168-95-0	27	56. John Bennett, Prior Lake	114-102-0	23
24. Del Elston, Fillmore Central . .	165-98-0	26	57. Mike Watson, Centennial	114-118-1	25
25. Ken Jacobson, Chatfield	165-110-0	27	58. Dean Aurich, Mayo Lutheran .	112-37-0	16
26. Larry Thompson, Lakeville . . .	153-70-1	20	59. Dennis Kalpin, Alexandria . . .	108-87-2	21
27. Steve Stritesky, Ogilvie	153-81-0	24	60. Dennis Holsman, Hill City . . .	107-86-0	23
28. Ken Hill, Sauk Rapids	151-137-1	31	61. Jim Trapp, Jordan	107-89-0	20
29. John Heller, St. Paul Highland	151-131-1	31	62. Jerry Witt, Morris Area	105-78-0	20
30. Steve Ott, Deer River	147-26-0	15	63. John Sieling, Eagle Valley	105-105-0	20
31. Rich Kallok, Cretin- Derham Hall	146-48-0	18	64. Terry Highum, Lanesboro . . .	104-87-0	20
32. Gary Brantl, Red Lake Co. Central	145-134-0	30	65. Bob Majeski, Hastings	102-44-0	15
33. Jim Brown, Winsted Holy Trinity	140-93-0	24			





Active High School Coaches Approaching 100 Victory Club

(At Beginning of 2000 Season)

Head Coach and School	W-L-T Record	Years Head Coach	Head Coach and School	W-L-T Record	Years Head Coach
1. Dave Trautman, Frazee	99-99-0	22	7. Ivan Kroulik, Kasson-Mantorville	89-31-0	11
2. Randy Strand, Adrian	97-55-0	15	8. Bubba Sullivan, Northfield . . .	87-39-0	11
3. Gary Turnberg, Dawson-Boyd	94-112-0	23	9. Dean Dieble, Sleepy Eye	82-39-0	12
4. Todd Olson, Edina	92-41-0	13	10. Doug Conboy, Silver Bay	79-102-0	21
5. Gary Halvorson, Woodbury . .	90-66-0	17			
6. Steve Hill, Minnewaska Ara . .	90-103-0	21			

Winningest All-Time Minnesota Coaches

Head Coach and School	W-L-T Record	Years	Head Coach and School	W-L-T Record	Years
1. George Larson, Cambridge* . .	296-63-6	39	10. Jim Roforth, Osakis*	253-103-2	40
2. George Thole, Stillwater*	285-61-2	32	11. Gerhard Meidt, Minneota	236-79-0	32
3. Ken Baumann, Mahnomon* . . .	281-61-2	31	12. Mike Mahlen, Verndale*	235-73-3	31
4. Grady Rostberg, Hutchinson . . .	277-89-1	35	13. Buz Rumrill, Glencoe-Silver Lake	233-108-3	37
5. George Smith, Mahtomedi	265-122-11	44	14. Neal Hofland, Chokio-Alberta*	231-82-2	31
6. Red Drechsel, Red Lake Falls*	264-114-9	42	15. Dave Nigon, Totino Grace* . . .	224-87-0	29
7. John Hanson, Osseo	257-105-13	39			
8. Tom Mahoney, Fairmont	256-94-8	39			
9. Ron Stolski, Brainerd*	255-127-5	38			

*Denotes Active

Family Coaching Connections

The MHSFCA is seeking to obtain information on some of the family connections that have been established over the years in Minnesota high school football. In trying to be systematic, information is requested by certain "categories" so that it can be recorded and presented accordingly.

One category requested is that of father-son combinations of head football coaches. This may be the smallest category and thus, hopefully, the easiest to record. Examples of such combinations would be Stan Nelson, who coached at Anoka and his son Dave, who has established a successful program at Blaine. Tony Thiel had a long and successful career and Battle Lake, while his son of the same name continues that tradition of success at Wheaton. And even more obvious example would be the Rostbergs of Hutchinson. Grady Rostberg, retired as one of the winningest coaches in Minnesota high school history. And following in his footsteps, is his son Andy who took over as head coach at Hutchinson

in 1999.

Any coach who has information on other father-son combinations is encouraged to send it in to Terry Turek so that it may be retained and used in future articles for the recognition of Minnesota high school coaches. Any stories, records, etc. pertaining to the father-son combinations are welcome. The category of father-son combinations does not have to be confined to head coaches only. Information regarding assistants and their family connections is also welcome.

And as information is compiled in this area, other family connections will be also explored, such as brothers who are in the football coaching business and maybe even grandfathers, etc., depending on the amount of information supplied.

Information should be sent to:
Terry Turek
Le Sueur-Henderson H.S.
901 E. Ferry St., Le Sueur, MN 56058

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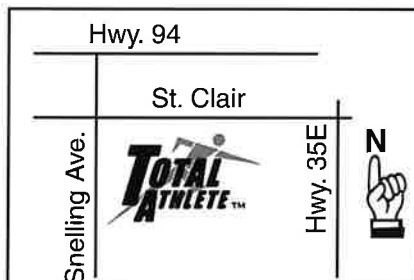
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200 and 250 Victory Club

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Matt Birk and Corbin Lucina of Total Athlete we were able to recognize coaches with 250 victories for the first time. At the Hall of Fame Banquet the following five coaches were recognized for having over 250 victories and presented with a plaque and a watch.

George Larson of Cambridge-Isanti has a record of 296-63-6 over a 39 year career and is poised to be the states first 300 victory coach next season. Stillwater's George Thole finished his career in second place all time with a 285-69-2 mark in 32 seasons. Ken Bauman of Mahnommen has a record of

281 in 31 seasons. L. E. "Les" Drechsel has achieved a mark of 264-1 14-9 in 42 years of coaching at Crookston and Red Lake Falls. At Brainerd, Ron Stolski finished his 38th season with a record of 255-127-5.

David Beadle of Albrook finished the 1999 season with a record of 200-122-3 after 41 years a head coach. He was joined in the 200 victory club by Con Natvig who finished his career at Swanville with a mark of 202-119-2 over 34 seasons. Dave and Con were presented with plaques at the banquet.



250 Victory Club Inductees



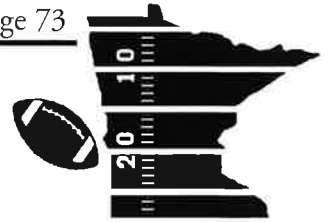
George Larson
Cambridge-Isanti



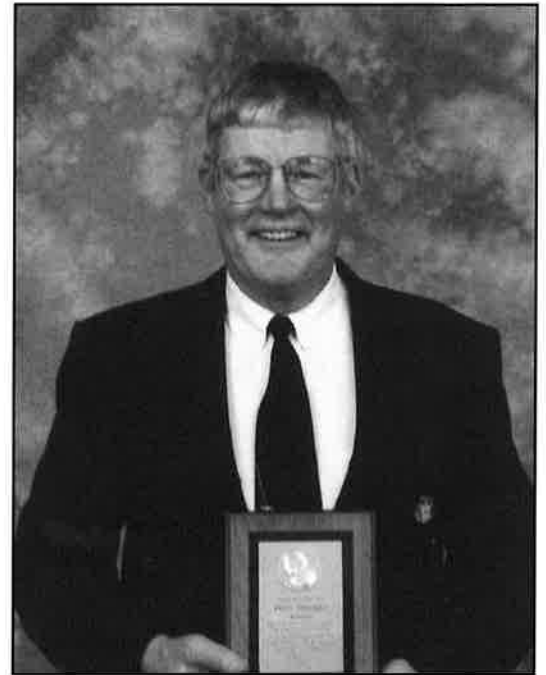
George Thole
Stillwater



Ken Bauman
Mahnommen



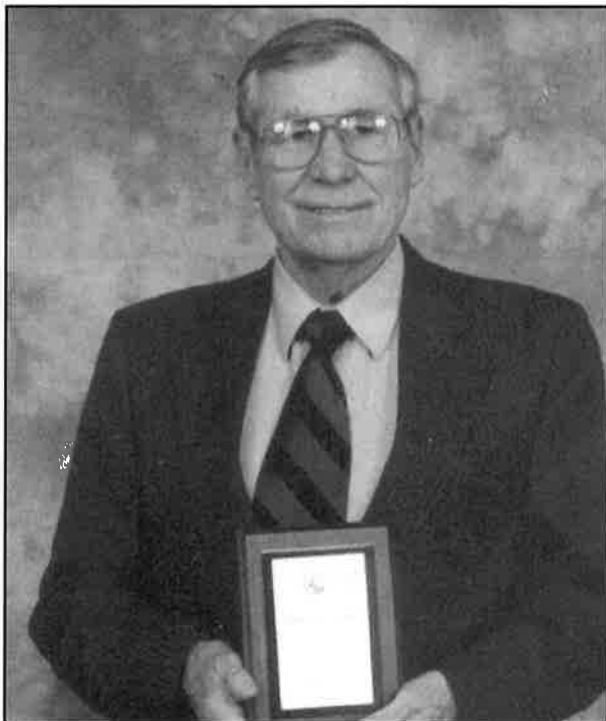
L.E. "Les" Drechsel
Crookston and Red Lake Falls



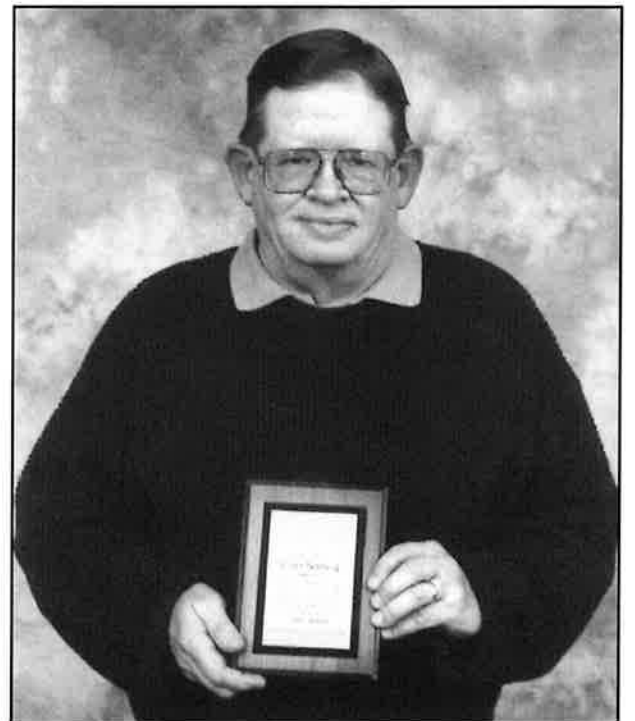
Ron Stolski
Brainerd



200 Victory Club Inductees

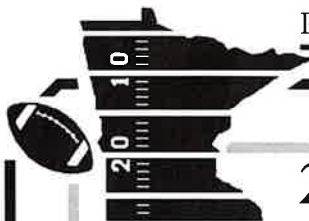


David Beadle
Albrook



Con Natvig
Swanville





27th Annual Minnesota High School

ALL STAR FOOTBALL GAME

2:00 P.M. SATURDAY, JUNE 24

Macalester College

OUTSTATE ALL-STARS HEAD COACH

Jeff Williams, Owatonna

ASSISTANTS

Earl Baumann, St. Michael-Albertville

Dave Beadle, Albrook

Clay Anderson, LeCenter

Doug Patnode, Princeton

Mike Kleinschmidt, Albany

METRO ALL-STARS HEAD COACH

Bob Jackson, White Bear Lake

ASSISTANTS

Kelly Scherwin, Eastview

Donn Drommerhausen, Stillwater

Dennis Forman, Eagan

Chuck Gilbert, DeLaSalle

Anthony R. Johnson, DeLaSalle



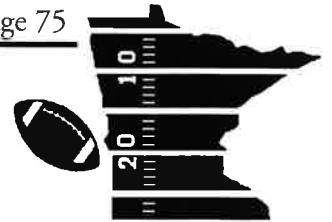
Dave Fritze
Game Manager

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2000 All-Star Football Teams

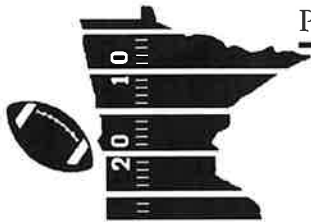


2000 American Express Outstate All-Stars

PLAYER	POS.	SCHOOL
Andrew Aakre	DB	Stephen/Argyle Central
Erik Anderson	QB	Cook County
Quentin Anderson	G	Windom Area
Josh Baker	DB	Proctor
Tim Battaglia	WR	Cloquet
Dan Burmeister	RB	Little Fork-Big Falls
Chris Coamette	TE	Crookston
Tim Erickson	WR	Fergus Falls
Mitch Feierabend	LB	Brainerd
Brandon Flicker	OT	Sartell
Luke Fritze	FB	Hayfield
Gabe Garcia	DT	John Marshall
Cory Hackett	QB	Waterville-Elysian-Morristown
Christian Harmeyer	OT	LeCenter
Loren Havemeier	WR	Sleepy Eye Public
Chris Holsworth	G	North Branch
Josh Jaskulke	OT	GHEC
John Kaiser	LB	Mora
Matt Konz	DB	Adrian
Dallas Koplin	C	West Central Area
Mike Larson	DT	Sauk Center
Levi Lidke	DE	Braham Area
Joe Lozano	DT	Rochester Mayo
Adam Maine	RB	Holdingsford
Derrick Malone	FB	Century
Ryan Manke	DB	Detroit Lakes
Troy Newhouse	G	Fisher-Climax
Jamie Otterblad	RB	Silver Bay
Jeff Painter	TE	St. Cloud Tech
Andrew Passanante	DB	Hawley
Jed Riegelman	DE	Red Wing
Tim Schellhammer	DB	Chatfield
Paul Schreiner	LB	Rocori
Brandon Schwegel	DE	Pine River
Isaac Snell	DE	Pipestone/Jasper
Tom Stanger	DT	Becker
Eric Stenzel	LB	Mankato West
Derek Tostenson	LB	Montevideo
Cory Urban	RB	Owatonna
Jeff Voss	DB	Paynesville Area
Jesse Worsley	C	Caledonia
Jason Zierden	DT	Melrose

2000 NovaCare Metro All-Stars

PLAYER	POS.	SCHOOL
Jabril Akinwale	DB	Coon Rapids
James Bakken	C	Mahtomedi
Greg Baldus	WR	Chaska
Frank Bass	WR	Roosevelt
Winston Bell	LB	Cretin-Derham Hall
Matt Bourne	DB	Eden Prairie
Walter Bowser	WR	Cretin-Derham Hall
Clayton Buchberger	RB	Coon Rapids
Khairi Coleman	RB	St. Agnes
Spencer Cone	LB	Totino-Grace
Jason Cook	DL	Spring Lake Park
Charlie Cosgrove	LB	Minneapolis Washburn
Paul Dexter	LB	Stillwater
Ronnie Dox	LB	Cretin-Derham Hall
Brian Doyle	LB	Park Cottage Grove
Don Eustice	QB	Mounds View
Jeff Feine	LB	Blaine
Jason Frank	DL	Lakeville
Trevor Frischman	RB	Blaine
Bobby Grandas	QB	Woodbury
Dusty Haskins	DL	Buffalo
Tom Higbee	DL	Champlin Park
Mark Jensen	QB	White Bear Lake
Cory McConden	OL	Hopkins
Mark McElroy	OL	Cretin-Derham Hall
Rian Melander	OL	Cretin-Derham Hall
Jared Newberry	LB	Minneapolis DeLaSalle
Larry Pinson	RB	Eagan
Rob Presthus	WR/TE	Edina
Chad Redmann	DL	Apple Valley
Tom Revak	LB	Lakeville
Heighlos Riser	DB	Highland Park
Derreck Robinson	DL	Minneapolis DeLaSalle
Payton Ross	DB	Park Center
Rob Satrom	OL	Lakeville
Dominique Sims	DB	Minneapolis DeLaSalle
Barry Smith	OL	Champlin Park
David Standa	DB	Orono
Dan Voight	RB	Hastings
Jeff Voreis	OL	Bloomington Kennedy
Tim Weisbrod	OL	Park Cottage Grove
Nick Zilka	TE	Bloomington Jefferson



State Football Playoff Championship Games (1972-1999)

1972

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Mpls. Washburn	Moorhead	26-6
A	Burnsville	Sauk Centre	46-19
B	Mountain Iron	Dassel-Cokato	54-6
C	Gaylord	Preston	26-6
9-Man	Rothsay	Cotton	64-12

1973

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Rochester John Marshall	St. Paul Harding	25-0
A	Eveleth	Willmar	28-18
B	New Prague	Appleton	13-7
C	Gaylord	Holdingford	29-6
9-Man	Lake Benton	Brandon	50-12

1974

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Rochester John Marshall	Bloomington Jefferson	41-19
A	Alexandria	Chaska	26-7
B	New Prague	Caledonia	41-12
C	Battle Lake	Bird Island	34-26 (2OT)
9-Man	Lake Benton	Fisher	36-6

1975

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Stillwater	Richfield	20-17
A	St. Thomas Academy	St. Peter	21-14
B	Gaylord	Onamia	14-13
C	Esko	Karlstad	62-0
9-Man	Ruthton	Audubon	42-20

1976

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	White Bear Lake	Cloquet	44-36 (OT)
A	St. Peter	Mora	56-12
B	Caledonia	Sartell	38-7
C	New Richland-Hartland	Bird Island	21-19
9-Man	Deer Creek	Fergus Falls Hillcrest Lutheran Academy	57-14

1977

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Minneapolis Washburn	Stillwater	13-0
A	Fridley Grace	Cold Spring Rocori	36-12
B	Granite Falls	Stewartville	44-6
C	Battle Lake	Henderson	22-20 (OT)
9-Man	Deer Creek	Fergus Falls Hillcrest Lutheran Academy	20-0

1978

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Edina West	Fridley	21-0
A	Fridley Grace	Apple Valley	17-14
B	New Richland-Hartland	Barnesville	48-8
C	Alden-Conger	Battle Lake	15-14
9-Man	Hoffman	Albrook	44-28

1979

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Columbia Heights	Richfield	8-3
A	Rochester Lourdes	Apple Valley	22-6
B	Gaylord	Mahnomen	15-6
C	Bird Island-Lake Lillian	Harmony	34-6
9-Man	Russell	Tovola-Meadowlands	17-14

1980

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Burnsville	Cambridge	23-6
A	Crookston	Pipestone	32-6
B	Mahnomen	Austin Pacelli	34-0
C	Bird Island-Lake Lillian	Mountain Lake	20-7
9-Man	Hoffman	Toivola-Meadowlands	18-14

1981

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Rosemount	Moorhead	40-14
A	St. Peter	Hermantown	18-14
B	Holdingford	Pine Island	39-0
C	Medford	Clarkfield	33-28
9-Man	Argyle	Starbuck	31-19

1982

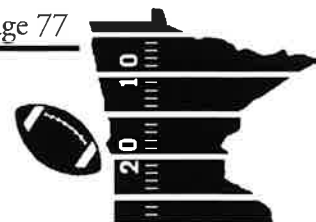
Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Stillwater	Owatonna	34-27
A	Brooklyn Center	East Grand Forks	30-8
B	LeCenter	Mahnomen	12-6
C	Truman	Belgrade	16-14
9-Man	Westbrook	Fergus Falls Hillcrest Lutheran Academy	34-12

1983

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Coon Rapids	Bloomington Jefferson	34-31
A	Hutchinson	Park Rapids	36-14
B	Jordan	Breckenridge	27-0
C	Southland (Adams)	Bird Island Lake Lillian	28-0
9-Man	Silver Lake	Norman Cty. W. Climax	27-12

1984

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Stillwater	Burnsville	36-33
A	Hutchinson	Centennial	32-7
B	Granite Falls	Breckenridge	13-7
C	Harmony	Glyndon-Felton	20-14
9-Man	Norman Cty. W.	Silver Lake	37-20



1985

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Burnsville	Apple Valley	27-21
A	New Prague	Mora	16-12
B	Jackson	Mahnomen	26-20
C	Glyndon-Felton	Zumbrota	38-14
9-Man	Westbrook	Norman Cty. West	45-18

1986

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Apple Valley	Osseo	35-6
A	Cambridge	Stewartville	24-0
B	Watertown-Mayer	Granite Falls	29-6
C	Minneota	Sherburn-Dunnell	52-19
9-Man	Argyle	Silver Lake	32-7

1987

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Moorhead	Winona	13-7
A	Cambridge	Lakeville	28-14
B	Granite Falls	Ely	43-20
C	Minneota	Grand Meadow	27-7
9-Man	Silver Lake	Verndale	30-14

1988

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Blaine	Cretin-Derham Hall	25-24
A	Lakeville	Staples-Motley	35-28
B	Breckenridge	Morris	21-7
C	Minneota	Rushford	42-28
9-Man	Hallock	Stewart	35-24

1989

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Burnsville	Stillwater	21-7
A	Albany	Totino Grace	41-32
B	Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop	Perham	27-15
C	Waterville-Elysian	Mahnomen	
9-Man	St. Clair	Albrook	47-12

1990

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Anoka	Elk River	14-0
A	Fridley	Sartell	34-12
B	BOLD	DeLaSalle	15-14
C	Mahnomen	Becker	27-7
9-Man	Hills-Beaver Creek	Argyle	28-21

1991

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Burnsville	Lakeville	10-7
A	Spring Lake Park	Rocori	20-0
B	BOLD	Deer River	14-0
C	Mahnomen	Mankato Loyola	42-0
9-Man	Chokio-Alberta	Grygla/Goodridge	7-6

1992

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Lakeville	Cretin-Derham Hall	19-7
A	Detroit Lakes	Farmington	21-0
B	St. Cloud Catholic	BOLD	7-6
C	Mahnomen	Mankato Loyola	20-13
9-Man	Stephen	Cromwell	36-20

1993

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Apple Valley	Rochester John Marshall	29-7
A	Detroit Lakes	Northfield	21-14
B	St. Cloud Catholic	Zumbrota-Mazeppa	28-6
C	Mahnomen	Minneota	43-23
9-Man	Chokio-Alberta	LeRoy-Ostrander	35-0

1994

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Anoka	Alexandria	34-7
A	Sartell	Northfield	24-21
B	Triton	Becker	40-21
C	Chatfield	Red Lake Falls	34-14
9-Man	Kittson Central	Verndale	36-16

1995

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Stillwater	Rochester Mayo	31-7
A	Detroit Lakes	St. Peter	30-15
B	Kingsland	Breckenridge	22-3
C	Chatfield	Hawley	12-6
9-Man	Cromwell	LeRoy-Ostrander	26-18

1996

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Eden Prairie	Blaine	23-22
A	Mora	Northfield	7-3
B	Breck	Windom Area	24-7
C	Chatfield	Hawley	12-7
9-Man	Cromwell	Verndale	46-44

1997

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AAAAA	Eden Prairie	Blaine	32-28
AAAA	Northfield	Detroit Lakes	28-0
AAA	Albany	Jackson Cty. Central	55-7
AA	Pelican Rapids	Waterville-Elysian-Morris.	34-32
A	Cook County	Adrian	13-12
9-Man	Verndale	Cromwell	18-12

1998

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AAAAA	Woodbury	Champlin Park	28-7
AAAA	Hutchinson	Owatonna	21-20
AAA	Foley	Jackson Cty. Central	21-7
AA	Mahnomen	BOLD	27-26
A	Cook County	Adrian	38-32 (2OT)
9-Man	Cromwell	Hillcrest Lutheran	40-22

1999

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AAAAA	Cretin-Derham Hall	Hastings	42-21
AAAA	Mankato West	Cambridge-Isanti	35-28
AAA	DeLaSalle	St. Michael-Albertville	28-7
AA	Waterville-Elysian-Morris.	West Central Area	34-0
A	Cook County	LeCenter	14-6
9-Man	Stephen-Argyle	Nicollet	18-8





Total Athlete Service Awards for 40 Years Coaching

Through the sponsorship of Total Athlete, assistant and head coaches were recognized for the first time for years of service in coaching football. At the Hall of Fame Banquet two coaches, David Beadle of Albroom, and L. B. "Les" Drechsel of Crookston and Red Lake Falls were presented with a plaque and a gold ring for their long-time dedication to football.

At the Gopher Spring Clinic awards for 30 and 35 years of coaching were also presented. Receiving a plaque and watch for 35 years of coaching were: Mel Anderson, BelgradeBrooten-Elrosa; Jerry Foley, Stillwater; George Larson, Cambridge-Isanti; Jim Simser, New Richland-Hartland/Fairmont Ron Stolski, Brainerd; and George Thole, Stillwater. 30 year plaques were presented to Frank Aunan,

Zumbrota-Mazeppa; Ken Baumann, Mahnomen; Ken Belanger, Zumbrota-Mazeppa; Roger Elzenga, Windom; Ken Hill, Sauk Rapids; Neal Hofland, Chokio-Alberta; Ken Jacobson, Chatfield; DeWayne Johnson, Anoka; Dwight Lundeen, Becker; Conrad Mack, New York Mills; Mike Mahlen, Vemdale; Con Natvig, Swanville; Stuart Nordquist, International Falls; Rich Oliphant, Faribault; and George Tuvey, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton.

Coaches if you or any football coach in your system reaches the 30, 35, or 40 year level next year contact Terry Turek at Le Sueur-Henderson next fall so recognition can be given!

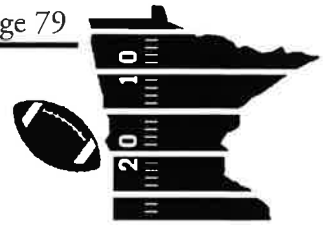


Les Drechsel
Crookston/Red Lake Falls
40 Years Coaching



Dave Beadle
Albroom
40 Years Coaching





Varsity Gold 1999 Academic All-State Players

CLASS 9-MAN

Andrew Aakre	Stephen-Argyle Central
Mitch Deere	Kittson Central
Tony Fasnacht	Cleveland
Andy French	Cromwell-Wright
Zach Hinkle	Verndale
Tom Hohenstein	Nicollet
Matt Horning	Chokio-Alberta/Herman-Norcross
Nathan Johnson	Win-E-Mac
John Kilde	Hillcrest Lutheran Academy
Ryan Rentschler	Hills-Beaver Creek/Ellsworth
Matt Williams	Albrook

CLASS A

Syd Schramm	Southland
Andrew MacDonald	Fertile-Beltrami
James Eckstein	Sleepy Eye
Adam Halvorson	Ogilvie
Andrew Bernard	Rushford-Peterson
Zachary Faber	Adrian
Isiah Godding	Eagle Valley
Eric Haefner	Mankato Loyola
Glen Haburn	Osakis
Zane Packard	Bertha Hewitt
Erik Anderson	Cook County
Jason Busta	Spring Grove

CLASS AA

Jesse Barnacle	Deer River
Scott Battaglia	East Central
Jon Bogenreif	Breckenridge
Nathan Brever	St. Anthony Village
Shaun Chesley	Windom Area
Chad Davison	West Central Area
Derek Fischer	BOLD
Matt Grandbois	Hawley
Owen Hoegh	Byron
Dave Marthaler	Ortonville
Tim Schellhammer	Chatfield
Dante Tomassoni	Chisholm
Phillip Watters	St. Agnes

Derek Tamm
Timothy Slama
Jason Pedersen
Scott Prouix
Aaron Wessman
Nathan Aul
Joe Siebenaler
Jed Matthiesen
Brett Salek
Nathan Hamilton
Eddie Kasner
Nick Casavan
Nate Orpen
Derek Boll

CLASS AAA

Albany
Blue Earth Area
Cannon Falls
Crookston
Dassel-Cokato
Glencoe-Silver Lake
Lake City
Luverne
Plainview-Elgin Millville
Plainview-Elgin Millville
Rochester Lourdes
Roseau
St. Peter
Watertown-Mayer

CLASS AAAA

Jesse Linstroth	Totino-Grace
Jordan Holm	Northfield
Jed Riegelman	Red Wing
Jon Frykman	New Prague
Heighlos Riser	Highland Park
Jason Bell	Columbia Heights
Nik Watkins	Proctor
Tyler Vrieze	Richfield
Tim Ahmed	Spring Lake Park
Chris Holsworth	North Branch
James Bakken	Mahtomedi
Cody Marks	So. St. Paul
Chuck Wiest	Mankato West
Jason Cook	Spring Lake Park
Jake Vogt	North Branch

CLASS AAAAA

Aric Bethke	Buffalo
Cory Guenther	St. Francis
Brian Senske	Apple Valley
Josh Zeithamer	Alexandria
Zak Wilske	Lakeville
Isaac Kieffer	Rochester Mayo
Larry Pinson	Eagan
Paul Evans	Willmar
Nick Thielman	St. Cloud Tech.
Tony Cicalello	Cretin-Derham Hall
David Soma	Woodbury
Mitch Feieraband	Brainerd
Tony Groat	Edina
Tom Petrie	Wayzata
Paul Martin	Elk River
Trevor Frischman	Blaine



Varsity Gold 1999 Academic All-State Teams

CLASS 9-Man

Section 1	Cleveland	2.96
Section 2	Hills-Beaver Creek/Elsworth	3.25
Section 3	Chokio-Alberta/ Herman-Norcross	3.61
Section 4	Hillcrest Lutheran Academy	3.71
Section 5	Cromwell	3.43
Section 6	NA	
Section 7	Red Lake County Central	3.39
Section 8	Stephen/Argyle Central	3.59

Champion: Hillcrest Lutheran Academy . . . 3.71

CLASS A

Section 1	Dover-Eyota	3.60
Section 2	Minnesota Valley Lutheran	3.66
Section 3	Adrian	3.38
Section 4	Ogilvie	3.28
Section 5	Wheaton	3.40
Section 6	Parkers Prairie	3.56
Section 7	Cook County	3.37
Section 8	Red Lake Falls	3.48

Champion: MN Valley Lutheran 3.66

CLASS AA

Section 1	Chatfield	3.48
Section 2	Hayfield	3.49
Section 3	Windom	3.40
Section 4	Minnehaha	3.30
Section 5	Eden Valley-Watkins	3.35
Section 6	Breckenridge	3.43
Section 7	East Central	3.41
Section 8	NA	

Champion: Hayfield 3.49

CLASS AAA

Section 1	Kasson-Mantorville	3.32
Section 2	St. Peter	3.28
Section 3	Montevideo	3.36
Section 4	NA	
Section 5	Mora	3.46
Section 6	Albany	3.51
Section 7	Hermantown	3.22
Section 8	Wadena-Deer Creek	3.10

Champion: Albany 3.51

CLASS AAAA

Section 1	Northfield	3.32
Section 2	Mankato West	3.37
Section 3	NA	
Section 4	Chisago Lakes	3.50
Section 5	Benilde-St. Margaret's	3.52
Section 6	Monticello	3.52
Section 7	Proctor	3.42
Section 8	Detroit Lakes	3.49

Champion: (Tie-Breaker) Monticello 3.52

CLASS AAAAA

Section 1	Lakeville	3.48
Section 2	Edina	3.56
Section 3	Stillwater	3.40
Section 4	White Bear Lake	3.54
Section 5	Cretin-Derham Hall	3.44
Section 6	Buffalo	3.59
Section 7	Blaine	3.70
Section 8	Alexandria	3.54

Champion: Blaine 3.70



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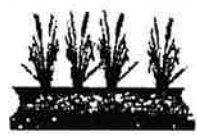
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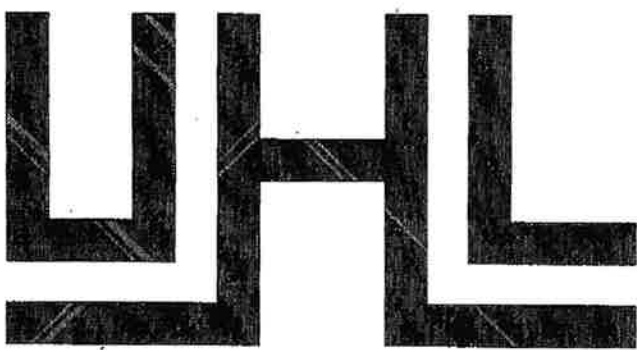


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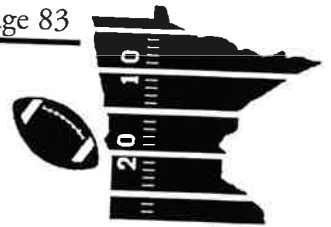


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STANDING BY IN SPORTS

By Ralph Anderson

Cook County only repeat winner in Prep Bowl XVIII

Prep Bowl XVIII -- held at the Metrodome in downtown Minneapolis on Friday, Nov. 26 -- found just one school able to repeat as a class champion in the concluding event of Minnesota's 1999 prep football campaign.

That school was Cook County, located in Grand Marais, which reeled off its third successive Class A crown with a 14-6 victory over LeCenter.

Other schools winning championships in the event sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) were Stephen-Argyle (Class 9-Man), Waterville-Elysian-Morristown (Class AA), DeLaSalle of Minneapolis (Class AAA), Mankato West (Class AAAA) and Cretin-Derham Hall of St. Paul (Class AAAAA).

This marked the third year of a six-class tournament. The sponsoring MSHSL held a football tournament for the first time in 1972 and the Prep Bowl at the Metrodome in Minneapolis was first held in 1982.

Class 9-Man: Stephen-Argyle 18, Nicollet 8

Stephen High School had won the Class 9-Man crown, Argyle High School had won the Class 9-Man title, but 1999 was the first time that the combined schools has claimed a championship.

The Stephen-Argyle Storm, which had lost in the state semi-finals for three straight years, capped a perfect 12-0 season with an 18-8 victory over Nicollet in the championship clash.

Quarterback Andrew Aakre of Stephen-Argyle ran for a touchdown, passed to Reece Setterholm for

another and Bartt Stoltman also scored for the Storm.

After the game, Aakre said the Storm "finally got the monkey off our back."

Nicollet set a new Prep Bowl record for passes attempted with 46 (the former record was 42 by Minneota in 1987) and got its lone touchdown on a 10-yard pass from quarterback Ryan Hulke to Nate Wenner in the fourth period. Wenner made nine catches for 135 yards.

The game was expected to be a high-scoring affair, but both quarterbacks struggled, there were 11 fumbles and there also was a host of penalties.

Argyle High School won the Class 9-Man championship in 1981 and in 1986, while Stephen captured the title in 1992.

Class A: Cook County 14, LeCenter 6

Cook County became the fourth school to win three straight state football championship with its 14-6 victory over LeCenter in the Class A title clash.

The feat was achieved earlier by Chatfield (1994-95-96) and Minneota (1986-87-88), while Mahnommen reeled off four straight titles (1990-91-92-93).

Victory in the title game was a come-from-behind effort for Cook County, which fell behind 6-0 in the first period on a 23-yard pass from Andy Schmidt to Eric Closser.

Quarterback Erik Anderson of Cook County (son of Head Coach Lyle Anderson) scored on a 1-yard plunge later in the first period and Cook County added the point to take a 7-6 lead. The winners got their second TD in the fourth quarter on a 23-yard scoring pass from Anderson to Woody Seim.



By winning, Cook County extended its winning string to 34 straight games.

Class AA: W-E-M 34, West Central Area 0

An outstanding performance by Cory Hackett, the Waterville-Elysian-Morristown (W-E-M) quarterback, sparked the winning Buccaneers to a 34-0 victory over West Central Area and the Class AA championship in Prep Bowl XVIII.

Hackett completed 17-of-29 passes for 334 yards (a Prep Bowl record) and three touchdowns and ran for 57 yards (he scored a pair of touchdowns on rushes) for a Prep Bowl record of 401 yards in total offense.

One of the three W-E-M scoring passes was a 76-yard play from Hackett to Gabe Hauer, with Hackett hitting Jesse Appel on a pair of 21-yard scoring strikes.

West Central Area was a surprise all season, since the school had won only three games throughout the 1997 and the 1998 seasons.

Waterville-Elysian-Morristown finished the year with a perfect 14-0 record. W-E-M lost in the 1997 championship game to Pelican Rapids and the school was known as Waterville-Elysian when it won the Class C crown in 1989 by defeating Mahnommen (14-7).

Class AAA: DeLaSalle 28, St. Michael-Albertville 7

The presence of Dominique Sims in the lineup for Minneapolis DeLaSalle's Islanders was a key factor in his team's 28-7 victory over St. Michael-Albertville in the Class AAA Football Tournament title showdown.

Sims, considered the state's top football recruit of the season (he eventually signed with the University of Minnesota), scored two touchdowns by rushing, gained 106 yards in 16 carries and completed two-of-four passes. In addition to running-back and quarterback, Sims played wide receiver, punt returner and safety for the Islanders.

Rod Malone added the other two DeLaSalle touchdowns and carried 13 times for 115 yards.

While Sims and Malone were each scoring a pair of touchdowns, Head Coach Tony Johnson of

DeLaSalle paid credit to his team's offensive line for its efforts in achieving the school's first-ever state football title. "From our tight end to our backside tackle, that's what made our running game so good all year," said Johnson.

DeLaSalle finished the season with a 13-1 overall record, winning its final 13 starts after falling to a school from California (Paraclete) by a score of 37-24 in its opener.

St. Michael-Albertville tallied on a 14-yard pass from Derek Brandt to Shane McLaughlin for its only TD. Brandt, who had thrown for 16 touchdown passes and ran for another 16 prior to the game, completed 19-of-34 throws for 219 yards, with Travis Zachman catching eight for 81 yards.

Class AAAA: Mankato West 35, Cambridge-Isanti 28

Mankato West marked its first appearance in the Prep Bowl by winning the Class AAAA championship, easing past Cambridge Isanti in a 35-28 horserace.

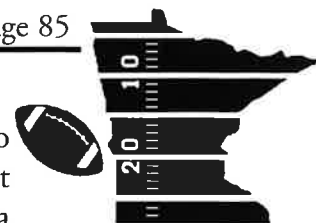
Runningback Chris Boyer scored three touchdowns for the winning Scarlets, including the tie-breaker with 7:45 remaining to clinch the victory.

Boyer's final TD came minutes after Cambridge-Isanti had tied the score at 28-all when Greg Ziebarth picked up a fumble and raced 90 yards for a touchdown.

West took a 28-14 lead early in the second half on a 93-yard punt return by Calen Wilson, but Preston Treichel's 5-yard scoring run for Cambridge-Isanti and the successful PAT cut the West margin to 28-21 and Ziebarth's fumble return tied the count before the Scarlets marched for the winning score.

Boyer, in addition to scoring three times, gained 202 yards by rushing as West finished with a 10-4 overall record.

This was the first-ever state football title for a Mankato school and West became the last school from the community to reach the state tourney. East, Loyola and Wilson all had represented Mankato in the MSHSL Football Tournament prior to West's qualification in 1999.



Class AAAAA: Cretin-Derham Hall 42, Hastings 21

A surge in the closing minutes of the first half sparked Cretin-Derham Hall to a 42-21 victory over Hastings and the Class AAAAA championship in Prep Bowl XVIII.

Quarterback Joe Mauer of the winners, who threw four TD passes during the game, fired three of those in the final 2:07 of the first half to snap a 14-14 deadlock.

In that stretch, Mauer and Kim Sarin combined on a 56-yard scoring strike through the air and then Mauer hooked up with Walter Bowser on 70-yard and 10-yard scores.

Mauer was 15-for-23 for 306 yards and four scores, while Bowser caught six passes for 156 yards and three touchdowns.

In addition to catching a TD pass, Sarin tallied another touchdown on a run for C-DH and Marcus Freeman returned a fumble 24 yards for a score.

The championship was the first for Cretin-Derham Hall, which had lost in championship games in 1988 and again in 1992. This was the school's 12th appearance in the state football tourney.

Hastings was in the state tournament for the fourth time and was in the championship game for the first time.

Coaching changes

Benson

Jerry Jerdee, who spent 40 years as a teacher and coach, retired after the 1998-99 school term at Benson, where he spent 33 years, including stints as head football coach, head basketball coach and head track coach.

During his 11 years as the school's head football mentor, Benson was 60-42 overall. Benson had lost 28 straight games until he was named the head grid coach in 1975 and the school was 2-7 in his first year, 4-5 the next and then had nine straight winning seasons.

Benson nearly made it to the first Prep Bowl (in 1982) when the Braves lost to East Grand Forks (17-14) in the state tourney semi-final round.

Richfield

Dave Thielman, who spent 20 years as an assistant coach at Richfield, took a long term disability leave in 1999-2000 after serving as the school's athletic director for 14 years.

Thielman served as defensive coordinator of the Spartans under Dick Walker, Todd Olson and Dan Fogelson and also was Richfield's head track coach for two years.

Menahga

Andy McCarty, who had a highly-successful football coaching career at Park Rapids and then took over as the football coach at Menahga High School after resigning at Park Rapids, has stepped down from his duties in Menahga.

The final season was a tough one for McCarty and Menahga. The undermanned Braves were 0-7 and then McCarty forfeited the regular-season finale to Otter Tail Central and the opening-round section tournament game to Bertha-Hewitt.

McCarty said he "took some heat" about the forfeits, yet took that action for the safety of his players.

"The only thing we would have accomplished (by playing the games) was to keep the ambulance crews busy," McCarty told sports editor Vance Carlson of the Park Rapids Enterprise. "I decided to put the kids' welfare first-preservation of kids is the most important thing."

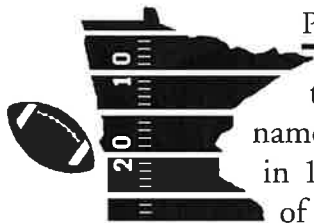
In his first four seasons as head coach at Menahga, the school had records of 4-5, 6-4, 7-3 and 4-5, which was the most success it had football-wise in many years.

Menahga started the 1999 season with five seniors, two juniors, 11 sophomores and nine freshmen and many of those had not seen any varsity football action.

Stillwater

George Thole, the legendary head football coach at Stillwater High School, stepped down after the 1999 season and thus concluded a 29-year career at the school.

During his years as the head grid mentor, Stillwater won four state football championships (1975-82-84-95), won or shared conference or sec-



tion crowns 22 times, he was named Football Coach of the Year in 1982 and served as president of the Minnesota High School

Football Coaches Association in 1995.

He compiled a 285-69-2 overall record (the second best mark in state history) and his teams averaged nine victories a season.

"I had a good staff and I worked hard," Thole said about his career, which included three undefeated seasons at Casselton (N.D.) High School before the move to Stillwater. "We had a lot of players who were willing to play over their abilities."

Thole also said he feels the program is in better shape than when he took over and said he would apply for the head coaching job if he were younger.

Named as his replacement has been Scott Hoffman, who played collegiately at Mankato State University and who has been an assistant on the Stillwater staff. Hoffman is an uncle of University of Minnesota football linebacker Sean Hoffman.

DeLaSalle

Tony Johnson, who directed Minneapolis DeLaSalle to the Minnesota Class AAA Football Tournament title in 1999, has resigned to become the head football mentor at St. George High School in Evanston, Ill.

DeLaSalle was 34-17 overall in Johnson's eight seasons as the Islanders' head football coach.

Replacing Johnson will be Adam Knowles, who was a Little All-American quarterback at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Knowles was the DeLaSalle quarterback during the 1990 season when the school lost to BOLD (15-14) in the Minnesota Class B Football Tournament title clash.

Fairmont

After 32 years as a head football coach, Jim Simser has stepped aside as the head grid coach at Fairmont High School.

Simser coached at New Richland-Hartland from 1968-89, where his teams won state championships in 1976 and in 1978, and then directed the Fairmont program for 10 years, with the school winning five conference championships and three section titles.

Following the 1997-98 year, Simser resigned as activities director at Fairmont and, following the 1999-2000 school year he resigned his duties as secretary of the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association, with Terry Turek of LeSueur-Henderson taking over the secretarial duties.

Replacing Simser as the head football coach at Fairmont High School is Jerry Tietje, who was the head coach at Sherburn prior to the formation of Martin County West.

Tietje has been on the Fairmont staff since 1989 and served as the Cardinals' defensive coordinator for the past 10 seasons.

Madelia-Truman

Jeff Tietje, the son of new Fairmont head coach Jerry Tietje, has been named head football coach at Madelia-Truman, replacing Terry Arduser, who has retired as head coach of the Jayhawks.

For the past three years, Jeff Tietje has been an assistant on the Madelia-Truman staff.

Son Jeff and father Jerry will be coaching at schools which are just 27 miles apart and will share similar offensive and defensive approaches to the game.

Mora

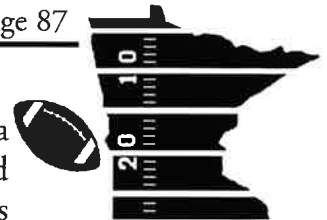
Karl Deis, who has been affiliated on the Minnesota high school football coaching scene for many years, has retired as athletic director at Mora High School.

Deis was head grid mentor at Ogilvie High School and at Mora High School before spending 20 years as the Mora defensive coordinator.

Columbia Heights

Dave Gehrke, whose Columbia Heights teams have been a power in the North Suburban Conference for many years, has retired from his teaching and coaching duties.

Succeeding Gehrke as the head football coach at Columbia Heights will be Matt Townsend, who has been an assistant in the program and who was a starting quarterback at the school under Gehrke while in high school.



East Grand Forks

Dave Hennings, following 26 years of involvement with the football program at East Grand Forks High School, has turned in his resignation from the head football coaching duties.

Hennings was an assistant for 18 years and was the head football coach for eight years.

Bruce Nelson, an assistant coach at East Grand Forks for nine years, has been named to replace Hennings. A graduate of East Grand Forks High School, Nelson played collegiate football at Valley City (N. D.) State.

Brainerd

Bob Kinzel, who taught and coached for 30 of his 34 years in the profession in Brainerd, has retired from his teaching duties and that of freshman football coach at the school.

During his years as the Brainerd freshman coach, the school was 105-76-3 and his career ended on a winning note when Brainerd defeated Bemidji (30-14) in his final game.

A native of Chisholm and a graduate of the University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD), Kinzel taught at East Grand Forks High School, earned a master's degree at the University of North Dakota and then moved to Brainerd.

Detroit Lakes

After serving 31 years as an assistant football coach under five different head coaches (Del Mollberg, Marv Kostecky, Dick Riedberger, Rick Manke and Flint Motschenbacher), John Jacobson is stepping down from his football coaching duties.

Jacobson, who also served two stints as head hockey coach at Detroit Lakes High School, served primarily as coach of the runningbacks and the secondary, as well as the sophomore coach and also as a scout.

Jacobson was described as being "very dedicated and very loyal" by Manke, who was the head coach when Detroit Lakes High School won Minnesota Class A Football Tournament championships in 1992-93-95.

Alexandria

Mike Quist, a member of the Alexandria High School football coaching staff since 1983, has

resigned from those duties.

A graduate of Alexandria High School and St. Cloud State University, Quist has been the defensive coordinator for Coach Dennis Kalpin's Alexandria Cardinals.

Prior to joining the Alexandria staff, Quist taught and coached at Gaylord High School during a time in which Gaylord won three Minnesota state football championships.

New London-Spicer

Dan Essler, defensive coordinator for the New London-Spicer High School football team since 1990, has been named head football coach at the school, it has been announced by Ron Dobbs, the school's athletic director.

Essler succeeds Lou Pirrotta, who announced his resignation in January after serving in that capacity for 20 years.

Prior to being the New London-Spicer defensive coordinator, Essler coached at the freshman level for a year and also was an assistant at Ridgewater Community College in Willmar.

Essler will have his work cut out for him immediately, since New London-Spicer will move into the West Central North Conference-which includes such powerhouse football programs as Albany, Melrose and Litchfield-in the fall of 2000.

Serving as Essler's assistant coaches will be Chad Gustafson, Jeff Tufto and Jeff Boonstra.

Essler, who also coaches boys' and girls' track at New London-Spicer, played football collegiately at Fergus Falls Community College.

Crookston

Dave Kuehn, whose teams won the Class AAA-Section Eight Football Tournament championship in both 1998 and in 1999, has resigned as head football coach at Crookston High School.

A member of the Crookston football staff for 15 years and the head coach for eight seasons, Kuehn's teams were 45-35 overall during his stint as the head coach.

Gary Haugo, who has served as an assistant coach at the school, will move up to take over for Kuehn.



Necrology

Lincoln Wacker

Lincoln Wacker, 25, who had just started his duties as a football coach in the Norwood-Young America school system, died of injuries received in a head-on collision near Glencoe on Friday, Sept. 10, 1999.

The youngest son of Tyrone and Vereen Wacker of Jackson, Lincoln Wacker was returning from a game at Belle Plaine and was in his first teaching job.

Lincoln Wacker, who played Division I baseball at the University of Wyoming, was talking with his father on a cell phone as he returned home from the game when the line was suddenly cut off. Tyrone and Vereen Wacker learned that their son was killed about three hours later.

Tyrone Wacker, father of Lincoln Wacker, has been one of the state's most successful coaches and is head baseball coach and assistant football coach at Jackson Country Central.

Jim Wallace

Jim Wallace, retired sports editor of the Brainerd Dispatch, died at the age of 78 at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd on Wednesday, Nov. 24.

Wallace, who worked a year at The Forum in Fargo-Moorhead and three years at the Jamestown (N. D.) Sun before moving to Brainerd in 1951, was known for his tremendous work ethic and his passion for athletics.

"He loved the Brainerd Warriors more than anything else, yet was always absolutely fair in his coverage, whether it was the great Brainerd/Crosby-Ironton rivalry, or whatever," said publisher Terry McCollough of the Brainerd newspaper.

Mike Bialka, who succeeded Wallace as sports editor of the Brainerd Dispatch, called Wallace "the leading high school sports authority in central Minnesota" and said that Wallace's column (Gopher Grapevine) "was a staple for every Brainerd area sports fan."

Miscellany

Outstaters top Metro, 17-13

Marty Humeniuk of Lake of the Woods scored on a 4-yard run with 2:28 remaining to lift the Outstate team to a 17-13 victory over the Metro squad in the 1999 Minnesota High School All Star Football Game played at Macalester College in St. Paul.

The winning nine-play, 50-yard TD drive was launched by Ryan Kaping of Hutchinson, who returned a punt 26 yards to midfield.

Craig Anderson of Dilworth/Glyndon-Felton was head coach of the winning Outstate team, which was the underdog against the Metro squad which had 18 Division I recruits.

Named as players of the game were wide receiver Jon David of Foley (offense) and defensive back Ben Nauman of Rochester Mayo (defense) for the Outstate team and lineman Conor Crimmins of Mounds View (offense) and defensive back Paul Simbi of Roseville (defense) for the Metro team.

Stolski, Kaplin get noteworthy victories

Head football coaches Ron Stolski (Brainerd) and Dennis Kalpin (Alexandria) recorded major career victories during the 1999 season.

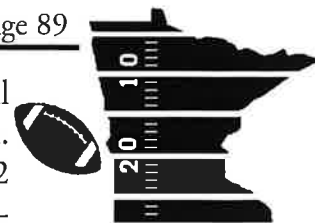
Stolski's Brainerd Warriors defeated Sartell (23-15) in a Central Lakes Conference game in Brainerd and that was Stolski's 250th career triumph. He coached at Kensington, Slayton, Princeton and Park Center before taking over at Brainerd.

In another Central Lakes Conference game last year, Alexandria defeated Willmar (27-7) and that was the 100th career win for Kalpin, who coached at Belgrade and Fargo Oak Grove before moving to Alexandria in 1991.

Fee says grid tourney field is too large

Kevin Fee, sports reporter for the Grand Forks (N. D.) Herald, says that the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Football Tournament field is too widespread.

Fee writes: "Utter nonsense, these Minnesota high school football playoffs. Eight teams advancing to the playoffs in eight-team sections does nobody any good."



Football academic champions named

Academic champions in the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association for 1999 were announced by Con Natvig of Swanville, the academic coordinator for the association.

Winners in the six classes are as follows: Class AAAAA-Blaine, with a 3.70 gpa; Class AAAA-Monticello, with a 3.52 gpa; Class AAA-Albany, with a 3.51 gpa; Class AA-Hayfield, with a 3.49 gpa; Class A-Minnesota Valley Lutheran of New Ulm, with a 3.66 gpa; Class 9-Man-Hillcrest Lutheran Academy of Fergus Falls, with a 3.71 gpa.

Sims is AP Football Player of the Year

Dominique Sims, quarterback for DeLaSalle in Minneapolis, was named Minnesota's 1999 Associated Press High School Football Player of the Year.

Sims (6-2, 200), who led his team to the Minnesota Class AAA Football Tournament title and a 13-1 overall record, will attend the University of Minnesota to continue his football career.

During the 1999 season, Sims rushed for more than 1,400 yards, scored 15 running touchdowns and passed for 13 more, yet safety is regarded as his best position.

Two top-rated schools won state titles

Two schools (Waterville-Elysian-Morristown in Class AA and Cook County in Class A) which were rated as No. 1 in the final Minnesota Associated Press High School Football Poll of the 1999 season went on to win state championships.

Here's how the results emerged in the other classes:

Class AAAAA-Eden Prairie ranked No. 1 in final poll. Cretin-Derham Hall, the No. 2 rated team, won the championship by defeating No. 3 ranked Hastings.

Class AAAA-Mahtomedi ranked No. 1 in final poll. Unranked Mankato West won the championship by defeating No. 7 ranked Cambridge-Isanti.

Class AAA-Kasson-Mantorville ranked No. 1 in final poll. DeLaSalle, the No. 7 rated team, won the championship by defeating No. 9 ranked St. Michael-Albertville.

Class 9-Man-Cromwell ranked No. 1 in final poll. Stephen-Argyle, the No. 2 rated team, won the championship by defeating No. 9 ranked Nicollet.

Worthington writer praises Southwest Conference

Doug Wolter, sports editor of the Worthington Globe, had words of praise for the solidity of the Southwest Conference in a column last fall. Wolter wrote as follows:

"While other high school athletic conferences come and go, the Southwest Conference has motored along relatively unchanged since the 1960's. In football, there have been dramatic changes in the southwest Minnesota landscape-teams changing from 9-man to 11-man and back again-and conferences (like the Red Rock) disappearing completely.

"But the Southwest Conference has a storied history. May it continue into the next millennium..."

Roforth coaching in Austrian league

Jim Roforth, highly-successful football coach at Osakis High School, accepted a contract to coach the Vienna A-1 Rangers of the Austrian International Football League for the 2000 season, which runs from April to July.

Roforth, who went to Austria to head up a camp and to recruit in November, has compiled a 253-103-2 career record as a high school coach.

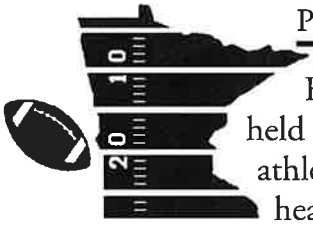
Hesby, Thorkildson, Wilkowski retire

Frank Hesby, Ray Thorkildson and Bob Wilkowski-all who have served as head football coaches at their schools-retired at the close of the 1999-2000 school term.

Hesby retired as athletic director at Frazee High School, where he served for 31 years, including 22 as the head football coach. His Frazee teams won two Heart O'Lakes Conference football titles.

Thorkildson, a physical education instructor at Waubun High School, was Waubun's athletic director for 18 years and also served as the school's head coach in football, wrestling and track.

Wilkowski retired as dean of students at Perham



High School, a position he held for 17 years. He also was the athletic director for 18 years, the head football coach for 15 years and was an assistant in baseball.

Alto named to MSHSL Hall of Fame

Lee Alto-an English teacher, the athletic director and coach of the debate and speech programs at

Grand Rapids High School-was one of six persons inducted into the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Hall of Fame in March.

A graduate of Virginia High School and the University of Minnesota-Morris, Alto is a former head football coach at Aitkin High School.



All-Conference linebacker Brody Maack (2) of Alexandria tackles All-Conference running back Kyle Berg (20) of Brainerd in the Section 8AAAAA final at the Fargodome. Other Alexandria players are Amos Hartsell (47), Evan Amundson (33), Martin Andrade (66), Kyle Pender (58), and Rustin Robinson (18). Other Brainerd players are Scott Imgrund (22), Brian Burke (62), and Conrad Binsfield (71).

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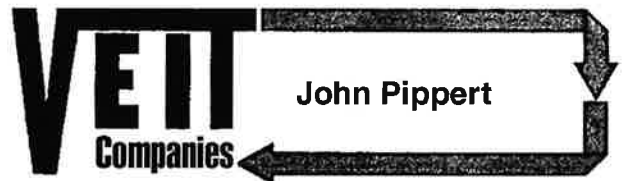
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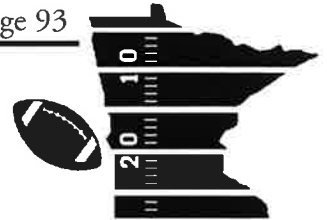
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Twin Cities Suburban National Conference

In 1999, the Twin Cities Suburban National Conference was loaded with offense. It was a tough year on the defenses with offensive players like Paul Martin, Elk River, who set the state record for total receptions and Trevor Frischmon of Blaine, an all-state running back, who averaged at least three touchdowns per game. White Bear Lake had a superb option quarterback who was selected by the coaches as the Most Valuable Offensive Player in the conference.

Anoka, who finished in last place this year, averaged twenty-six points per game, so you get an idea how explosive the offenses were. Blaine and Coach Dave Nelson had a great season with several cardiac, come from behind wins. They finished undefeated and eventually lost to Cretin Derham Hall in the quarter finals.

Elk River, under second year coach, Paul Gustafson, had a great year and finished in second place. Last year, Elk River never won a conference game, so you can see how the conference can change in one year.

Bob Jackson and his White Bear Lake Bears had a great offense with their wishbone triple-option attack. Champlin Park started out slow with four losses, but then turned it around and won their last four games. Four of their players got scholarships to play in the North Central Conference.

Coon Rapids also had a good season. After getting beat by Anoka, they beat Stillwater and White Bear for big wins to their program. Coach Clayton Copple has some excellent players returning next year.

George Thole has officially retired as the head coach of the Stillwater Ponies. Scott Hoffman, a long time assistant, was named as the new head coach. I would congratulate George for his very successful career. It was always a pleasure competing against his teams. Enjoy your retirement George. Also congratulations to Stillwater's Paul Dexter who was selected Most Valuable Defensive Player in the conference.

Dave Nelson was selected conference "Coach of the Year."

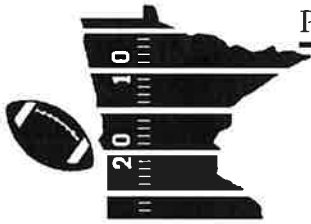


Twin Cities Suburban-National Conference Final Standings Overall

Blaine	.....	6-0	8-0
Elk River	.....	4-2	5-3
Champlin Park	....	3-3	4-4
White Bear Lake	...	3-3	4-4
Coon Rapids	.....	2-4	4-4
Stillwater	.....	2-4	4-4
Anoka	.....	1-5	2-6

Anoka's Bobby Olson (4) is pinned in by a Stillwater defense led by Matt Janssen (55) and Brian Eder (76). The Ponies defeated Anoka 28-14.





Minnesota River Conference

The 1999 season saw the LeCenter Wildcats, under the direction of third year head coach Clay Anderson, win the MRC title and advance through the playoffs all the way to the Prep Bowl, where they lost a hard fought battle with three time defending IA champion, Cook County, 14-6. The Wildcats got off to somewhat of a slow start to their season before rolling up some impressive wins in the latter part of the regular season. And then LeCenter's defense dominated several post season opponents as they marched to the program's second appearance in a state championship game (LeCenter won the Class B title in 1982).

While LeCenter was putting together a Prep Bowl year, the rest of the MRC battled for position and some playoff momentum. Loyola rebounded

from an 0-9 season in 1998 to be very competitive in regular season play and then advance to their section's championship game. Belle Flame won several close games under first year head coach John Bergs to post a winning year. Le Sueur-Henderson and Sibley East recorded identical season records of 5-4 to assure the MRC of having five teams with winning records. Montgomery-Lonsdale, Jordan, and Norwood-Young America all look to improve on their seasons in the new millennium.

LeCenter also dominated the MRC's post season awards. LeCenter's Christian Harmeyer was selected as the Most Valuable Lineman and his teammate, Derek Gibbs, was chosen as the Most Valuable Back. And to complete the clean sweep, head coach Clay Anderson was named the MRC's Coach of the Year.

1999 Minnesota River Conference Team Records

Team	MRC	Overall	Coach
LeCenter	7-0	12-2	Clay Anderson
Belle Plaine	5-2	6-4	John Bergs
Le Sueur-Henderson	5-2	5-4	Terry Turek
Sibley East	5-2	5-4	Randy Walsh
Mankato Loyola	4-3	6-5	Jim Neyers
Montgomery-Lonsdale	2-5	2-6	Bruce Davis/Brad Skogerboe
Jordan	1-6	1-8	Jim Trapp
Norwood-Young America	0-7	0-9	Tom Ihms



Polar North Conference

The Polar North Conference was a solid 1A-2A mix of teams during the 1999 football season. The competition was very tight throughout the entire season, with many teams posturing to get into the playoffs in both 1A and 2A.

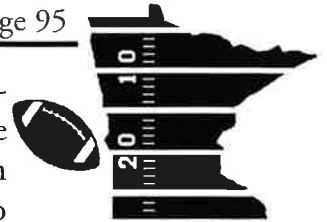
Cook High School, Coached by Tony Deleon continued to make improvement in Its program. Coach Deleon had a difficult task of playing with a lot of young players, but made outstanding progress as the season went on.

Mt. Iron was a much improved football team In 1999. Coach Dan Dupay has made a huge impact

on Mountain Iron's football program. He guided his team to a season record of 4-4, making the playoffs. Look for Mountain Iron to steadily improve in the years to come.

The Polar North Conference welcomed Ely's new head coach, Darren Visser. Coach Visser has some big shoes to fill with the departure of long time coach, Larry Mischke. Ely started the season out slow, but steadily improved as it went along. Ely had a young football team, and should show improvement next season.

Nashwauk Keewatin was a solid football pro-



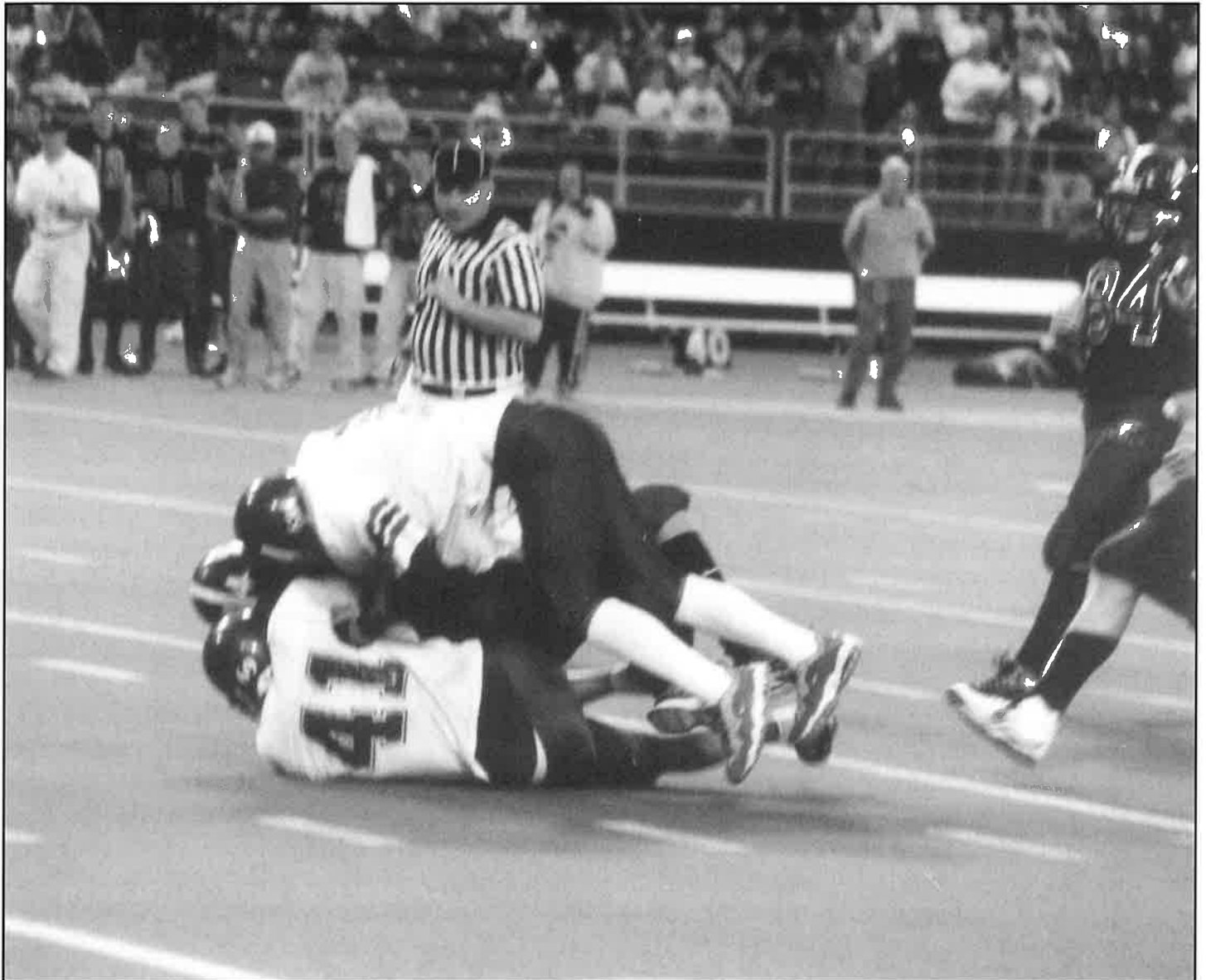
gram in 1999. Coach Dan Adams was just a couple of players away from an excellent squad. His team was young, and should be a strong contender in the conference in 2000.

Chisholm High School was another team in the conference that made tremendous improvement during the 1999 season. Coach Jim Larkin produced one of the best defenses in the conference and should be a strong contender in 2000. Chisholm has many returning letterman.

Coach Steve Ott did another great coaching job during the 1999 season. Faced with replacing his best back who was injured in pre-season and left the team, Coach Ott had a lot of work ahead of him.

His team responded, finishing second in the conference and winning the section 8 in 2 A. Congratulations to Deer River and the Coaches at Deer River.

Cook County High School had another great season. Cook County finished the season at 13-0, winning the conference, section 7A, and State. Coach Lyle Anderson's Vikings hold the states current longest winning streak at 32 games. Cook County loses a large group of seniors, but still brings a solid group of juniors for 2000. Cook County should remain a contender.



Roger Dechampe (41) and an unidentified Viking teammate tackle LeCenter running back Nick Blaschko in the Class 1A Championship Game. Cook County won 14-6.

Polar South Conference

The 1999 season for the South Polar Football Conference was a repeat performance for the Silver Bay Mariners. Doug Conboy's Mariners posted a perfect conference record for the second season in row at 6-0 to win the 99 Championship. Silver Bay

River Rebels under first year head coach Dave Louzak. The Rebels gave a solid account of themselves even though they had to deal with injuries to some of their key players and finished with a winning season and a .500 record in Polar South play.



The defense never rests. Brian Hare and Jared Conboy wrap up a Nashwauk-Keewatin player in a section 7A win.

used a relentless rushing attack on their way to the championship led by a good sized and veteran line and two of perhaps the best running backs in the area in senior Jamie Otterblad, (1700 yards on 134 carries) and senior Andy Martinson, (1312 yards on 137 carries). The Mariners were followed closely by the Esko Eskomos coached by Bill Hudspith, The Eskomos only loss in conference play was to the Mariners. Esko featured a well coached option attack led by QB Willie Hammerlund. On defense Esko had a very quick but small unit which did a fine job for the Eskomos all season. Dave Homstead's Duluth Marshall Hilltoppers took the third spot in the conference race showing a huge improvement over their 98 season. The Toppers played tough defense and had a dangerous passing attack. In fourth place were the Moose Lake/Willow

Kevin Haley and the Barnum Bombers were faced with a rebuilding year after losing 14 seniors after the 98 season. The Bombers posted a 2-4 conference record with a young team and should be much improved for the 2000 season. Barnum will lose talented running back/linebacker Matt Hosmer, one Bomber that will be hard to replace. The Mercuries of McGregor coached by veteran coach Dennis Meyer had a tough year, playing large numbers of underclassmen and learning a new offense struggled

throughout the 99 season but played tough football. The Mercuries played hard, never gave up and their perseverance paid off with a win in their last game of the season. McGregor should be improved in 2000 with virtually everyone back. Head Coach Chad Postal's Carlton Bulldogs suffered through a season that was as tough as anyone ever has to deal with. The Bulldogs were decimated with injuries throughout the season and never really got their full starting units on the field intact. Carlton went winless in Conference play in 99. On the bright side, the Bulldogs were able to play many underclassmen and should have a number of experienced players returning for the 2000 season. Again on behalf of all the Polar South Conference Coaches I would like to take the time to extend our congratulations to three time State Champion Cook County under Head



Coach Lyle Anderson. Your accomplishment as a team and coaching staff is rare and doesn't come with out a great deal of hard work. To all Champions, we extend our congratulations as well. Again a number of Polar north and South players

will be making the trip to Australia to compete in the 2000 Down Under Bowl coached by Doug Conboy of Silver Bay. Those players are: Jeff Mattson, Woody Siem, Trevor Berneking, Troy Berneking, and Todd Gervais of Cook County. David Hawk of Cook, and Sam Harmer, and Justin Johnson of Silver Bay. They will be joined by over 30 other players from all over Minnesota to go to Australia on June 27th for the 2000 Down Under Bowl.



Silver Bay Quarterback Jake Byrnes went to the air in the section final against Cook County. The Mariners hope to pass a winning tradition on to next year's squad.

Photo by Jeff Thompson

1999 Polar South Conference Standings

Place/Team	Conf. Record
1st-- Silver Bay	6-0
2nd- Esko	5-1
3rd- Duluth Marshall	4-2
4th- Moose L./Willow R.	3-3
5th- Barnum	2-4
6th- McGregor	1-5
7th- Carlton	0-6





Metro Alliance Conference

The Metro Alliance Conference had an outstanding 1999 season. There was a three-way battle for the conference title between Mahtomedi, Orono, and Columbia Heights. The rest of the conference including: Benilde St. Margaret, Fridley, St. Anthony, Brooklyn Center, and Mound Westonka, proved to be very competitive. There were many near upsets as the top three separated themselves from the pack.

Perennial powerhouse Mahtomedi, coached by Wally Malmstrom, earned the conference title with two late season victories over contenders Columbia Heights, coached by Dave Gehrke, and Orono, coached by Steve Fedie. Mahtomedi held the number one ranking in the polls for Minnesota's class 4A for most of the season. In the section playoffs, Mahtomedi and Columbia Heights each advanced to the finals in their respective sections.

Of special note is the retirement of Dave Gehrke as coach of Columbia Heights. He has coached many successful seasons at Columbia Heights and

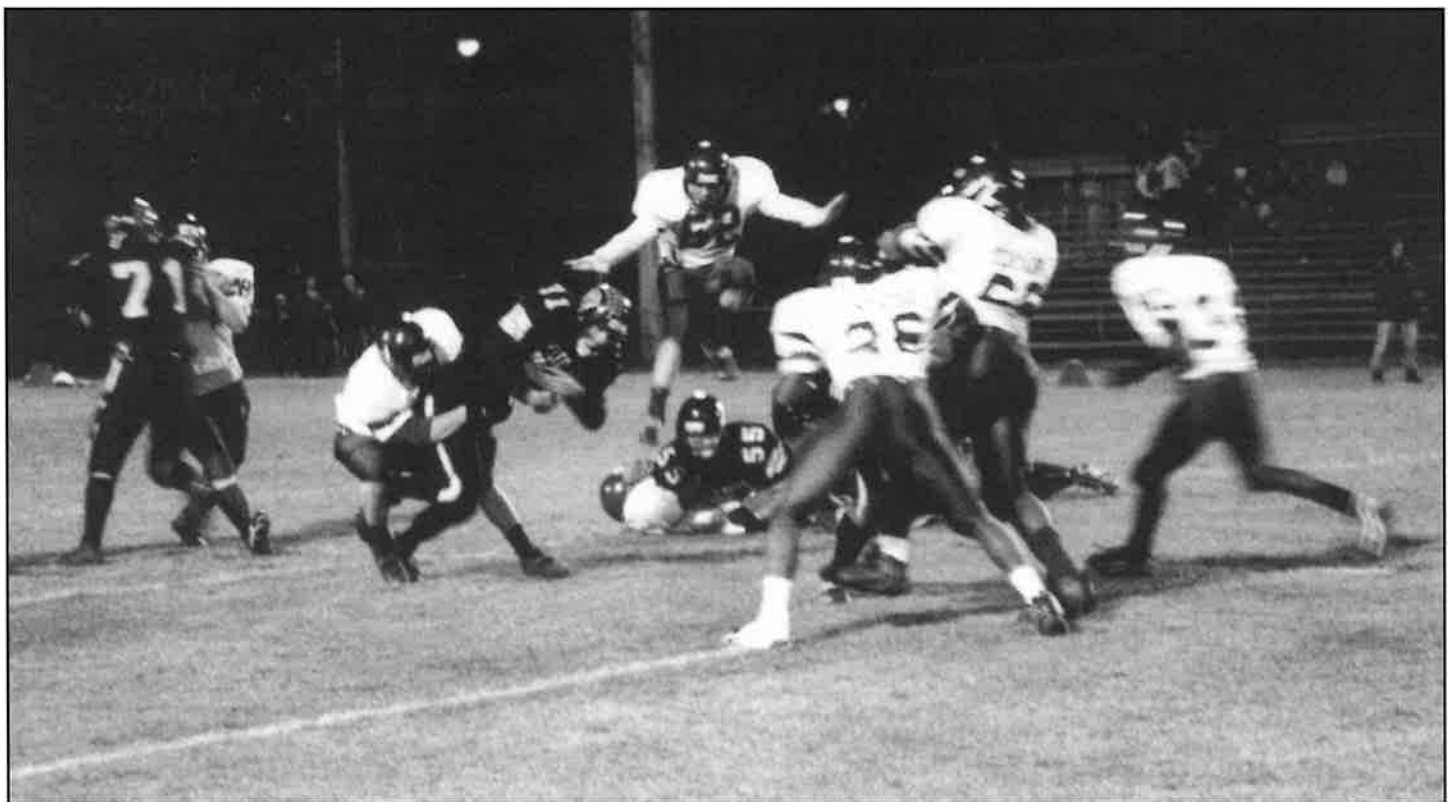
will be missed. Enjoy your retirement!

Individual conference statistical leaders included: Mark Nigon (Orono) 147 yards rushing per game, Scott Jensen (St. Anthony) 180 yards passing per game, Al Ng (Columbia Heights) 31 receptions for the year.

All teams are looking forward to an exciting and successful 2000 season.

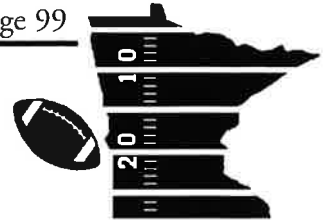
FINAL STANDINGS

	Conference	Overall
Mahtomedi	7-0	9-0
Orono	6-1	7-2
Columbia Heights	5-2	7-3
Benilde St. Margaret	3-4	4-5
Fridley	3-4	3-6
St. Anthony	2-5	5-5
Brooklyn Center	2-5	2-7
Mound Westonka	0-7	0-9



Rob Collodora (Black, #31) of Fridley, carries the ball against Brooklyn Center in a Metro Alliance Conference game.

St. Paul City Conference



ST. PAUL CITY CONFERENCE 1999 REVIEW

	Conference		All GAMES	
	W	L	W	L
Cretin-Derham Hall	7	0	8	0
Highland Park	6	1	6	2
Arlington	5	2	6	2
Johnson	4	3	4	4
Central	3	4	4	4
Como Park	2	5	2	6
Humboldt	1	6	2	6
Harding	0	7	1	7

The city conference was its usual competitive self. Newcomer Arlington provided many thrills and excitement. The Phoenix led by Coach Coley McDonough and 30 plus seniors played great football throughout the year, losing to conference champs Cretin-Derham Hall 21-18 and to John Heller's Highland Park Scots. They won their Twin-City match up and advanced to the semi finals of their section losing a heartbreaker to St. Thomas Academy. Injuries late in the year slowed John Heller's Scotsmen for the playoffs but once again they played exciting, attacking football. Coach Floyd Smaller of Central has retired from an outstanding career with the Minutemen and his offense led by Rasheen Sharp provided many thrills throughout the season. Jeff Plasko's Johnson Governors were very representative throughout the season and they won their annual Eastside rivalry against Harding High School. Coach Dave Katz's Como Cougars were in just about every ball game losing several heart breakers in the last few minutes of the game. Coaches Jim Olson of Humboldt and Kerry Timmerman of Harding led young, undermanned squads this year and they showed lots of heart, pride and desire. Both squads improved throughout the year and showed lots of promise for the future. St. Paul teams won the series against Minneapolis 4-3 in 1999. Some of the top rushers in the conference were Brandon Pinderhughes of Central, Brian Olynech of Arlington, Verando

Aguire of Harding and Joe Vannelli of Cretin-Derham Hall. The top receivers were Walter Bowser and Andy Fleming of Cretin-Derham Hall, Arrulfo Flores of Humboldt, Robin Jarboon of Highland Park and Casey O'Connell of Central. Top quarterbacks included Joe Mauer of Cretin-Derham Hall, Nate Hawkins of Central, Kevin Mason of Highland Park and Reid McMahan of Como Park.

The St. Paul City Conference is proud to be the home of the 1999 AAAA State Champions Cretin-Derham Hall. For the season CDH set a Minnesota record by scoring 643 points in a 13 game season, were listed by Fox Sports as one of the top 50 teams in the nation and rated #6 in the Midwest and #23 in the final USA Today football poll.

The St. Paul City Conference congratulates all the players, coaches and fans not only from their conference but across Minnesota for their hard work, sportsmanship, and dedication that makes Minnesota Football so special.





Prairie North Conference

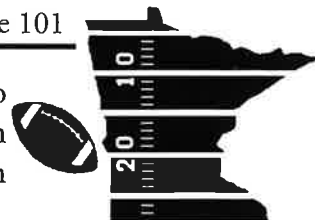
The 1999 season brought three new head coaches to the Prairie North Conference. Peder Butenhoff took over for the New York Mills Eagles, Peter Bothun is now heading the Pillager Huskies, and Mike Heino led the Sebeka Trojans. The coaching changing added to the excitement in the conference.

Four teams were returning several starters which made for a tight conference race. The Bertha-Hewitt Bears coached by Jim Sutherland, the Ottertail Central Bulldogs coached by Don Seipkes, the New York Mills Eagles coached by Peder Butenhoff, and the Parkers Prairie Panthers coached by Dean Yocum all had their sites set on the conference championship. Sebeka under Mike Heino, Menagha under Andy McCarty, and Pillager under Peter Bothun were looking to play the role of spoiler.

Week ones results were delayed due to thunderstorms. When the final results were in, Parkers Prairie was the only team to post a victory. Weeks two and three went as planned with three of the top teams winning their games. OTC defeated NYM to put the Bulldogs in the drivers seat. Week four featured key match ups between Bertha-Hewitt and Ottertail Central as well as Parkers Prairie vs. New York Mills. Bertha and Parkers were able to pull off wins in those games which made their week five match up very important. The Bears were going into the game knowing if they won they had the best shot at winning conference. Bertha came away with a 16 - 6 victory. About all that was left to decide in conference was second place which came down to the week six game between OTC and Parkers Prairie.



Matt Hemquist (65) of Parkers Prairie leads Brandon Jacobs (21) around end in the Fargo Dome. Bertha-Hewitt won the Section 6A play-off game 7-6.



The Bulldogs of OTC came to play football and easily defeated the Panthers.

Results in the last two weeks of the season would play a role in the Section 6A seating. New York Mills won two of their last four games to give them the number three spot. Both Pillager and Sebeka defeated Menagha which meant the winner of the week eight game between them would have the higher position. Sebeka won the game giving them the number six spot and the chance for a rematch with NYM while Pillager was in the number seven spot and would play Parkers. Too many injuries on top of low starting numbers made it impossible for Andy McCarty's Menagha Braves to continue.

The Section 6A Playoffs went in line with the seating. The championship game in the Fargo Dome featured number one Bertha-Hewitt against number two Parkers Prairie. Parkers took a 6-0 lead into half-time. Late in the third quarter Bertha scored on a 62 yard touchdown pass and converted the extra point to give them a 7-6 lead. Both teams moved the ball up and down the field and had several scoring opportunities but neither team was able to capitalize. Bertha went on to the state playoffs defeating Fertile-Beltrami in the quarter finals. The Bears then went on to lose to eventual champion Cook County. Congratulations to Bertha-Hewitt on a great season.

Ottertail Central made it to the semifinals of the Section 6AA before losing a tough game to West Central Area.

2000 looks to be another competitive year in the Prairie North Conference. Bertha-Hewitt, Ottertail Central, New York Mills, and Parkers Prairie were all hit hard by graduation. At the same time Pillager is returning several players and are looking at an improved season. Sebeka and Menagha are still young and are working with limited numbers but play hard and have the potential to win some games.

The coaches in the Prairie Conference North would like to congratulate Coach Andy McCarty for his induction into the High School Football Hall of Fame.

TEAM	OVERALL R.S.RECORD	CONFERENCE RECORD
Bertha Hewitt	7-1	6-0
Ottertail Central	6-2	5-1
Parkers Prairie	5-3	4-2
New York Mills	3-5	3-3
Sebeka	2-6	2-4
Pillager	1-7	1-5
Menagha	0-8	0-6



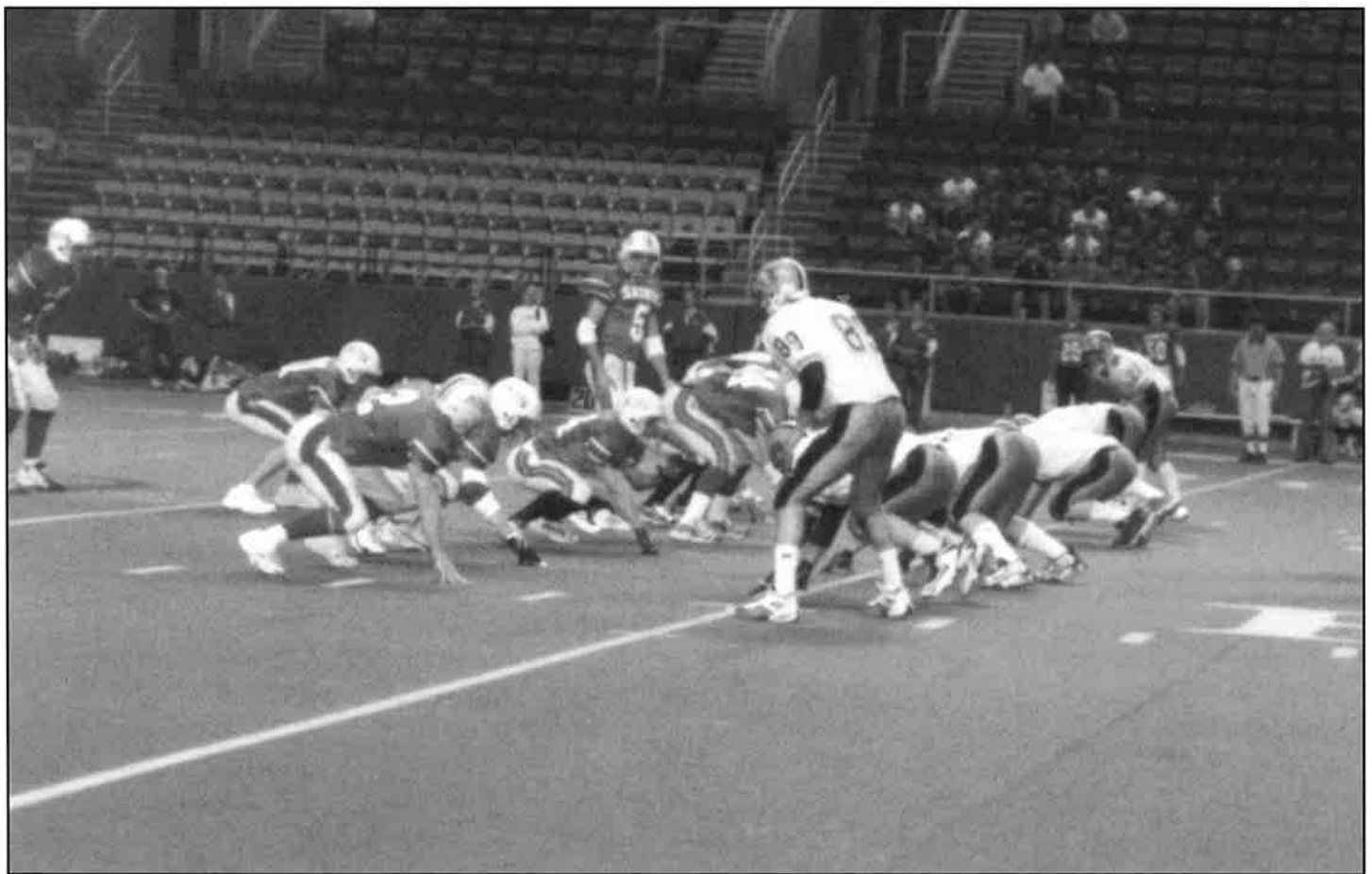


Prairie South Conference

Kerkoven-Murdock-Sunberg went undefeated in the Prairie South Conference in 1999 to capture its first Prairie South Championship. The KMS Saints under the direction of coach Chuck Kavanagh finished the 1999 season with a 6-0 conference record and an 11-1 overall record. They traveled to Cook County for their only loss of the year in a State Quarterfinal game against the eventual state champions.

The KMS Saints cruised to the conference

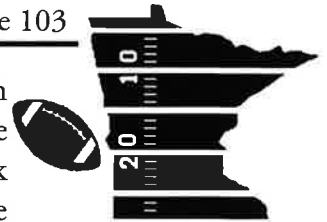
championship with their closest conference game coming in the conference opener as they defeated Con Natvig's USA Patriots 16-10. The rest of the teams in the conference had some closely contested games throughout the conference schedule. The big conference showdown between last years conference champion Browerville and KMS came in the fourth game of the season as KMS traveled to Browerville to dominate in 34-10 win over the Tigers.



Play action during the Browerville vs. KMS at the Fargo Dome in the Section Finals.

1999 PRAIRIE SOUTH CONFERENCE STANDINGS

TEAM	CONFERENCE	OVERALL
KMS	6-0	11-1
BROWERVILE	5-1	9-2
OSAKIS	4-2	7-3
USA	3-3	4-5
EAGLE VALLEY	2-4	4-5
BRANDON EVANSVILLE	1-5	2-7
ROYALTON	0-6	1-8



The Prairie South Conference schools were very competitive in 1999 as the Prairie Conference South compiled an 11-3 record against their fellow schools from the Prairie Conference North. The Prairie Conference South Football Conference Schools are fortunate to have some of the most experienced coaching staffs in the state. Jim Roforth of Osakis is the elder statesman of the conference with 40 years experience and 253 wins. Con Natvig of USA has 34 years experience and has compiled 202 victories. Gary Graham of Browerville has coached for 24 seasons and accumulated 197 wins. John Sieling of Eagle Valley has 105 wins in 25 campaigns. Chuck Kavanagh of KMS while relatively new to the Prairie Conference has over 20 years of head coaching experience. Dan Olson of Brandon/Evansville and Randy Thielges of Royalton have been the head football coaches at these two schools for almost 10 years.

At the Prairie South Conference meeting at the end of the season Chuck Kavanagh was selected as the Conference Coach of the Year and was later honored as the Section 5A Coach of the Year. Bobby Carlson of KMS was selected Most Valuable Back in the Conference and Chris Pothén of KMS was selected as the Conferences Most Valuable Lineman.

There looks to be little change in the Prairie South Conference for the 2000 season. One big exception is that Con Natvig a past president and active member of the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association and longtime coach of the Swanville, Swanville/Grey Eagle and USA football teams will be joining the Browerville Staff for the 2000 season and Jim Drill will take over as the head coach at USA.



Three Rivers Conference

The Three Rivers Conference showed its strength in the 1999 season as three teams, Goodhue in 1A, Chatfield in 2A, and Plainview/Elgin-Millville in 3A, reached the finals in their respective section tournaments.

The Chatfield Gophers, coached by Ken Jacobson finished the season 8-0 (7-0 in conference) and on top of the conference standings. They also won the section 1AA title in a hard fought 9-6 victory over the Fillmore Central Falcons. The Gophers, in a very exciting game, went on to defeat the very strong and talented Windom Eagles 10-6 in the quarter-finals of the state playoffs. In the semi-finals, Chatfield was beaten by the eventual state champions W.E.M. in an exciting game 19-17. This game wasn't decided until the very last play when a 47 yard field goal attempt by the Gophers bounced off the crossbar ending their season.

The St. Charles Saints, coached by John King, last years league champions, finished in a tie for second with the Plainview/Elgin-Millville Bulldogs and the Goodhue Wildcats. Coach Bill Ihrke's

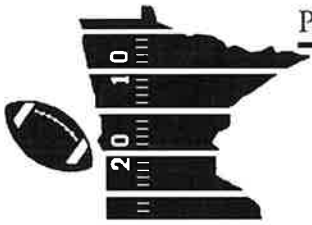
Plainview/Elgin-Millville Bulldogs made it to the finals of Section 1AAA and they were defeated in an exciting game by Kasson-Mantorville. Coach Clair Austin's Goodhue team, last years Section 1A champions and state semi-finals participants, were beaten in the last minute by a very athletic Rushford-Peterson team.

Dover-Eyota, coached by Doug Yost, the 1998 Section 1AA champions, ended up in third place and Wabasha-Kellogg, coached by Steve Fredrickson placed fourth. Kingsland, coached by Mike Holzer and Lewiston-Altura, coached by John Shimone tied for 5th in the League.

New coaches in the Three Rivers are Doug Yost, who took over the reins of the successful Dover-Eyota program and Scott Schmoltz, who was recently hired to guide the Lewiston-Altura program.

Next season looks to be more of the same. It will be a well balanced, competitive conference with four or five teams having a legitimate shot at the league crown.





Central Minnesota Conference

Holdingsford added another CMC championship to their trophy case with a perfect 7-0 conference mark. The Huskers led the league in total offense, led by five all-conference seniors. Running back Adam Maine had another fine year, rushing for over 1000 yards in the conference, and scoring 15 touchdowns. Maine was named the Area Player of the Year.

Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted, led by first year coach George Montgomery, had a 5-2 league mark. Laker quarterback Andy Gagnon passed for 12 touchdowns and over 1000 yards.

Big Lake finished with a 4-3 league mark, and was second in the conference in both team offense and team defense. Senior All-Conference repeaters were Pete Ottem and Nate Resman.

EV-W led the league in team defense and finished with a 4-3 mark. Seniors Johan Sogge and Eric

Ruhland were repeaters on the All-Conference team.

Pierz, led by seniors Chris Young, Joe Poepping, Aaron Neu, and Tom Britz finished strong for another 4-3 record. Trevor Gross was the league's specialist of the year.

Kimball had a fine offensive year, passing for nearly 1500 yards. Receivers Brooks Marquardt and Nick Starcevic led the Cubs. Marquardt had 46 pass receptions in conference play.

Rockford finished the year strong, led by All-Conference seniors Bill Graunke and Josh Bechtold.

Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa improved as the season progressed, and return two All-Conference picks in Jason Halls and Nick Speldrich.

Coaches of the Year for the Conference were: Mark Messman, Holdingsford; and George Montgomery, HLWW.

FINAL STANDINGS

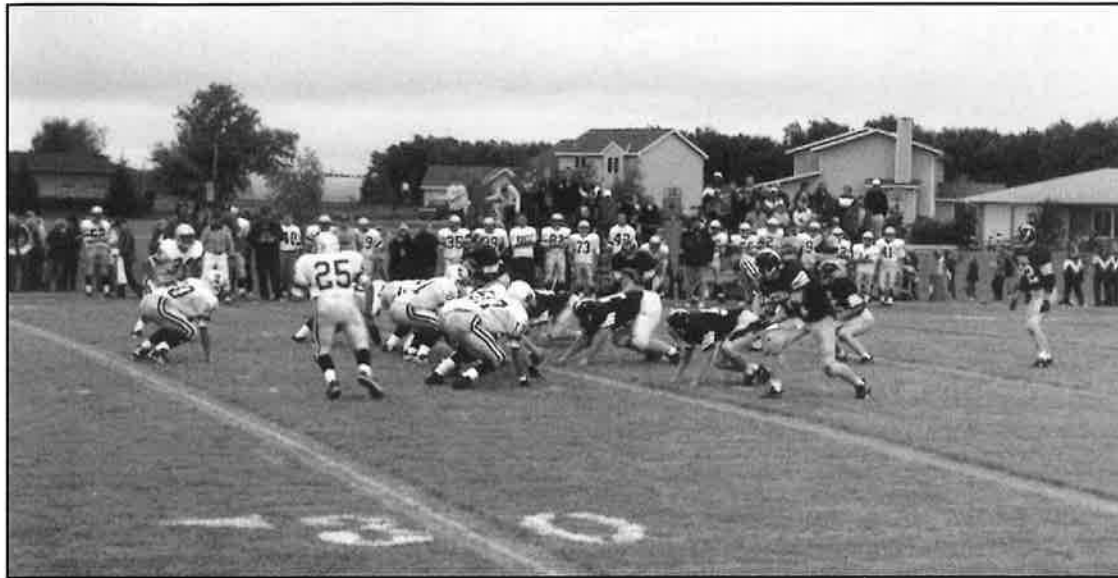
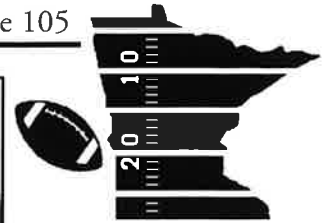
NAME	WON	LOST	POINTS FOR	POINTS AGAINST
Holdingsford	7	0	232	76
HLWW	5	2	160	139
Big Lake	4	3	157	141
EVW	4	3	111	93
Pierz	4	3	130	127
Kimball	3	4	129	168
Rockford	1	6	133	212
BBE	0	7	81	191

Top of the State Conference

The Stephen/Argyle Central Storm took most of the honors during the 1999 season, winning the conference and eventually the State Nine-man Championship. The Storm had advanced to the State semi-finals the previous three seasons and were determined not to end the season at the point again. In the semi-finals they were matched up with a strong Fisher-Climax team that was hungry. The Storm had defeated the knights in the season opener by a score of 30-0, but the Knights had learned

how to win throughout the season and were playing confident and fundamentally sound football. The game was a defensive battle throughout, with the Storm winning 10-7 in a game with defensive highlights from both teams. The Storm went on to defeat Nicollet in the championship game, again by relying on defense to stop the Raiders passing game that had amassed 427 yards in the semi-finals.

Marshall County Central was the surprise team of the conference, finishing in second place. The



The season opener for Stephen/Argyle Storm and Fisher/Climax Knights ended in a Storm 30-0 win. The rematch was in the Metrodome, and the State Semi-finals. A 10-7 defensive game was also in the Storm's favor.

Nordics were able to win the close games and picked up another win when they surprised the Kittson Central Wolfpack early in the season. Coach Scott Parker was named the Conference's Coach of the year. Kittson Central was able to avenge that early loss to the Nordics when they met them in the Section 8 semifinals, after they beat Tri-County in the quarterfinals. The Wolfpack advanced to the section final for the third straight year, only to be defeated by their same menace, the Storm. The Kittson County North Cougars advanced to the Section semi-finals after defeating the Grygla/Goodridge Blue Devils in the quarterfinals. The Sacred Heart Eagles competed in the Section 7 playoffs after steadily improving throughout the regular season.

The biggest change for the 2000 season will be the Cooperative agreement in football between Kittson County North and Tri-County. The two rivals have become the NorthStar Jaguars and will be playing their home games in both Lancaster and Karlstad. They combined colors for a new black, silver and red combination. The head coach is Brad Homstad, with Terry Kent and Nick Amb assisting.

The Conference now has six state championships; Argyle with 2, '81 and '86, Hallock '88 and as Kittson Central in '94, Stephen in '92 and Stephen/Argyle in '99. Conference teams have also made it to the championship game in 90 (Argyle) and in '91 (Grygla/Goodridge).

FINAL STANDINGS

TEAM	CONFERENCE	OVERALL
Stephen/Argyle Storm	6-0	12-0
Marshall Co. Central	4-2	4-4
Kittson Central	4-2	7-3
Egf, Sacred Heart	3-3	4-4
Kittson Cty. North	3-3	5-4
Grygla/Goodridge	1-5	1-6
Tri-County	0-6	0-8



It's the Stephen/Argyle Storm and the Kittson Central Wolfpack playing for the Section 8 Championship, in the Fargo Dome for the third straight year. In this picture, the Storm are on their way to scoring on their opening drive.



West Central North Conference

CONFERENCE STANDINGS:

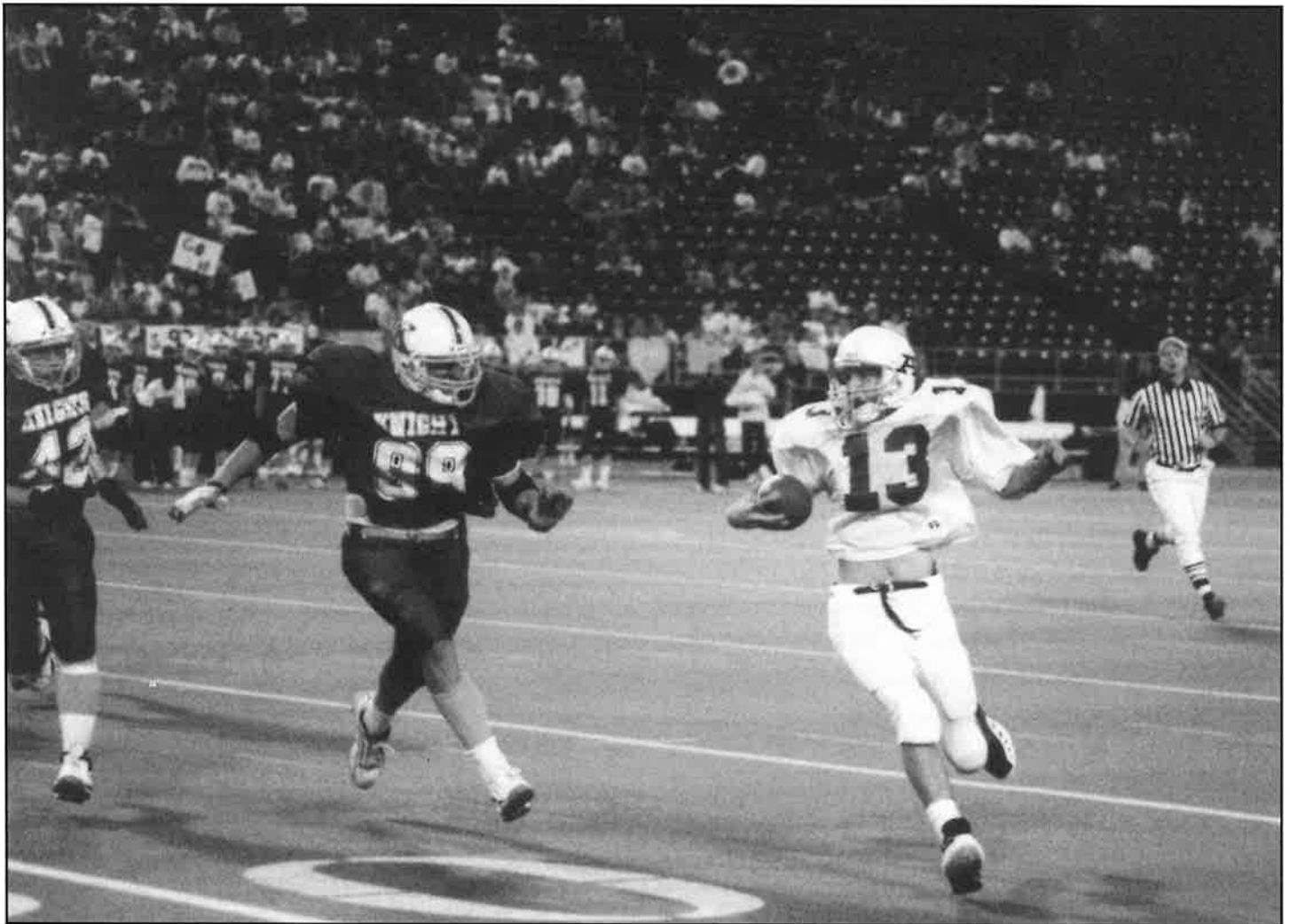
Albany	5-1
Litchfield	4-2
Melrose	4-2
Paynesville	3 -3
St. Cloud Cathedral	2-4
Sauk Centre	2-4
Long Prairie-Grey Eagle	1 -5

The West Central North Conference had another very competitive season, going down to the final game to decide the conference title. Albany, coached by Jim Mader, won the championship defeating Litchfield 17 - 14. Albany has shared or won the conference championship five years in a row. The

Huskies had tremendous special team play and were lead by punter Scott Dirkes with a 43.3 yard average and Tim Mareck who kicked nine field goals.

Litchfield was lead by Alex Carlson at quarterback who was selected the conference most valuable player. The two way player dominated the offensive and defensive sides of the ball. Jon Johnson's Dragons had outstanding personnel, but had a string of injuries that altered the outcome of the final standings.

Melrose had a tremendous offensive and defensive line. The Dutchmen, coached by Daryl Oja, were the most physical team to play in the conference for some time. Melrose was lead by Santo Cruz at running back. Santo ended his high school career



Albany quarterback Cory Schiffler (13) runs for daylight vs. St. Michael-Albertville in the State Semi-finals. Eric Kolles (89) and Nick Volkman (42) are in hot pursuit. STM-A defeated the Huskies 20-6.



with 3300 yards. He was the conference's outstanding back. Cruz ran behind a tremendous offensive line anchored by Jason Zierden at center. Jason was selected the conference outstanding lineman.

Paynesville, coached by Kyle Nohowig, had an outstanding wishbone running attack. Jeff Voss lead the team in rushing averaging over 140 yards a game. Voss and the rest of the Bulldogs defeated Albany 28 - 6 on September 17, for a key West Central North victory.

Sauk Centre, coached by Bryan Olson, had excellent talent at the beginning of the year. However, with lack of depth, and several season ending injuries, the Main Streeters finished the conference season 2-4. Sauk had two of the best linemen in the conference in Mike Larson and Scott Zwilling. Fullback Brian Nienaber was a unanimous all conference selection.

St. Cloud Cathedral ended up 2 - 4 in conference play, but they played everyone to the wire. Quarterback Brad Meyer threw for 260 yards a game and for 1600 yards in 6 conference games. His favorite receiver was Nate Baraga who averaged 121 yards a game. Nate was named the outstanding

receiver of the conference. Coach Tim Knudsen's Crusader offense was hard to stop, and they should be a contender in 2000.

Long Prairie-Grey Eagle, coached by Nathan Libbon, made great strides in turning their program toward the winning side. The Thunder was lead by three year starting tail back Aaron Gould.

The West Central Conference is reorganizing again for the 2000-2001 seasons. The South half of the conference will have Long Prairie-Grey Eagle and Paynesville joining Benson, Morris, Montevideo, and Lac Qui Parle Valley. The North half will have Minnewaska Area and New London-Spicer joining Albany, Melrose, Sauk Centre, Litchfield, and St. Cloud Cathedral. This is the fourth time that the conference has reorganized to accommodate the schools size, location and strength of programs.



Great River Conference

Eric Graham, in his second season as head coach at Braham High School, won his second Great River Conference championship. The Braham Bombers were undefeated in the conference. In title game, the Bombers defeated the East Central Eagles 20 to 6, handing the Eagles their only regular season defeat. The two teams met again in the Section 7AA title game with Braham winning 16 to 8. The Bombers' season finally ended when they lost to the West Central Area Knights in the state class 2A Semi-Finals.

Coach Graham was named Coach of the Year in both the Great River Conference and section 7AA. Braham led the league in rushing offense, rushing defense, total offense and total defense. The Rush City Tigers were the leading team in pass offense and pass defense.

The East Central Eagles were the Class 7AA Academic Champions for the sixth straight year.

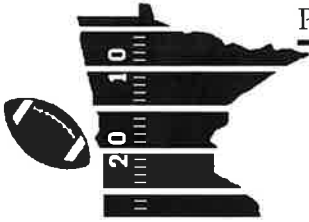
The Great River Conference placed two players on the Academic All State team; Scott Battaglia, QB/DB for the East Central Eagles on class 2A and Ogilvie's QB/SS Adam Halvorson on the 1A team.

The conference MVP was Braham tackle Levi Lidke. Joe Compton, FB for the Bombers was the Offensive Player of the Year. NG Derek Magaard of the Ogilvie Lions was the Defensive Player of the Year.

Final Standing

Braham Bombers	6-0
East Central Eagles	5-1
Ogilvie Lions	4-2
Aitkin Gobblers	3-3
Rush City Tigers	2-4
Hinckley-Finlayson Jaguars	1-5
Onamia Panthers	0-6





South Central Conference

Exciting games and great individual and team performances filled the South Central Conference football season. Under Head Coach Marc Bachman the 1999 St. Peter Saints were the pride of the conference. The Saints made it through conference play with an unblemished 6-0 record. The conference game of the year was a 6-2 thriller over New Ulm in the October 1, snowbowl. By scoring 23 unanswered points St. Peter moved on to win the Section 2AAA Championship defeating an impressive Jackson County squad by a score of 36-28. The Saints then lost in the first round of the state playoffs to State Champion De La Salle. Offensively the Saints were led by the quarterbacking skills of senior

Chris TeBrake. TeBrake was as deadly rushing the football as he was passing. Defensively, senior Jake Fredrickson led the Saints. Fredrickson had two key interceptions in the win over J.C.C. and several defensive touchdowns throughout the 1999 season. Coach Bachman was selected Conference Coach of the Year for his outstanding efforts.

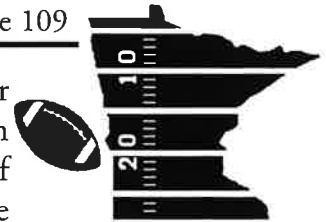
Rick VanRoekel led the New Ulm Eagles to a second place tie with Blue Earth Area, losing two close SCC football games. A 6-2 grudge match against St. Peter and a 17-14 thriller to Blue Earth Area. The Eagles were a well-balanced team that has improved considerably over the years. Offensively, they featured the outstanding running of junior

Micah Niedecker who will return to lead New Ulm in 2000. Gus Martens was a dominating lineman for the stingy Eagle defense. Coach VanRoekel has the Eagle program focused and they will be very competitive in the 2000 season.

The Bucs were a solid team again in the conference. The well-coached Blue Earth Area Bucs won their first three games by three points each. The Buc's brought home the "Little Brown Jug" for the first time in 18 years by defeating their rival Fairmont Cardinals 10-7 on a game ending field goal. The Buc's, were coached by Randy Kuchenmeister and led defensively by senior linebacker Travis Snyder. Junior quarterback TJ Schmidtke and



POWERING OVER FOR SIX -- Waseca's Junior running back, Steve Hanson, follows the right side of his line for a touchdown during a South Central Conference game last fall. Hanson, who will return in 2000 to help the Bluejays try to improve on last year's 2-7 mark, scored eight of Waseca's 10 touchdowns for the season. St. Peter middle linebacker Karl Gansen (56) is fighting off some Waseca blockers to try to stop Hanson. The Saints beat Waseca 34-6 and went on to win the South Central Conference championship in 1999.



sophomore running back TJ Stallman led the solid Buc offense. Next season, Blue Earth Area should be an offensive force in the South Central Conference.

The Fairmont Cardinals were very competitive but lost three close SCC games. Seniors Andy Manske and Mark Boro led the Cardinals on both sides of the ball. Coach Jim Simser has hung up his whistle after thirty two years as a head coach. He has coached state championship teams and been selected as the Minnesota Football Coach of the Year. Hall of Fame Coach Jim Simser has enriched the game of football and will be greatly missed in the South Central Conference.

Coach Keith Kottke and the Waseca Bluejays had a hard fought season. The Bluejays were competitive, but managed only a pair of conference victories. Waseca started several underclassmen and are looking forward to next season. Offensively, junior running back Steve Hanson was the workhorse for the Bluejays. Senior linebacker Kyle Howard and lineman Carl Shurson, who combined for 7 blocked kicks and sacks inspired the defense.

First year United South Central Coach Brent Schimek and his Rebels were an exciting team to watch in the conference. Memorable games for the Rebel's are the 14-12 victory over Blue Earth Area

and a 0-7 near upset over Section 2AAA Champion St. Peter in the first round of the Section Playoffs. The Rebels were led offensively by the punishing running of Tim Mutschler and receiving of Justin Elvebak. Amos Boeck was one of the leading tacklers for the Rebel defense.

The St. James Saints were slowed by a few injuries throughout the year. They had several exciting athletes on the field. Wide receiver Derek Nau was one of the top receivers in the conference and provided plenty of excitement every time he touched the football. The Saints are lead by Scott Allen, who is developing a very good program despite being the smallest school in the conference.

The 2000 season should bring great excitement and the conference race should be very tight again.

1999 Standings

St. Peter	6-0
New Ulm	4-2
Blue Earth Area	4-2
Fairmont	3-3
Waseca	2-4
United South Central	2-4
St. James	0-6

Heart O'Lakes Conference

The 1999 conference season was one which was dominated by West Central Area High School. The Knights, coached by Mike Frisch, took control of the conference race early and never looked back as they went on to an undefeated conference and regular season record. Coach Frisch, the conference coach of the year, took that undefeated season into the playoffs where they became Section 6AA champions before losing to a fine Waterville Elysian Morristown team in the State Championship game.

Breckenridge saw the return of Head Coach Terry Horan. Coach Horan returned after spending two years at Concordia College, Moorhead. The Cowboys picked up right where he left off as they finished as conference runner-up with a 6-1 conference record and 7-1 in the regular season.

Roseau put together a nice season under Dave Borowicz and was a contender for the conference championship. Frazee made strides with a young team under the direction of Dave Trautman, and will be looking for more improvement in the 2000 season.

	Conf.	Reg. Season
West Central	7-0	8-0
Breckenridge	6-1	7-1
Roseau	5-2	6-2
Mahnomen	3-4	4-4
Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton	3-4	3-5
Agassiz Valley	2-5	3-5
Frazee	1-6	1-7
Pelican Rapids	1-6	1-7



Tri-Valley Conference

Conference Standings

	Conf.	Overall	Season Total
Maple Lake	6-1	7-1	9-2
Mayer Lutheran	6-1	7-1	8-2
Lester Prairie	6-1	6-2	8-3
St. Croix Lutheran	4-3	4-4	4-5
Concordia Acad.	3-4	4-4	4-5
Maple Lake	2-5	2-6	2-7
Lutheran HS Bloom.	1-6	2-6	2-7
Randolph	0-7	0-8	0-8

over the Irish at Maple Lake. But the Irish turned things around and made the Crusaders work every second of the second half. What happened after that first-half wake-up call was a remarkable about-face that saw the Irish come roaring back into the game but finally lose by a score of 34-20.

Maple Lake's most exciting conference game of the year may have been their 7-6 win over Lester Prairie. This game was a defensive battle ending regulation in a 0-0 tie. Maple Lake scored first in over

time kicking the extra point for a 7 point lead. Lester Prairie came right back and scored 6 points. Coach Joe Scoblic decided to go for the win and the Bulldogs executed a pass play which fooled the Irish but dropped incomplete in the end zone. This was a very disappointing loss for the Bulldogs but an extremely uplifting game for the Irish.

The 1999 football season was the first time in recent history where three teams shared the conference championship. It's great to see many of the football programs improving in the conference.

Congratulations to Head Coach Jim Porter of Maple Lake for being selected

as the Tri-Valley Coach of the Year.

Congratulations to Paul Fenske of Lester Prairie who was selected as the Tri-Valley MVP.

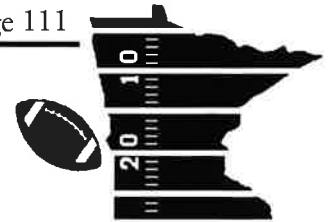


Maple Grove Quarterback Craig Fobbe directed Maple Lake's successful aerial attack this season with the help of RT Karl Fisher, RG Jared Ward, C Wes Haflich, LG Bart Kilgo, LT Adam Hennen, TE Nick Froehling and WR Cory Paulson.

Three teams fought it out at the top in the Tri-Valley conference in 1999. Lester Prairie and Mayer Lutheran were the preseason favorites, but Maple Lake put together a great season and earned a share of the conference championship. Lester Prairie had a great defensive game and shut down Mayer Lutheran's offense in a tough early-season match up and beat the Crusaders 14-7. Mayer Lutheran came back the next week and scored 27 points in the first half to take a commanding lead at half time 27-0



Sea Range Conference



The four teams that dominated the Sea-Range Conference in the 1990's ended the last season of the 90's by finishing in the top four positions of the conference. Greenway of Coleraine, International Falls, Hermantown and Proctor again finished in the top half of the conference standings. The 1999 championship went to the Proctor Rails coached by Dave Hylla. Proctor compiled a conference record of 7-0 and 8-0 in the regular season to edge out International Falls, coached by Stuart Nordquist, which went 6-1 in the conference and 7-1 in the regular season. A late season clash between the two perennial powers ended with Proctor taking a 21 0 halftime lead only to have the Broncos scoring two second half touchdowns and being intercepted on the Rail 9 yard line late in the game to preserve the Proctor win by 21-14.

Greenway of Coleraine, coached by Bob Schwartz, finished third with a 5-2 conference mark and 6-2 in the regular season. Hermantown followed with a 4-3 conference record and 5-3 overall regular season record. A much improved Mesabi East team finished fifth followed by Crosby-Ironton, Two Harbors and Eveleth-Gilbert.

Proctor displayed a strong running attack that featured a backfield with two 1000 yard rushers in Jesse Morgando and Eric Yamry as well as hard running fullback Erik Sundquist. Their defense was led by Josh Baker, Chris Rauschenfels and Jorey Olson. The Junior dominated International Falls squad featured a passing attack led by junior QB Luke Zika and receivers Derek Dowty and Mike Jensen as well as the hard running of Brian Heinlen. Defensively, the Broncos were led by Mike Jensen and Chris Hughes. Greenway displayed speed in their backfield with the likes of Mark Gibeau, Brian Herschback and Gino Guyer as well as strong defensive play from defensive tackle Tyson Arden.

Hermantown relied heavily on Senior running back Jesse Stokke as well as the line play of Tony Johnson. Eric Okstad and Adam Ferris led Mesabi East as one of the strongest defensive teams in the conference. Sophomore QB and linebacker Ben

Beratto and receiver J.R. Ferrier led Crosby-Ironton strong passing game. Ryan Theros played well for Two Harbors in the backfield and as a linebacker.

In postseason play, International Falls defeated Greenway in the championship game of the section 7 3A playoffs and advanced to the state playoffs. Proctor went on to 4A competition and was defeated in the section final game by Cambridge. International Falls finished to season with an overall record of 9-2 while Proctor finished with a 10-1 mark.

Bob Schwartz of Greenway was named as conference coach of the year. He did an outstanding job with a relatively young team. Josh Baker of Proctor will represent the Sea-Range Conference in the annual MHSFCA All-Star Game. Stuart Nordquist of International Falls was named the Minnesota 3A Coach of the Year at the Spring banquet. Scott Ross, former head coach and longtime assistant at Two Harbors, is stepping down as an assistant coach for the Dan Lodin coached Agates.

The 2000 season will again be exciting with International Falls picked as the preseason favorites. Crosby-Ironton under Craig Johnson and Two Harbors will attempt to break into the top half of the conference with outstanding teams. Hermantown, Proctor and Greenway will again challenge for the top spots in conference play.

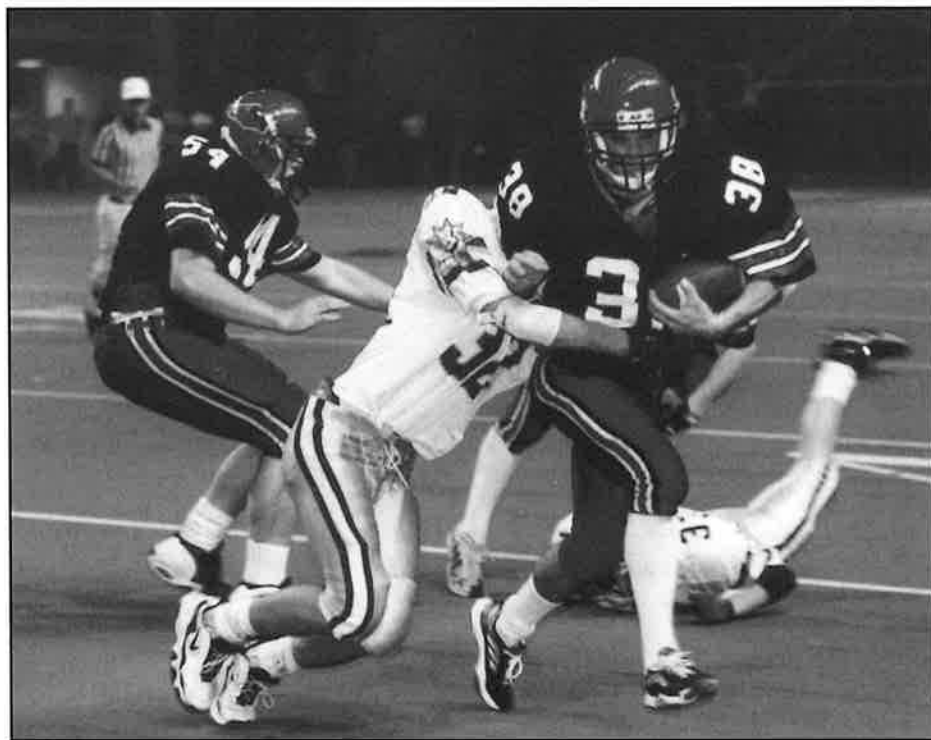


Central Lakes Conference

The Alexandria Cardinals finished the 1999 conference season undefeated to claim the title. The Cardinals, under the direction of Dennis Kalpin, led

very talented group to make a run at next years title.

St. Cloud Tech and Rocori both finished with 3-4 conference records. Coach Ron Kaczor and the Tigers played every team tough including an overtime playoff loss to Brainerd. Rocori led by Head Coach Mark Johnson, showed great improvement and lost a close game to Fergus Falls in the Section AAAA Semifinals.



Alexandria's All-Conference Slotback #38 Scott Ferguson gaining yardage against Conference rival Brainerd in the Section 8 AAAAA final in the Fargodome. Blocking for the Cardinals #54 Rick Schultz. Defending for Brainerd: #32 Jordan Herman and #33 Nate Kub.

Sartell under the direction of John Ross claimed the Section 8AAAA title with wins over Thief River Falls, Detroit Lakes, and Fergus Falls. Sartell finished 2-5 in the conference, but lost 4 conference games by less than 8 points.

Little Falls and St. Cloud Apollo finished with 1-6 conference records. Little Falls under new coach Jack Marmon started the season strong and made many improvements throughout the year. Jim Wagner and the Apollo Eagles once again were a great offensive threat with there outstanding passing game.

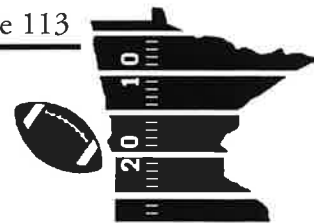
the conference with the fewest points allowed. Alexandria advanced to the Class AAAAA State Quarterfinals with a Section Final victory over rival Brainerd. The Brainerd Warriors finished with only one loss in the conference and 2 losses overall. Both were at the hands of the Alexandria Cardinals. Coach Ron Stolski's punishing wishbone attack racked up a total of 271 points in seven conference games.

Head Coach Ken Heitzman and the Willmar Cardinals made the biggest improvement from the previous year. The Cardinals made a run at the conference crown with losses to only Alexandria and Brainerd. Willmar was lead by their defense which allowed the second fewest points in conference play. Coach Heitzman was honored as the Conference Coach of the Year by his peers. Willmar returns a

1999 Central Lakes Conference Standings

	Conf		Overall		Conf Pts For/Against
	W	L	W	L	
Alexandria	7	0	11	1	226/111
Brainerd	6	1	9	2	271/151
Willmar	5	2	5	4	149/139
Tech	3	4	5	5	207/203
Rocori	3	4	5	5	131/158
Sartell	2	5	5	7	155/149
Little Falls	1	6	2	7	87/183
Apollo	1	6	1	8	131/255





Rum River Conference

The Rum River Conference provided some very intense and competitive football in 1999. Overall records displayed the strength of the Rum River as five teams (Mora, Chisago Lakes, Princeton, Milaca, and North Branch) finished with winning records. The conference championship came down to the final week of the season in a showdown between Mora and Chisago Lakes.

The traditionally strong Mora Mustangs, coached by Clark Bergloff, combined a strong running game with a potent defense to take honors for the Rum River Conference championship. Bergloff and his staff were also honored as the RRC coaching staff of the year.

The upstart Chisago Lakes Wildcats, coached by Bill Weiss, finished in second place. The Wildcats used an opportunistic defense and an effective triple option offense to conclude one of their best years in recent memory.

Princeton, coached by Doug Patnode, also finished in second place. The Tigers were a very talented and physical team offensively and defensively.

The Milaca Wolves provided a strong running attack en route to another winning season under Coach Mike Lundeen. The Wolves also ranked as one of the top defensive teams in the RRC.

North Branch, coached by Ron Moberg, enjoyed a second straight winning season with a very explosive

offense. The Vikings led the RRC in passing and scoring offense.

The Foley Falcons had a very balanced and physical offense to compliment a tough defense under head coach, Larry Herm.

Sauk Rapids, coached by the legendary Ken Hill, had a very tenacious defense that kept the Storm competitive all season.

Pine City, coached by Wayne Hansmann, had a very persistent running attack from its Wing T offense. The Rum River Conference looks to be tough again in 2000. With many quality coaches and players returning, the Rum River should once again be very competitive and exciting for the coaches, players, and fans.

RUM RIVER CONFERENCE FINAL STANDINGS

	CONFERENCE	OVERALL
MORA	6-1	8-2
CHISAGO LAKES	5-2	6-4
PRINCETON	5-2	6-4
MILACA	4-3	6-4
NORTH BRANCH	4-3	5-4
FOLEY	2-5	3-6
SAUK RAPIDS	2-5	2-7
PINE CITY	0-7	0-9





Hiawatha Valley Conference

The 1999 season crowned two new champions in the HVL as Kasson-Mantorville, coached by Ivan Kroulik, won the HVL Blue, and Byron, coached by John Austinson, won the HVL Gold. Both teams finished with a perfect 5-0 conference mark with the second place team in each division at 3-2. The two teams did meet in an early season non-conference game with KM coming out on top. KM looked like the team to beat in class AAA and were ranked very high in the state rankings throughout the year. They won the section title with wins over ZM, Cannon Falls and Plainview/Elgin-Millville. Their hopes of a state title were hurt considerably as they lost their starting QB with a broken collarbone in the last regular game of the season and then lost their outstanding LB, Gavin Duncanson when he broke his arm against Cannon Falls in the section semifinal

game. KM lost to Minnewaska Area in the first round of the state playoffs.

Kroulik completed his 11th season at the helm of the KM Komets and has compiled an impressive 89-31 mark while Austinson completed his 3rd season at Byron with a career record of 16-11. There was only one new face among the HVL coaching ranks in 1999 and that was Pat Bowlin at Winona Coffey. The other HVL coaches and the number of years coaching at their school were Gordy Ziebart, Lake City (2); Bucky Lindow, Cannon Falls (3); Marv Peters, Lourdes (5); Kurt Hughes, Stewartville, (4); Ken Belanger, Zumbrota-Mazeppa, (34); Dean Krambeer, Pine Island, (4); Don Henderson, Triton, (13); Vince Reynolds, Hayfield, (3); and Matt Addington, Kenyon-Wanamingo (3).



Southeast Conference

The preseason report was for a wide open race for the conference championship. As the season progressed Rushford Peterson emerged as the class of the conference. Fillmore Central made it a close race but Rushford Peterson made it to the championship undefeated.

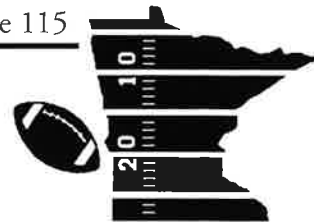
Rushford Peterson coach Jim Reinhardt had a very talented group of seniors. Led by Quarterback

Neil Anderson. Anderson came up with game winning plays time after time, Often winning games on broken plays.

Rushfords defense was led by Chris Drinkel a hard hitting linebacker. Coach Reinhardt was quoted as saying the teams defense always gave them a chance.

COACH	SCHOOL	RECORD
Jim Reinhardt	Rushford Pet.	7-0 10-2
Del Elston	Fillmore Cen.	6-1 9-2
Carl Fruechte	Caladonia	5-2 6-3
Karl Urbaniak	Mable Canton	4-3 6-4
Dick Strand	Southland	3-4 5-5
Lew Kelly	Spring Grove	2-5 2-7
Terry Highum	Lanesborro	1-6 1-8
Shawn Strong	Houston	0-7 0-8





Pheasant Conference

The Pheasant Conference again was a very hard nosed conference in 1999. The Wheaton Warriors won the championship with a perfect 7-0 record. Their championship was hard fought as they defeated Verndale, Hillcrest Lutheran Academy, and Chokio-Alberta-Herman-Norcross by a single touchdown each. Warrior coach Tony Thiel, in his third season at the helm, was voted Pheasant Conference Coach of the Year by his peers.

Pheasant Conference Standings

	Conf.	Overall
Wheaton	7-0	8-0
Verndale	6-1	6-2
HLA	5-2	6-2
CAHN	4-3	5-3
CG	2-5	3-5
Ashby	2-5	3-5
Underwood	1-6	1-7
Hancock	1-6	1-7



Zach Hinkle (2) of Verndale scores a TD vs Chikio-Alberta-Herman-Norcross in a Pirate 26-13 regular season Pheasant Conference win. Verndale Matt Elfstrum, 77 assists and CAHN Ben Reimers attempts a tackle.





Southwest Ridge Conference

Lincoln High, coached by Mike Evert, and HBCE, coached by Dan Ellingson, were co-champions in the inaugural season of the Southwest Ridge in 1998. But in 1999, its' second year, Westbrook-Walnut Grove, co-coached by Leo Theisen and Carter Ross won the conference title by going undefeated in conference and regular season play.

First year Head Coach, Jim Hall of the Lake Benton Bobcats, lead his team to a 3-way, second place tie with Tom Yahnka's Lakeview Raiders and the HBCE Patriots. Lakeview finished strong in the conference as they began the season 0-3. SVRLB started strong but suffered a number of key injuries and finished in 5th place. The Raiders are coached by Kent Van Overschelde. The Lincoln HI

Rebels finished in 6th place in 1999.

Wayne Heisinger and his SSC Quasars placed 7th, and the Edgerton Flying Dutchmen were 8th. Both of these teams return most positions and will be very competitive in the 2000 season. Steve Ondrush is the head football coach at Edgerton.

The WWG Chargers swept the conference post-season awards as Senior Isaac Wahl was MVP-Lineman, Junior Darren Tietz was MVP-Back and Co-coaches Leo Theisen and Carter Ross were Coaches of the Year.

Season 2000 looks to be very exciting as 7 of the top 10 individual leaders in offensive stats will be retuning for play.

Final Standings

	Conference	Over-all
Westbrook-Walnut Grove	7-0	8-0
Hills-Beaver Creek/Ellsworth	5-2	6-2
Lakeview (Cottonwood/Wood Lake)	5-2	5-3
Lake Benton	5-2	5-3
Sioux Valley-Round Lake-Brewster	3-4	4-4
Lincoln HI (Hendricks-Ivanhoe)	2-5	3-5
Southwest Star Concept (Heron Lake-Okabena)	1-6	1-7
Edgerton	0-7	0-8

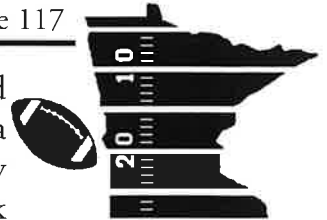
Little Sioux Conference

The 1999 football season brought a change in the Red Rock Conference and the Little Sioux Conference schedules. The Red Rock Conference was dissolved and the three teams from that conference Adrian, Fulda, and Murray County Central joined the Little Sioux Conference which already had the five teams Canby, Dawson Boyd, Minneota, Ortonville, and Russell-Tyler-Ruthton.

In the first week of action Adrian downed Fulda 43 to 7 in a Little Sioux Conference opener for both teams. Dan Christians scored 3 touchdowns for Adrian including an 80 yard punt return. Murray County Central was shut out by non-conference

opponent Pipestone-Jasper 21 to 0 while Minneota was downed by Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley 33 to 20, also a non-conference affair. Ortonville defeated Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa 23 to 0 in a non-conference opener. Dawson Boyd was defeated by Wheaton 12 to 6 in their non-conference opener while the Canby Lancers defeated Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 21 to 6, both conference teams but it was a non-conference game as these teams will meet again later in the year.

In week two Ortonville moved to 2 & 0 overall and 1 & 0 in the Little Sioux with a 7 to 0 win over 0 & 2 Fulda. Pete Ross connected with wide receiv-



er Mike Lovgren on a 66 yard pass in the first quarter for Ortonville. Adrian moved to 2 & 0 with 40 to 14 win over Russell-Tyler-Ruthton, for Adrian Matt Konz ran for four touchdowns and threw for another to lead the Dragon attack. Minneota 1-1 defeated Murray County Central 0-2 as Brandon Hennen threw for six touchdowns and 375 yards for the Vikings. Dawson Boyd moved their record to 2 & 0 with a 14 to 0 upset win over the Canby Lancers 0 - 1. For the Blackjacks Rick Bothun and Keith Stratmoen each scored a touchdown in the second quarter.

In week three Adrian hosted #1 ranked in 3A Jackson County Central for a non conference show down and battled them hard but came up short 27 to 26. Matt Konz and Dan Christians each scored 2 touchdowns for the Dragons. Fulda traveled to 2A Tracy-Milroy-Balaton for a non conference match up and the Panthers from TMB defeated the Raiders from Fulda 27 to 0. Canby rolled up 514 yards en route to their 56 to 13 win over the MCC Rebels. Justin Winkels had three touchdown runs for the

Lancers. Ortonville defeated Minneota 40 to 24 behind a monster performance by Sophomore tail back Derrick Rieck as he rushed for 325 yards and 3 touchdowns on 38 carries. Russell-Tyler-Ruthton defeated Dawson-Boyd 28 to 14 as Brett Serreyn carried the ball 35 times for 199 yards and one touchdown for the Knights.

In week four the Murray County Rebels won their first game as they had a wild shoot out over the Fulda Raiders defeating them 31 to 29 behind Adam Tentinger two touchdowns. MCC moves to 1 and 3 while Fulda dropped to 0 and 4. Ortonville moved their record to a perfect 4 and 0 with a big win over the Dawson Boyd Blackjacks 31 to 10. Adrian in a key conference battle defeated the Canby Lancers 33 to 7 as Matt Konz threw for three touchdowns and ran for one. Russell-Tyler-Ruthton kept on their winning ways moving to 2 and 2 with a 26 to 0 win over the Minneota Vikings behind Bret Serreyn's 54 yard interception return.



Brett Serreyn, projected to be the premier back in the Little Sioux Conference in the 2000 season, returns for Russell-Tyler-Ruthton Knights.



In week five the Adrian Dragons moved their record to 4 and 1 overall and 4 and 0 in Little Sioux Conference action with a 56 to 0 win over the Minneota Vikings. Matt Konz led the way with 4 touchdowns rushing and 2 passing for the Dragons. The Canby Lancers pulled a big upset as they defeated the 4 & 0 Ortonville Trojans 33 to 14 behind Justin Winkels 210 yards rushing. Dawson Boyd scored 21 2nd half points to defeat Fulda 29 to 14 behind Rick Bothum's 3 touchdowns. RTR won their 3rd game of the year as they defeated MCC 54 to 14 as Brett Serreyn scored 4 touchdowns.

In Week six Russell-Tyler-Ruthon traveled to Ortonville and defeated them 8 to 7 as they scored a 2 point conversion with no time on the clock to win the game. Adrian held Murray County Central to 48 total yards in route to their 36 to 6 win in week six. Canby defeated the Fulda Raiders 28 to 7 behind Justin Winkels 11 yard TD run. Dawson Boyd defeated the Vikings from Minneota 23 to 0.

In Week seven Adrian moved their Little Sioux Conference record to 6 & 0 with a 50 to 20 win over the Dawson Boyd Blackjacks. Matt Konz ran for two touchdowns and threw for three more in the victory for Adrian. Murray County Central upset the Ortonville Trojans 14 to 13 behind a 22 play 4th quarter drive as Paul Mathews plowed 3 yards for the winning score. Russell-Tyler-Ruthon squeezed by the Fulda Raiders 14 to 12 behind Jeremy Jensen's 5 catches for 90 yards. Canby downed Minneota 42 to 0 to move to 4 and 2 in Little Sioux Conference play.

Week Eight saw Adrian (7 & 0 in Conference play) claim the Little Sioux Conference Championship with a 43 to 15 over the Ortonville Trojans. Matt Konz scored three touchdowns running and threw for two more in the win for the Dragons. The Canby Lancers 5 & 2 in conference play tied for 2nd place by defeating the Knights from Russell-Tyler-Ruthon 14 to 6. The Knights also claimed 2nd place with their 5 & 2 conference mark. Murray County Central defeated Dawson Boyd 31 to 28 behind Adam Tentinger 2 touchdowns. Fulda won their 1st game of the year with a 26 to 6 victory over the Minneota Vikings.

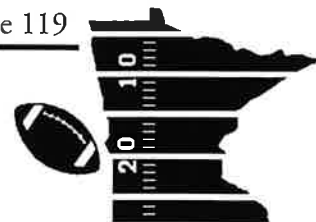
1st round of the Section 3A playoffs saw Fulda travel to Adrian and the Dragons defeated the Raiders 35 to 6, Murray County Central traveled to Russell-Tyler-Ruthon and the Knights from RTR won 22 to 12 over the Rebels from MCC, Minneota traveled to Wabasso and lost 59 to 8, In other 1A playoffs Browerville defeated Dawson Boyd 36 to 7. In 2AA Canby defeated Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop 21 to 0 while Ortonville lost to Otter Trail Central 29 to 15.

In the 2nd round the Dragons from Adrian were ousted by the Falcons from Red Rock Central 22 to 21 in 1A playoffs while in 2A Canby kept its season alive by upsetting BOLD 20 to 12.

In the Section finals Windom downed Canby 38 to 12 to end the season for all Little Sioux Conference teams. Randy Strand from Adrian was named the Little Sioux coach of the year while his Assistant Kevin Nowotny was named Little Sioux Assistant Coach of the year in 1999.



Southwest Conference



The Southwest Conference saw some outstanding individual play as well as dominant team play in the 1999 season. The race for the conference title was not decided until the final week of play. The last game on the conference schedule pitted the undefeated Windom Eagles against the once beaten Worthington Trojans. The Trojans, under Denny Hale, came out on top 14-3 by scoring a touchdown with two minutes to go in the game. The win gave

the Trojans a share of the conference title with Windom. The co-title was the first for Windom since 1989.

The regular season saw some outstanding non conference success for teams of the Southwest conference. The conference registered a 12-2 non conference record. Of the seven teams in the conference, six made the section playoffs and all six teams won their first round playoff game. Windom had the



Worthington's Latwain Potter breaks into the free against Marshall in a Southwest Conference matchup. Potter had a great senior year and was elected as the Conference's Offensive Back of the Year.



most success as the Eagles won the Section 3-2A title by defeating Canby 35-6. The Eagles then hosted Chatfield in the first round of the State Playoffs. The game was an exciting one as two great teams went head to head for 48 minutes. The Gophers of Chatfield scored the games only touchdown on a 90 yard run early in the second quarter. The Eagles were inside the Chatfield 10 yard line two times but could only manage two field goals by Treye Elzenga. Chatfield got a late field goal and held on to win 10 -6.



Windom Eagles quarterback Shaun Chesley hands off to Joe Amundson as Chris Strub and Brady Powers provide the blocking in the Southwest Conference title game against Worthington.

Photo by Joel Alvstad, Citizen Newspaper

The Windom Eagles, the only 2A team in the conference, matched or set numerous school records in 1999. The Eagles won more games than any other Windom team in 1999. They also won the conference for the first time since 1989. They are also the second team in school history to go to state (the 1996 team finished runner-up in the Prep Bowl). The Eagles, led by Head Coach Bill Magnuson, will graduate a number of seniors from this years state tournament team. With a strong cast of juniors and sophomores, who saw a lot of playing time during the year, the Eagles hope to contend for the confer-

ence title in 2000.

The Worthington Trojans again had an exceptional year under head coach Denny Hale. The Trojans boasted one of the better defensive teams in the conference. On offense the Trojans were lead by conference back of the year Latwain Potter. The Trojans will lose some valuable seniors but will be considered a conference favorite in 2000 because of a great returning junior class and a strong IV program.

The Huskies of Jackson County Central, led by first year coach Tom Schuller, were the most explo-

sive offensive teams in the conference. Led by All-Conference players Jack Zelinko and Marshall Helmers the Huskies were known for putting points on the board in an extremely fast fashion. The Huskies and the Windom Eagles met on October 1st with JCC being the number one ranked team in Class 3A. The game was played in five inches of snow and was a see-saw event. The game saw JCC score four touchdowns of 50 yards or more while the Eagles sustained five long touchdown drives and eventually came out on top 34-27. The Huskies will graduate a number of seniors from this year's team

and will look to rebuild for next year.

The Luverne Cardinals, tabbed as the preseason conference favorite, had a successful season. Under the direction of Head Coach, Joel Swanson, the Cardinals had to suffer through some key injuries early in the season that affected their overall record. Luverne will lose some outstanding seniors but will rely on some great underclassmen and will be favored to compete for the conference title.

Pipestone-Jasper began a new era of Arrow football with the hiring of Head Coach Darren Baartman. Baartman had been the Head Coach at



JCC the past 3 years. He led the Huskies to two State Runner-up finishes the past two years. Now at Pipestone, the conference could see his effect immediately. The Arrows had a strong season, led by the play of All-Conference and Defensive Linebacker of the year, Issac Snell. The Arrows, behind the running of senior Greg Statz, were very much one dimensional on offense. The Arrows eventually lost 14-3 in the section playoffs to Minnewaska, the Class 3A runner up. Under Baartman's direction and some good underclassmen, look for the Arrows to make more noise in the conference race in 2000.

The Marshall Tigers showed signs of revival in 1999. The Tigers welcomed the hiring of Barry Wohler, former coach at Belle Plaine. Coach Wohler had an immediate impact on the Tiger program. The team won it two non-conference games and was very competitive with all conference schools. Marshall even scored an upset over Mankato East in the Section Playoffs. Wohler will have a good regimen of players coming back for the 2000 campaign

and should be able to compete for the conference title.

The Redwood Valley Cardinals, under second year Head Coach Matt Lundeen, struggled throughout the year. The young Cardinals showed tremendous improvement in Coach Lundeen's offense and with another year under their belt in the Cardinal offense look for the team to make great strides in the conference battle for the year 2000.

1999 Final Conference Standings

Windom	5-1
Worthington	5-1
Jackson County Central	4-2
Luverne	3-3
Pipestone-Jasper	3-3
Marshall	1-5
Redwood Valley	0-6



Classic Lake Conference

This year the Classic Lake football title was shared between the Hopkins Royals and the Wayzata Trojans in what was a highly competitive season. Wayzata claimed a share of the title by defeating the Armstrong Falcons in the next to last game of the season and Hopkins did the same the following week. Hopkins coach Ken McDonald was awarded Coach of the year honors.

The playoffs saw a rematch of the Classic Lake

champions as Hopkins and Wayzata met in the section 6AAAAA finals. Hopkins was able to avenge their only loss of the season by defeating the Trojans by a score of 14 to 6, winning the section championship for the first time in school history. Hopkins successful season continued with a state playoff victory over the Alexandria Cardinals before eventually losing to the Cretin-Derham Hall Raiders in the semifinals.

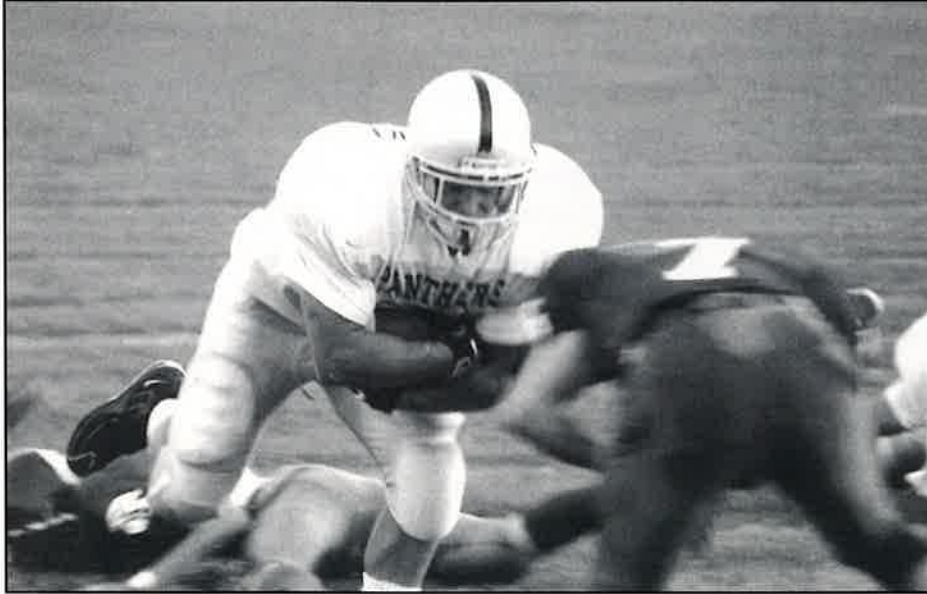
Classic Lake	Conference	Standings (with overall records)
1. Hopkins	5-1	(10-2)
2. Wayzata	5-1	(8-3)
3. Edina	4-2	(7-3)
4. Armstrong	4-2	(6-4)
5. Minnetonka	2-4	(3-6)
6. St. Louis Park	1-5	(2-7)
7. Cooper	0-6	(1-8)





Wright County Conference

Wright County Conference football had another banner year in 1999. The can boast having three teams ranked in the top 10 for 3A. They were Delano, Glencoe-Silver Lake, and St. Michael-Albertville. Delano reached a high ranking of #1, GSL #2, and STMA reached #4. But polls didn't



GSC's Jason Prochaska bursts into the end zone at Brooklyn Center in the season opener.

Photo by Nate Gorr, Courtesy of McLeod County *Chronicle*

mean everything in the WCC. STMA went on to the Prep Bowl losing to DeLaSalle. DeLaSalle also beat Delano in the section semi-finals. GSL was beaten in the section semi-finals by Jackson County Central. STMA's head coach Earl Baumann will be representing the conference in the all-star game this summer. He will be on the Out-State coaching staff. Congratulations Earl!!

There were three new coaches in the conference this past season. Two of them made their debuts while the third came back for the second time. The two new coaches were John Stifter of Watertown-Mayer and Dwight Lundeen of Becker whose team joined the Wright County Conference in 1999. Dave Dose took over the head job at GSL after the retirement of Hall of Famer Buz Rumrill. Dose was the head coach at Glencoe before the pairing with Silver Lake. New coach Dwight Lundeen said he was very impressed by the level of football played in

the WCC week in and week out. An attestation to this fact is that the both the conference lineman and back of the year awards went to players who were on the fourth and fifth place teams respectfully. Lineman of the year award went to Joe Stanger of Becker and back of the year went to Kyle Rainbow of Waconia. Great job to those talented athletes and their coaches.

Glencoe-Silver Lake and Delano shared the conference title in 1999. St. Michael-Albertville finished a close third. Some of the big showdowns this past season was a week five clash with then ranked #4 STMA vs #6 GSL. GSL won this match up 47 - 21. STMA then went to #2 Delano the next week and were defeated. Coach Baumann of STMA said those two loses helped his team in the long run. It helped refocus both players and staff. From the looks of it he's right, they didn't lose again until the finals! Congratulations on a fine season STMA!! GSL's Dave Dose also received a special award. He was

named prep coach of the week with GSL's defeat of STMA in week five. This award was given out by MSC and co-sponsored by the NFL. The GSL program received an award of \$500. The conference title came down to week eight. The showdown between #2 GSL and #8 Delano. Delano captured a share of the title when they defeated GSL 20 - 6. Congratulations to both programs. There will be one new coach in the fall of 2000, Matt Walters will be taking-over at Annandale. We wish him good luck this coming fall. Final conference standings:

1	Glencoe-Silver Lake	6-1	7-1
1	Delano	6-1	7-1
3	St. Michael-Albertville	5-2	6-2
4	Becker	4-3	4-4
5	Waconia	3-4	4-4
6	Dassel-Cokato	3-4	4-4
7	Watertown-Mayer	1-6	2-6
8	Annandale	0-7	0-8

Big Nine Conference



The 1999 Big 9 Conference season was characterized by hard fought battles, great excitement, a few surprises, and some outstanding individual and team performances. The Rochester John Marshall Rockets and the Owatonna Huskies shared the Conference Title with identical 7-1 league marks. The "Game of the Year" in the conference may have been the Week 3 clash between the Rockets and the Huskies in Owatonna. With the Huskies on top 12-7 late in the game, junior quarterback Ryan Steele led the Rockets on an 82 yard scoring drive over the final seven and a half minutes. Steele hit senior split end Josh Wacholz on a diving catch on a 4- and 9 play to keep the drive alive and senior tailback Adam Davis iced the game for the Rockets on a 1 yard

was named Big 9 Conference Coach of the Year.

The 1999 season also demonstrated a changing of the guard in Southeastern Minnesota Football. Rochester Century, in its second year of varsity competition, won its first game ever in a stunning upset of crosstown rival and perennial conference power Rochester Mayo 16-7 in Week 3. First year head coach Steve Willman left Badger-Greenbush-Middle River to guide the Winona Winhawks in 1999 and he picked up his first Big 9 win against Albert Lea 18-0 in the final game of the regular season. At the same time, long time Faribault head coach Rich Oliphant stepped down from the helm with 151 victories in 26 seasons as the skipper of the Falcons. Oliphant retires as the 4- winningest coach in the history of the Big 9 Conference.



Owatonna's Cory Urban (30) turns the corner on a sweep following Jeremy Simon's block as Albert Lea's Mike Munden (71) and Danny Stoa (88) close in.

touchdown plunge with two seconds remaining to secure a 13-12 victory. Rochester Mayo would help the Huskies move back into a tie for the conference lead Week 7 by dispatching the Rockets 29-22. John Marshall and Owatonna secured their shares of the title in the final week with the Huskies holding off the Mayo Spartans 21-14 and the Rockets surviving a scare in Austin 27-26 in overtime. Since the Big 9 Conference was formed in 1928, this would mark the 7th title for Owatonna and the 23rd for Rochester JM. Owatonna Head Coach Jeff Williams

The Section and State Playoffs also provided great excitement for teams in the Big 9 Conference. The Owatonna Huskies won the Section 1AAAAA Title by beating the Rochester Mayo Spartans 24-7. Mayo had advanced to the title game following an emotional victory over the top-seeded John Marshall Rockets 35-21 the previous week. The Huskies were eliminated in the State Playoffs by eventual Class 5A Runner-Up Hastings. The story of the post season, however, was written by the Scarlets of Mankato West. West struggled through a 4-4 regular season before getting hot in the playoffs. After outscoring their opponents 140-20 in the Section 2AAAA Playoffs, the Scarlets captured their first State Championship by defeating Northfield 45-8 in the State Semifinals and beating Cambridge-Isanti 35-28 in the Prep Bowl. Mankato West Head Coach Rick Sutton was named Minnesota Class 4A Coach of the Year.

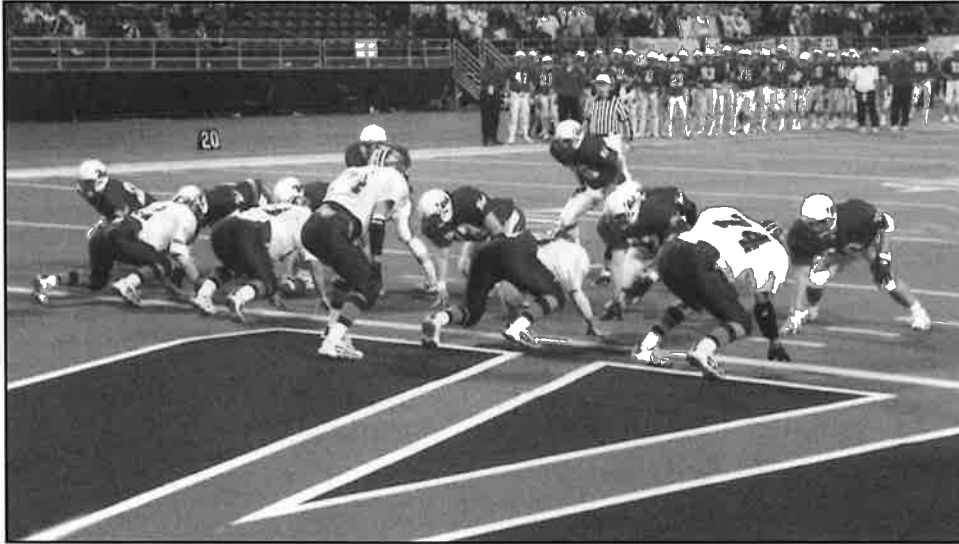
The season also saw some great individual performances from talented athletes. A number of Big 9 players were selected to play in the All-Star Game



in June. Rochester John Marshall defensive tackle Gabe Garcia, Mankato West line-backer Eric Stenzel, Rochester Mayo nose guard Joe Lozano, Rochester Century running back Derrick Malone and Owatonna run-

ning back Cory Urban represented their schools admirably at the annual contest at Macalester College in St. Paul. Owatonna Head Coach Jeff Williams served as the Head Coach for the Outstate squad.

The 2000 season looks to be another great one for the tradition laden Big 9 Conference. The traditional powers will continue to stalk the title with the potential for some upstarts to make a move into the upper division. More exciting football action seems to be in store for fans in the communities of Southeastern Minnesota.



Mankato West lined up to score the winning touchdown in the Class AAAA championship game vs. Cambridge.

	Conference	Overall
Owatonna	7-1	10-2
Rochester JM	7-1	8-2
Rochester Mayo	6-2	8-3
Faribault	5-3	5-4
Mankato West	4-4	10-4
Mankato East	4-4	4-5
Rochester Century	4-4	4-5
Austin	2-6	3-7
Winona	1-7	1-8
Albert Lea	0-8	0-9

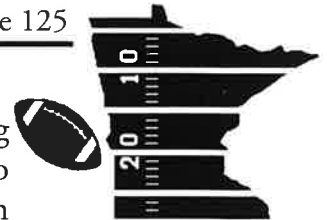
Gopher Valley Conference

1999 saw the Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Bucs again take home the conference title. It was a three repeat for the WEM team as they now have won the Gopher/Valley in 1997, 1998 and 1999. Not only did the Bucs win the conference title in 1999 and the Section title again in 1999; they finally won the Class 2A title as they finished with a 14-0 record. Coach Jon Bakken picked up his 100 career coaching win in 1999 as the WEM- football tradition continues in full swing.

The team which has had to take a back seat to WEM over the past three season is NRHEG. Coach John Schultz's Panthers have had three outstanding teams during this period of time only to come in runner up in the conference and in the Section. Last season NRHEG finished 6-1 in the conference and then won two more games in the Section only to loss to WEM in the championship game just as they did in 1998.

Another team which had an outstanding season





last year was Maple River as they finished 6-1 in the conference and 8-2 overall. Coach Randy Olson's squad made it to the finals in Section 2 of Class 3A.

Blooming Prairie and Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop were both young teams last season and proved to be very tough opponents. Both teams finished 4-3 in this very tough and competitive conference and look for these two programs to be even better in the 2000 season. Martin County West also had a very young team last season and finished at 3-5 and will be looking to move up in the standings this fall. LCWM and Madelia/Truman hit on hard times in 1999 but these two proud programs which has had success in the past few years will be looking to rebuild with a number of underclassmen in 2000. Jamesville-Waldorf-Pemberton was also a young squad last year and they look to win a few games in 2000.

WEM will have to replace a number of outstanding players in 2000 but look for the Bucs to get things done again under Coach Bakken. Gone will be four year starter Cory Hackett at Q8, who finished his high school career as one of the better players at this position in the history of the State. Also gone will be wideouts Gabe Hauer and Jesse Appel along with backs Brandon Miller and Jesse James. But the Bucs always seem to find replacements; so look for WEM to be towards the top of the conference and the Section again this fall.

This could be the year that NRHEG takes over the top spot however. The Panthers graduated a number of top linemen but have a great core of offensive backs and receivers returning in 2000. QB Tony Schlaak should take over the top spot in the conference at QB now that Hackett has graduated. Schlaak has a couple of outstanding running backs to hand off to including Nathan Wayne. If Coach Schultz can repair his offensive line; the Panthers look to be the team to beat this fall in the

Gopher/Valley.

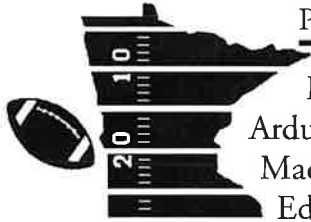
GFW and Blooming Prairie will be looking to break into the top spot in 2000. Both of these teams bring back outstanding players in a number of positions. Nick Nelson will be at QB for BP and will have a year's experience in running the wishbone option which was very effective last season for BP. Nelson has a number of good backs to hand off to and an excellent offensive line to work with. GFW will also bring back three starting QB and three outstanding running backs and a couple of good looking receivers.

Maple River returns a number of good players including their starting QB- Ryan Walker and an outstanding LB in Mike Bruegger. MCW, M/T, LCWM and JWP will all have a number of players back from last season but will have to find the quality that teams like NRHEG, WEM, BP and GFW have already in place for the 2000 season. But it looks to be another tough and competitive season in the Gopher-Valley and anything can happen on any given Friday night.

Terry Arduser announced his retirement as head coach this past school year for the Madelia/Truman Jayhawks. Coach Arduser served as the head coach for the Jayhawks ever since the two schools paired in football in 1990. Arduser's teams won five Valley Conference titles, won two Section titles and was runner up two times in the Section.

Arduser was also the head coach at Madelia from 1984 to 1989 and won two Middle-8 conference titles and was a Section runner up in 1988. He also served as head football coach at Morgan from 1975 to 1981. His overall 23 year football coaching record stands at 118-98. Arduser has also served as head baseball coach, head basketball coach and head wrestling coach in his years at Morgan, Madelia and

TEAM	CONFERENCE	OVERALL
WEM	7-0	14-0
NRHEG	6-1	9-2
Maple River	6-1	8-2
Blooming Prairie	4-3	6-4
GFW	4-3	4-5
Martin County West	3-5	3-6
Madelia/Truman	1-6	2-7
LCWM	1-6	1-7
JWP	0-8	0-8



Madelia-Truman. At age 52, Arduser will continue to teach at Madelia as he is the Driver Education instructor, the Student Council director along with being the Mock Trial coach at MHS.

Replacing Arduser as the head M/T football coach will be Jeff Tietje. Tietje is a Fairmont High School product and also played football at Augustana College in Sioux Falls. Jeff has been an assistant coach for the Jayhawks the past three seasons.

Missota Conference

The Missota kept it's reputation of being one of the toughest football conferences in the state by placing five teams in section final games. In Section 6, Hutchinson (seeded #4) beat Prior Lake 13-6 to earn a birth in the state tournament in Andy Rostberg's first year at the helm. Andy had been an assistant for his father "Grady" for the past six years. Hutchinson eventually lost to Cambridge in the semi-final game at the Metrodome. Prior Lake, under coach John Bennett, in his 13th season finished as section 6 runner-up with a 7-4 record. They were lead by lineman Matt Brown and running back David Busselman who gained 1056 yards.

In Section 1, Northfield continued it's dominance by beating Red Wing in the section final game. This was the 6th State appearance in the last seven years for Coach Sullivan's Raiders. Northfield lost to eventual State Champion Mankato West in the semi-finals. Northfield was led by Jordan HoIm (LB/QB) who will be attending Northern Iowa on a wrestling scholarship and Dustin Kes (DT) who will be attending University of Minnesota Duluth.

Led by Paul Schmit, the Red Wing Wingers finished 6-4 behind the passing of Adam Witt, who threw for 1000 yards, and the receiving of Jed Riegelman and Kevin Riester. With a third place finish in the Missota and a second place finish in their section, Red Wing is starting to be known as a perennial power in the conference.

The smallest school in the conference, Holy Angels, might have made the biggest impact. The Stars finished with the best season in the school's history by finishing 8-3 overall. With a second place finish in the Missota and runner-up to eventual State Champion DeLaSalle in their section finals, Holy Angels has emerged as a power.

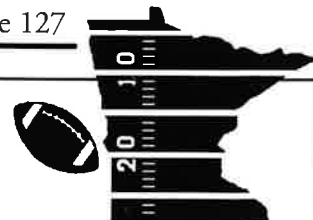
Another small school making an impact in the conference was New Prague. After a disappointing season in 1998, Head Coach Tony Buthe led New Prague to a 5-4 record with impressive wins over Hutchinson and #1 ranked Northfield. By leading the Trojans to the section

semi-finals, Coach Buthe was honored by receiving Co-Coach of the Year, sharing the title with Bubba Sullivan of Northfield.

In Farmington, the Tigers have lost the leadership of Coach Earl Wetzel, who after 20 years has retired. Coach Wetzel completed his coaching career with 146 wins and 86 losses. The Missota will be losing an outstanding coach, but we all wish him a happy retirement. Taking over the head coaching duties is Mark Froehling, who is an 8 year veteran from Caledonia High School and has been assisting Coach Wetzel for the past 3 years. Farmington finished the season with a 5-5 record and will be sending two players to college. Ryan Terpening will be attending Iowa State University and Josh Thompson will be attending the University of Minnesota Duluth.

New to the conference last season were the Tigers of Richfield. Richfield finished their first season in the Missota with an overall 1-8 record. They will be looking to improve on that record in the up coming season.

The Missota Conference 2000 season might prove to be one of the most even battles for the title in many years. With perineal power Northfield returning a solid squad and Hutchinson returning star running backs Adam Kaping and Matt Thode we can look for them to be strong contenders again. Any team can make a run for the title. Prior Lake who is consistently in the top of the conference and Red Wing and New Prague will be returning solid squads. But look out for Holy Angels, they might be the most interesting team to watch. They return 8 offensive starters and 7 defensive starters. They are also returning one of the premier players in the state in Larry Fitzgerald. Larry was a first team All-State receiver in 1999 and he is being recruited by division I schools throughout the nation. He has already been offered scholarships by Penn State, Illinois, Purdue, Wisconsin and Colorado. The combination of Fitzgerald and Junior QB John Stocco could make Holy Angels a favorite in Class 3A.



InstaSports Will Increase MHSFCA Team Recognition

It is no surprise that the Minnesota State Football Coaches Association's (MHSFCA) determination and dedication is key to ensuring that high school football thrives in Minnesota. MHSFCA wants every team in its organization to grab as much attention and recognition as possible. InstaSports is just the program to make it happen.

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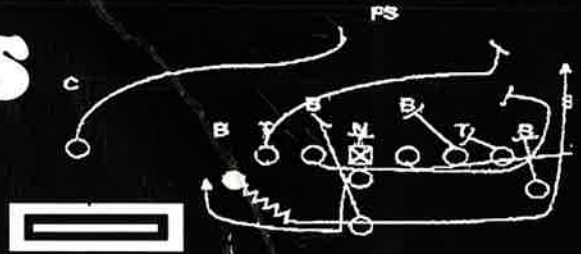
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