

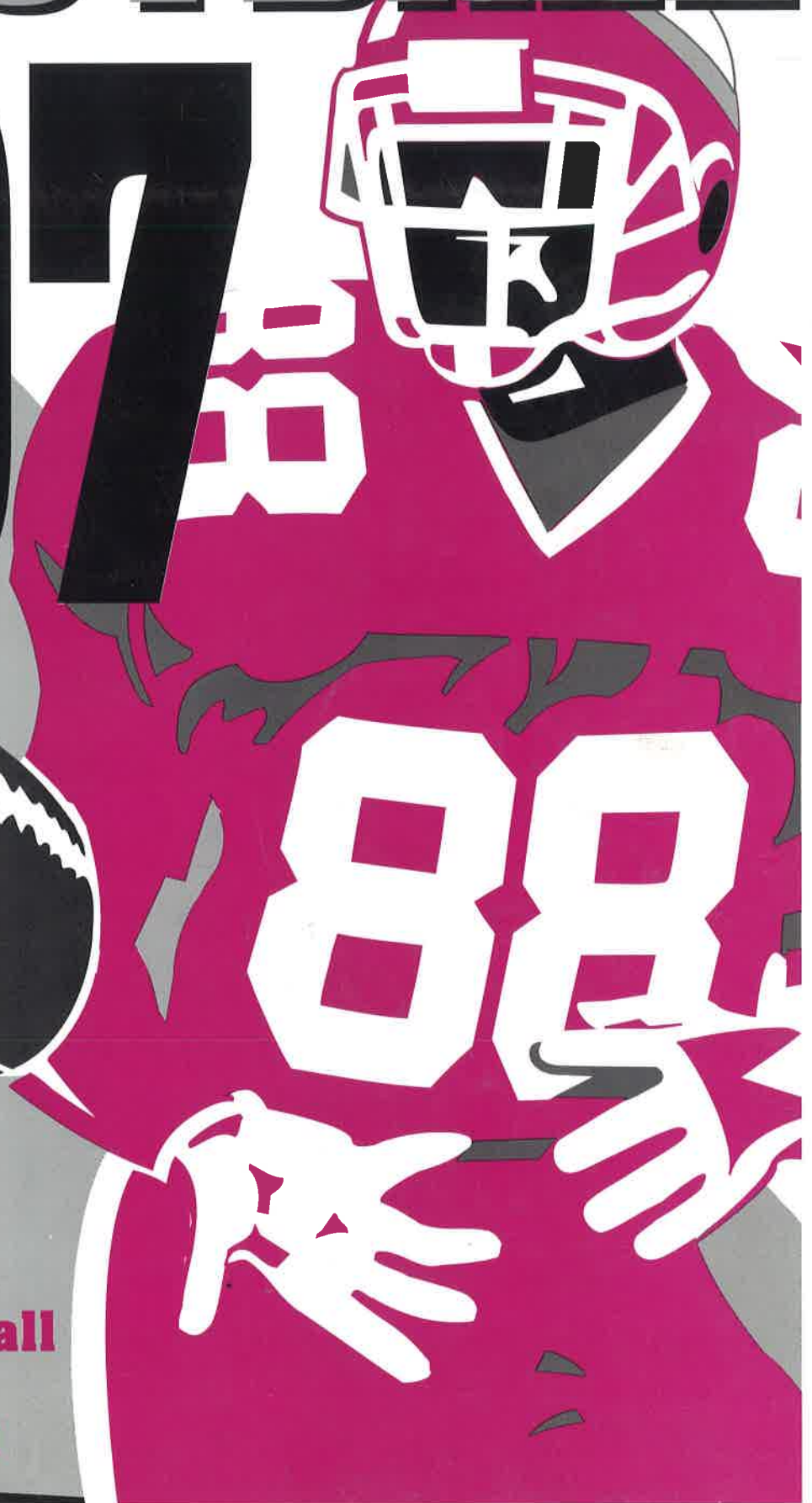
MINNESOTA

FOOTBALL

'97



**Annual
Publication
of the
Minnesota
State Football
Coaches
Association**



1997 MINNESOTA FOOTBALL

ANNUAL

Minnesota State Football Coaches Association

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This publication is issued annually by the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association as a media for the exchange of ideas and technique in the game of football.

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President's Message

As all of you are aware of, football is a game that requires a total team effort and where team chemistry may be the most important ingredient to success. With this background, it is not surprising why the Minnesota State Football Coaches Association is so successful. It is made up of outstanding teachers and coaches that are willing to work together for continued improvement and excellence in Minnesota football. I am very proud to be able to serve this very special fraternity of people as your president.

I would like to take an opportunity to thank Ken Baumann for his outstanding leadership this past year. A special thank you also to Jim Simser for his continued service to our organization. His time and effort to our association is without question. Congratulations to Ken Belanger, Zumbrota-Mazeppa, for being elected as second vice president and joining Neal Hofland, Chokia-Alberta, and myself on the executive committee.

Congratulations are also in order to the coaching staffs of state champions Cromwell, Chatfield,

Breck, Mora and Eden Prairie as well as all of the other teams that participated in the state playoffs. Commendations also to all the recipients of awards at this Spring's Hall of Fame banquet, especially to Clark Bergloff of Mora for being selected as the state coach of the year.

This next year will be marked by a number of changes that will influence the state of football in Minnesota. The change in the football staff at the University of Minnesota will have an important affect on the quality of high school football. Those coaches that attended the Spring clinic at Minnesota have to be impressed with Glen Mason and his commitment to Minnesota high school football. We wish Coach Mason and his staff great success and we look forward to working with the Golden Gophers to enhance football at all levels.

Next season will see a change in the football playoffs. For the first time in Minnesota, the playoffs will be played in six classes. Six classes should give schools greater opportunity to compete at the state level against schools more proximal to their

own size. I am sure it will take some time to work through problems and concerns that might arise because of this change. Overall, giving greater opportunity to schools and players to compete at the state level should result in the improvement of high school football statewide. I urge coaches and schools to work together cooperatively to make the change as smooth as possible.

Coaches are also reminded that they must join the coaches association by October 1. This change is being made to more easily account for eligibility for many of our post season awards. Committees such as the individual academic all-state selection committee have had problems in the past trying to determine if players were eligible based on whether the coach was a member of the association. Coaches must be members of the Minnesota State Football Coaches Association in order to qualify for many of the post season awards.

There are a number of concerns that present a challenge to football and all high school athletics that we need to address. One concern that has a negative impact on football is the increased specialization of athletes in one sport, year around activities. Football is one of the last sports that encourages athletes to be multifaceted and to enjoy as well as explore during their high school experience. Many of our athletes are burned out by the time they get to high school because of over emphasis on single sports when they are too young. I urge all football coaches to take an active role in their schools and communities to promote multisport athletic participation. Simple things like special awards for multisport athletes in our schools might be a starting point.

I also urge football coaches to be active in their communities and the political environment to counter the attempt to increase governmental intervention in high school athletics. An agenda to put more governmental control over the Minnesota State High School League would likely mean less input from coaches and educators who truly act in the interest of students and fairness. At the same time, we must continue to encourage funding of high school athletics as an integral part of the education process.

The Football Advisory Committee to the MSHSL for next year is composed of the follow-

ing people: Steve Radniecki, Norman County East, and Keith Bergstedt, Cromwell for nine-man; Gene Stritesky, Ogilvie, and Kent Mikkelsen, RTR for 1A; Steve Ott, Deer River, and Ken Belanger, Zumbrota-Mazeppa from 2A; Terry Turek, LeSueur-Henderson, and Dave Hylla, Proctor from 3A; Jeff Mumm, Thief River Falls, and Wally Malmstrom, Mahtomedi from 4A; Dave Fritze, Eagan, and James Miller, Rochester Mayo from 5A. If you have any concerns that you would like to be brought to the attention of the MSHSL, please contact your class representative before September 15.

In closing, I would like to thank all coaches who work diligently in their schools and communities to promote football and create an environment for our kids to have success. Many of your efforts may go unnoticed but take heart in the fact that your commitment is laying the foundation for the development of our future leadership and successful and productive members of society. Of all experiences that our students can have, football best provides the environment for building characteristics that are essential for success in the game of life.

Have a great '97 season.

Respectfully,
Dave Hylla
Proctor High School

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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.

"Hill City Football - Odds and Ends"

By Dennis Holsman, Head Coach, Hill City High School

About The Author



B.S. Physical Education, UM Duluth, 1975.

B.A.S. Health Education, UM Duluth, 1976.

M.S. Educational Administration BSU.
Presently enrolled.

1997 Region 7A Athletic Director of the Year.
Served on MSHSL Football Advisory Council.
Executive Secretary for Great Northern Football
Conference. Chairman of Section 5 9-Man
Committee.

Coaching Record: 98-83 after 20 years. Two
State Tournaments, four Conference
Championships, three Conference Runners-up.

Wife Mary of 22 years; daughter Val 15,
Dennis III 13, Zachary 10.

My first 9-Man football game came as the head
coach of the Hill City Hornets. In 9-Man, I believe
the skills of a football player are more challenged
than in 11-Man.

In that first game there were defensive ends that
could stop the sweeps and penetrate on the pass
rush. We had big, quick tackles that dominated the
line of scrimmage stopping the powers and the
dives. The linebackers filled holes like granite and
yet were able to fill the zone passing lanes. The
defensive backs could lock up one on one with any
receiver in the conference.

In the first 10 years of my tenure at Hill City,
those kinds of players were available year in and
year out. With those players, came two state tour-
nament appearances; four conference champi-
onships and three conference runners-up. Being

realistic you have to acknowledge that as quickly
as the talent was there, it quickly can be gone.

Our student population was between 100-135
during those early years and presently we have a
top three class population of 72. My point here is
leading to the fact that there are ball players that
need to be "made" and "found" in the 9-Man
school. If you have good size and speed - champi-
onships and wins seem to come in abundance.

The following is a collection of observations that
have been a foundation to keeping Hornet football
fundamentally sound and competitive on the field
over the past 20 some years.

WEIGHT ROOM - This is the foundation of
"making" players. Players believe in themselves
every time their name moves on the bump board.
Making that player 25 pounds stronger will lead to
better performances for him on the playing field.

During the season, lifting takes place two days a
week with the sole purpose of maintaining the
strength and power of the athlete. School year lift-
ing gets a great boost when your master schedule
allows you to have a weight lifting class and most
of your players are in that class. Open gym weight
room allows those not in class to lift and train with
an interested community volunteer. During the
summer we also incorporate home lifting groups
in the smaller communities where players can get
together three days a week to maintain their lifting
program.

DAILY SKILLS - Each coach has this pre-
designed sequential list of drills that is performed
every day by the backs, receivers and linemen.
Receivers and linemen have to divide their time
between two different skill areas. We will spend 30
to 60 minutes of practice time each day covering
and repeating the skills.

The 6-inch step from our stand point is the
most important teaching point made each day dur-
ing daily skills. Other names having been attached
to it are start step, quick step, lead foot. The basic
player position is his stance and from his stance
comes that first step. The 6-inch step triggers
every other movement toward a successful block,
run or tackle. Work on the quick start is a never
ending challenge for any player. The 6-inch step

aligns your foot-work which then in turn gets your legs and upper body ready to hit. Repetitions on this 6-inch step hopefully carry over into having all linemen and backs moving simultaneously and quickly.

TEAM PROJECT - Each year our football club takes on a money raising project that most importantly brings the players together for a common cause. Some years the project is selling a product to earn weight room equipment or a practice jersey. One year we planted trees for several landowners in our areas, we didn't make much money but it was a great team building experience and a start for conditioning week. Habitat for Humanity is building a home this summer in Hill City and helping with that as a team is high on our list of projects.

PARENT-BBQ NIGHT - Each fall on the Thursday night prior to the opening game of the season the coaches sponsor our annual parents BBQ night. Parents are invited to attend practice on the field to watch how things are supposed to happen in the upcoming season. The practice is the typical "run through everything" practice. After practice the coaches grill hamburgers for all parents, players and family members. Burgers are provided by the coaches while the players families provide a favorite dish to share.

After the BBQ, parents and interested guests are invited to an informational session that is lead by the coaches. Items from philosophy, team regulations, schedules and practice routines, offenses and defenses and anything else that is for the good of the cause. This meeting sets the groundwork for open communication to the parents. Because the meeting is initiated by the coaches, it puts the coaches in the proactive by letting parents know that we want only the best for their ball player and for our football program. It's a great way to start a season.

DIVERSITY - In our small school program, we capitalize on everyone's talents. Using a player's hidden talents is a must when your squad only dresses 25 players in grades 10-12. We are continually looking for a talent that can help us in a desperate time of need. We are always looking for Randall McDaniel and Kordell Stewart at Hill City. For one game, our punter had a pulled muscle in

his leg and was not available to punt. We accepted tryouts for punting and found this big tackle who could boom the ball. One must keep looking for that player that can bail you out in a time of need. Once a week in practice we take the opportunity to practice those unexpected combinations of players in different positions.

You must prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

MORE ODDS AND ENDS

Recruiting plays a big role in maintaining a competitive squad. Winning does a lot to promote your program. Even in winning, there are some kids that need a little one on one encouragement as a freshman or sophomore to try the game. Seniors are not out of the scene at this point either. First year seniors have been impact players for our program several times.

Playing time is critical at every level of the game. Find the spot for every kid that puts on a helmet. Make sure that playing time is appropriate and stand back to enjoy the benefits.

Assistant coaches have to be given major responsibilities. More eyes and minds make your program. Make each coach an integral part of your campaign.

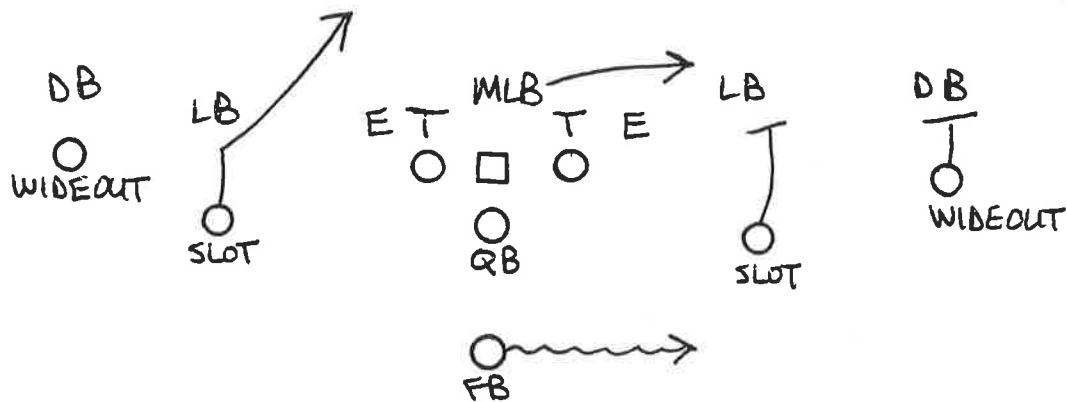
Practice the **kicking game** for considerable lengths of time at least twice a week. Many games are determined at the mercy of some aspect of the kicking game.

Accentuate the positive at every opportunity. Every day at the end of practice we take the time to compliment and praise individual and team play of the day. Our coaching staff believes in the power of praise throughout each day and season. Don't get us wrong. When some ball player needs to be corrected or redirected our coaches get excited, but it's done positively with praise and reinforcement.

Games and practices are left on the field of play. We believe in giving every practice and game our best and take great pride in those efforts. Don't misunderstand - no one likes to lose. One must keep the game fun and enjoy the great play of the athletes.

Favorite play. Every coach has a dozen favorite plays just as long as a touchdown is scored. Here's one from the Hill City playbook:

Spread Option



FB - motions either way and looks for swing pass.

QB - reads MLB to pick up the FB; either passes or sneaks.

SLOT - reads MLB for slant pass.

WIDEOUT - gives presnap signal to QB on a potential pass route.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity for writing this article for the Minnesota Football Coaches Magazine.

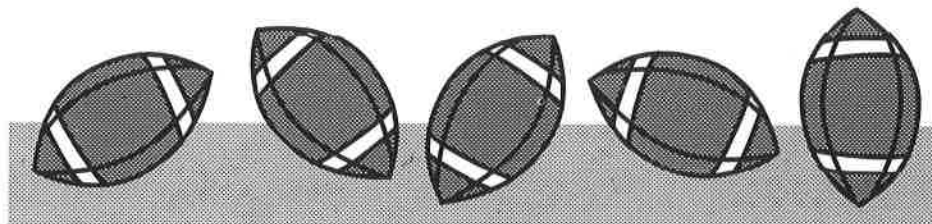
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The Triple Option: The Best Play in Football

By Randy Jones, Shakopee High School

About The Author



A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Superior, spent one season with the Capitol City Cobras in Sacramento, CA before coming to Shakopee as an assistant coach in 1985. In 1991, Randy took over the the head position at Holy Angels Academy and held that position through the spring of 1995. He then returned to Shakopee as head coach of the Sabers. He was the head coach for the National College All Star Team in 1996 and selected as Missota Conference Coach of the Year in 1994. Randy is married with two children.

I grew up in a coaching family. My father coached high school and college football. He was a true believer in the passing game, and I adopted his philosophy towards the game. When I received my first coaching job in 1985, I continued to employ an offense that was based around the pass. It was exciting, but I had never found the consistency I was looking for, both in offensive production and wins.

In 1991 I took a job at The Academy of Holy Angels, a small Catholic school in Richfield, Minnesota. We did not have many athletes playing football, and we certainly did not have great size. The first two games at Holy Angels were against schools whose quarterbacks were bigger than any other players we had on our squad. So I stuck with the passing game, believing the theory that we could not play a power game against much larger teams. Once again, we did not gain consistency on offense. Without a consistent offensive scheme, the defense was always under pressure. We needed a change. I began looking at other options.

When I finally committed to changing our entire offense to the triple option running game, the only thing that I was sure of was that we needed a change. I had always toyed with the option, but this was different. We were totally committing to the option game.

I began to study films and read books, and as I continued to fine tune the play book I became more excited about the option game. I quickly fell in love with this style of play. The option game was a tough sell with our players, but just like me, the more we worked on the schemes, the more confident we became in this style of offense. The results were immediate. We went from a doormat in our conference, to a very solid football team that finished three points away from a conference title. In 1994 we posted the best season in school history. After taking the head coaching job in Shakopee, Minnesota, we continued to employ the triple option offense. In this article I would like to share with you what I believe to be the single best play in football: **The triple option.**

Designing the offense: I do not believe in the theory that we should run only a few plays and that we should run them well. I believe in having a system as complete as we can intelligently teach our players. Remember, anything is simple to the person who understands it. We use audibles at the line of scrimmage about 70 percent of the time.

OBJECTIVES:

The offense will be based around the inside veer (true reads).

We will run the option at three levels of attack:
A. Mid line option (A gap); B. Inside veer (B gap);
C. Outside veer (C gap); D. Double option (D gap).

We will run out of multiple formations.

We need a system that will adapt to our existing talent.

Must have solid misdirection plays.

Must have a consistent play action passing scheme.

We must be able to run all levels of the option and throw the ball from any formation.

Have a line and back blocking scheme that will adjust to various defensive sets.

THE TRIPLE OPTION:

Our base play is the inside veer. We begin by assigning numbers to the defensive personnel. This numbering system works throughout our entire option offense.

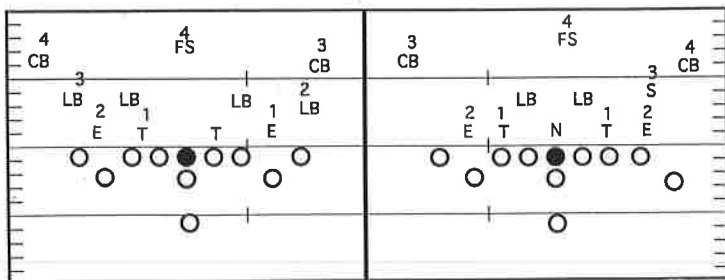
No. 1 - Is the first defender on the line of scrimmage outside of the B gap. This is the person who is responsible for the fullback read.

No. 2 - Is the second defender on the line of scrimmage outside of the B gap. This is the person who is responsible for the quarterback.

No. 3 - Is the defender we consider to be responsible for the pitch man. This is usually the strong safety or outside linebacker. The defender we consider No. 3 varies with defenses and defensive schemes. We want to block No. 3.

No. 4 - Is the defender we consider the run off man. This defender is usually the cornerback. As with No. 3, this man changes with defensive schemes. We want to block No. 4 or the receiver will run him off and scheme with his pass routes.

See diagram below:



RULES FOR PLAYERS:

Playside End - Stalk block No. 4 (can call block with playside HB).

Playside Tackle - Do not block No. 1 (must block the playside LB).

Playside Guard - Veer block (or can call block and switch with playside tackle).

Center - Veer block (if uncovered, must block backside LB).

Backside Guard - Veer block (rip down field to the playside).

Backside Tackle - Veer block (rip down field to the playside).

Backside End - Scheme to play side.

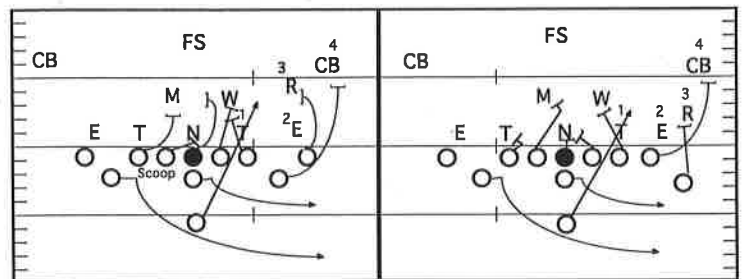
Lead HB - Arc block on No. 3 (can call block with playside end).

Pitch Back - Maintain pitch relationship (3 yd. x 3 yd.).

Full Back - Take a path over the outside hip of the playside guard (mesh with QB while reading veer blocks).

Quarterback - Mesh with FB and "read" the first defender on LOS outside of the B gap. If No. 1 doesn't take the FB, give the ball and carry out a running fake while attacking No. 2. If No. 1 takes the FB, the "option" the next defender (No. 2). If No. 2 doesn't take you, turn up the field. If the No. 2 takes you, pitch to trail HB.

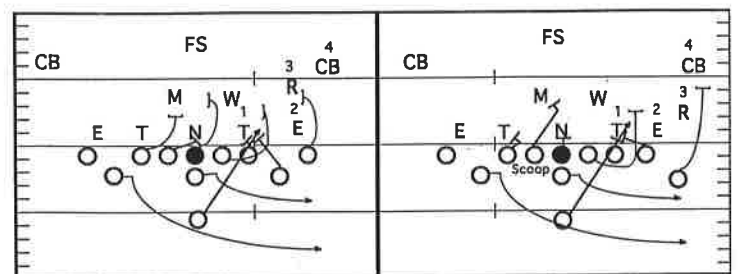
THE INSIDE VEER:



THE OUTSIDE VEER:

The outside veer is an excellent adjustment for teams that reduce down. This option takes place wider than the inside veer. The FB will follow a path to the inside hip of the playside tackle. The numbering system is the same, but on this option we block No. 1. The first read for the QB is No. 2. The blocking scheme will be a double team block with the playside tackle and end and a fold (block down-step around) with the playside guard.

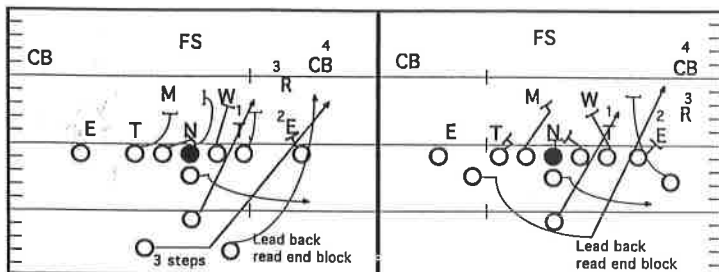
See diagram below.



THE BELLY OPTION:

The Belly Option is run exactly the same as the inside veer. We still read No. 1 with the FB, but instead of running the option with a pitch, we will hand the ball off to the trail HB instead of pitching to him. This is excellent against teams that scheme with the ends (No. 2) or when No. 3 and No. 4 invert and scheme. The playside end will block No. 2 in the direction he wants to go. The lead

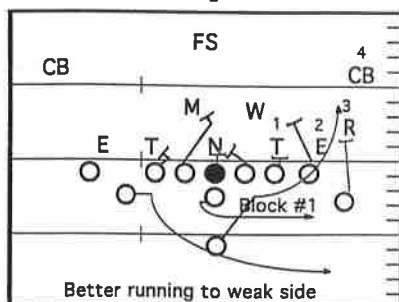
HB will take a path opposite of the block of the playside end, and he becomes a lead for the trail back. This can become an inside or outside lead.



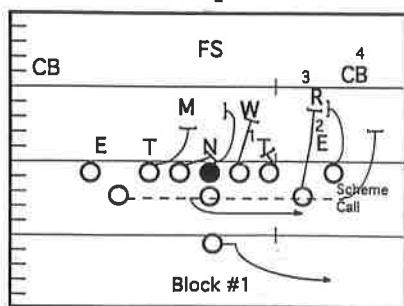
DOUBLE OPTIONS:

We run the double option two ways: **5-6** is a double option using the HB as the pitch back; **7-8** is the double option using the FB as the pitch back. The QB will always use a reverse pivot on these plays. If a trap is called on a **5-6**, the FB will fill the hole of the trapping guard. If a trap is called on a **7-8**, the line will make the adjustment to block down to allow the guard to trap out. The **7-8** is extremely successful when running to the unbalanced side and using motion with the HB to create greater down field blocking.

5-6 Option



7-8 Option



Blocking Rules for playside back and playside end

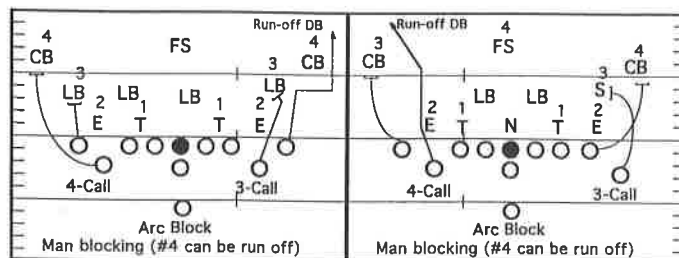
We need to block down field successfully if we are to run the option. This is more difficult in high school football because of blocking restrictions.

We have four types of blocking schemes we use between the playside end and the playside back. The playside back will call block for the option, and the playside end will take the opposite responsibility.

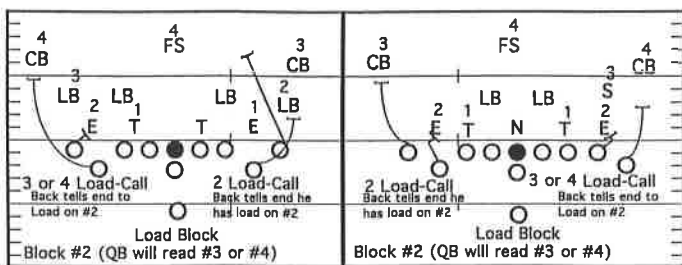
The blocking calls follow our numbering scheme: No. 3 is the man we consider responsible for the pitch and No. 4 is the man we consider as run off or the pass defender. No. 3 must be blocked, but No. 4 can be blocked or the player responsible for No. 4 can scheme with him. When the playside end is split wide, we want him to take No. 4 unless the defense is scheming with No. 3 and No. 4. If we run out of an unbalanced formation, the outside man on the line will always have run off responsibility.

The blocking technique will be a contact mirror technique unless we load or scoop, then we will follow line blocking techniques (drive blocks).

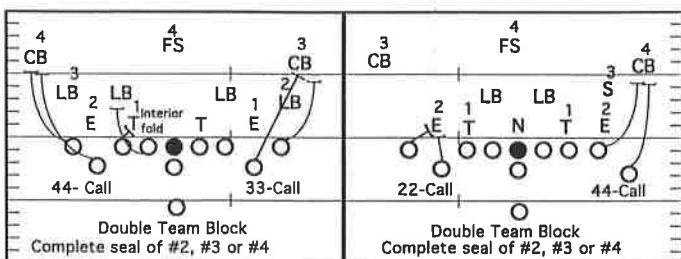
The Arc Block - This block is called a 3 or 4. This is the man block is our system. The purpose of this scheme is to seal off the No. 3 and No. 4 man down field. If the HB calls a 3, it then becomes his responsibility to block the No. 3 man. The playside end will then block the No. 4 man. If the HB calls a 4, it then becomes his responsibility to block the No. 4 man. The playside end will be responsible for the No. 3 man.



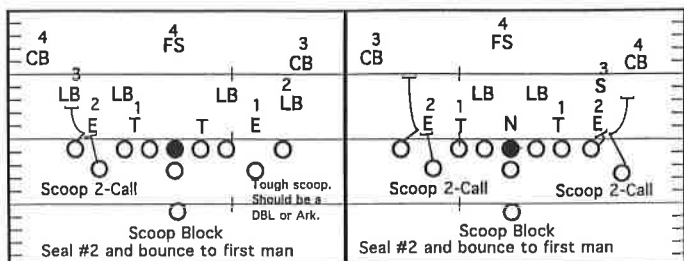
The Load Block - This block is called a Load 2-3-4. We use this block to seal the No. 2 man and force a deeper man to cover the QB. If the HB calls a Load 2, it is his responsibility to load block the No. 2. The playside end will block the No. 3 or No. 4 man. If the HB calls a Load 3, it is the ends responsibility to load block the No. 2 man and the playside back will block the No. 3 man. If the HB calls a Load 4, it is the end's responsibility to load block the No. 2 man and the playside back will block the No. 4 man.



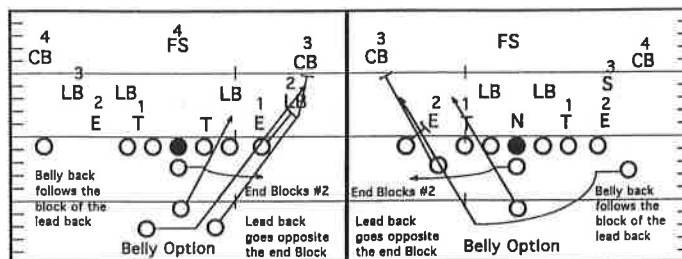
The Double Team Block - This block should be used more on the outside veer since we are reading No. 2 as the dive and No.3 as the pitch. The back will call a 22, 33, or 44. This means that the playside back and playside end will both block the No. 2, No. 3, or No. 4 man.



The Scoop Block - This block is used when we need more help in sealing the No. 2 man, but we must still block No. 3 or No. 4. The playside back and the playside end will both seal No. 2; then one will bounce out and block the first man to show. This is used mainly in short yardage situations.



Blocking for the Belly Option - There is no scheme for the Belly Option. The playside end will block No. 2 in the direction he wants to go. The playside back will then lead block opposite of the end block and seal the first man to show.



I hope that this article has been informative for you. We have taken a system that has been around for years and developed the schemes into a package we feel very comfortable with. I am a true believer in the triple option offense. I have become like a child with a new toy. I love to play around with the system, and I continue to change areas to fit our talent and to attack the talent of our opponents. But as with any offense, execution is the key to success.

Resources:

Football's Explosive Multi-bone Attack by Tony Demeo.

"The No Huddle Wishbone System" by Lavern Pottinger (video).

"The L.U.M.B. Blocking System" by Robert Thomas.



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Don't Be Afraid To Ask

By Phil Jensen and Mike Vogel

About The Author



L-R: Head Coach Phil Jensen, Asst. Coach John Vogel, Asst. Coach Dave Louzek, and Asst. Coach Mike Vogel.

Phil Jensen graduated from Battle Lake High School in 1980 where he lettered in four sports and competed on three state tournament football teams. He attended Moorhead State University and graduated in 1985 with a B.S. degree in Physical Education. In 1984 and 1985 he was an assistant coach in Dilworth. In the fall of 1986 Phil accepted a position at Moose Lake which has included, head boy's basketball coach for six years, assistant football coach for four years and head football for six years. Phil has also been the head boy's track coach for 11 years. This year he was the Polar League Conference Coach of the Year.

Mike Vogel is a graduate of Mahtomedi High School and St. Cloud State College. He has a master's degree from the University of Texas. Mike has been a teacher at Moose Lake High School since 1964 and has been a head coach of hockey and track. He has been the assistant football coach for the past six years.

In 1991 we took over a very successful Rebel football program from long time coach Bob Youso. That first year, with many starters returning we continued with the established Power I offense and finished with a 5-5 record. The next year we put in our own offense, the wishbone, and struggled for the next two seasons. We knew it was time to get some help so we started to ask questions.

We knew of some very successful veer offense programs in colleges and high schools throughout

Minnesota. We found that the coaching staffs from these schools were more than eager to help. Coaches from these high schools came over to Moose Lake and put on a spring clinic for us. The first thing we learned was that you don't just "put in" an offense. Anyone can draw up plays, but the important part is teaching the athletes how to run the plays. It's a total teaching program, the coaches and the players. The quarterbacks had to learn the veer steps and reads, the linemen had to learn the veer type of blocking, and the backs the veer running approach. We started to teach and learn.

We gradually started to become successful, but continued to ask for more help and each year our offense would get a little better. In 1994 and 1995 we were 5-4 and still learning. Last year with the seniors having four years of experience and a tremendous amount of confidence with the veer, we had a very successful 7-2 season.

It is very important to build confidence in your system throughout your entire program. Your Junior High, 9th grade, and JV all must be doing the same types of drills and fundamentals. Even at the varsity level we spend a tremendous amount of time each day teaching stance and steps along with the other fundamental skills needed to run the veer. One thing that we do that has helped our Junior High program is that on Mondays, when the JV has a game, our Junior High will practice with the varsity. It is very rewarding to see your junior and senior players teaching and coaching the same skills and fundamentals that you have taught them. This also develops a great role model situation for the younger athletes.

We have seen some very interesting defenses designed to stop the veer offense and often talk to coaches on the telephone and at clinics to get help with changes and additions. We are still learning. The veer is special in that a defense can be designed to stop a certain part of the offense but not the total package.

Our asking for help doesn't stop with offense. When we have to defend unique offenses that we are not familiar with, we get on the phone and ask questions of high school and college coaches. We do the same for our special teams. We try to

attend as many clinics as possible and visit with coaches from around the state. We feel if we can gain one new drill or one coaching tip, the clinic has been a success for us.

We have found football coaches to be a very special group of people that are more than willing to share ideas, so don't be afraid to ask, after all

the last "new thing" in football was the forward pass.

We would like to thank the MHSFCA for giving us the opportunity to contribute to the Minnesota Football Magazine and to all the coaches that have shared their knowledge and ideas with us.

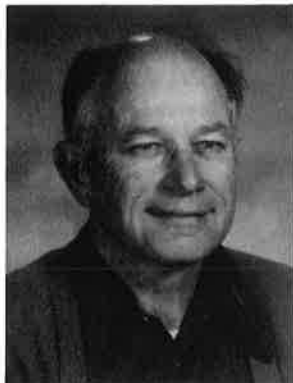


Ryan Nodland #1 fights for yardage against conference foe Brainerd in the quarter-finals of the state playoffs. Blocking for the Cardinals, #54 All-Conference tackle Doug Schultz and #21 Jeremiah Savor. Defending for Brainerd #45 Dan Whirley, #37 Chris Studer and #34 Grant Haglin.—Central Lakes Conference

Maintaining Continuity During Continual Change

By Ken Hill, Head Coach, Sauk Rapids High School

About The Author



Sauk Rapids High School and St. Cloud State University graduate.

Teacher and coach in Grove City, Waldorf-Pemberton and Le Center, MN.

Football assistant at St. Cloud State and returned to Sauk Rapids in 1970.

Record at Sauk Rapids 133-117-1.

Things keep changing year after year, but football in high school remains one of the great teaching tools.

The rules of the game seem to change a little every year. Some major rules in blocking have affected some styles of play and the types of players put in some positions. The game is still a tough contact sport demanding physical, mental and emotional discipline beyond that of many other activities. I think that may be why young men are so attracted to the sport.

In Sauk Rapids many changes have taken place that I thought would reduce the number of boys playing football: paying fees, reduced activity buses, the push by some activities to go all year long. Yet the percent of the male students playing football has remained about the same the last twenty some years. When I try to understand why boys like to play the game I find about as many reasons as I have players.

Our basic philosophy has remained almost the same over my many years at Sauk Rapids. We only have a few guiding principles by which we try to steer our program.

1. Try to make this a positive educational experience for each and every player.

2. Don't ask a player to do anything he is physically unable to do.

3. Build a trust relationship with your players.

4. Try to have fun in practice and leave each day feeling positive about what we are trying to accomplish.

We make changes every year in order to follow these principles. Our offense may change a little based on our physical abilities and sometimes because of our mental abilities. The same is also true for the other parts of the game, defense and special terms.

Building a trust relationship always requires the coaches to be up front with the players. I try never to make them to do anything I am not willing to do myself. My conduct, work habits and treatment of other people are very important in setting an example that they can identify and follow. This helps them feel positive and confident in going about their tasks.

We can seldom predict the outcome of a contest. We can however, practice and expect and even demand certain outcomes of specific situations. This means we can develop character, sportsmanship, and respect.

In every group we find people who will step forward and lead. I call them our "pullers." We also find people who would rather follow. We try to get "followers" to be "pushers" to help get our team all going in the same direction.

Our players come to us with many individual differences. This can be troublesome at times and make it difficult to get them all working together for the good of the team. I feel it is important that they are all treated the same, but handled differently. Some players respond to a raised voice and direct confrontation, while others respond better to a personal conversation away from their teammates. We try hard to develop a rapport that will help us meet some of these individual differences and/or needs.

Each year the team is unique in several ways. This is one of the things that makes it such a challenge and rewarding experience to be a football coach, always looking for and using those teaching

moments. Some come because of planning and organizing as in any laboratory setting. Others come in game situations or the results of a contest. In football I find them everywhere, before, during, and after practice, going to and coming from games on those bus rides. Many have direct values in life, examples that need little explanation for the individual to understand. Using these moments can have a lasting effect. They can

bring out the best in people in the toughest of circumstances.

Having coached over three decades has not lessened my excitement and anticipation for the start of high school football in 1997. I hope you and your players can take advantage of life's many lessons and enjoy the fun of high school football in 1997 and beyond.



Mark Mokoff of Northfield picks off one of his 15 for the year.—Missota Conference

Give the Game Back to the Players

By John Thiel, Head Coach, Breck School

I have been coaching football for 18 years, seven were on the collegiate level. I have always been disappointed that unlike when I played we as coaches did not let the players make calls and adjustments during the game. I was guilty of it, too. I hid behind the usual excuses...coaches have greater knowledge of the opponent...coaches have more knowledge of their team...and the best one: take the responsibility off the shoulders of the players so they can just play and enjoy the game.

As a defensive coordinator at Pomona College and Macalester College and now as head coach at Breck School I have been fortunate to deal with the cream of the intellectual crop. These players were not always the most talented but they certainly had the intelligence to learn football. When I say "learn football" I mean more than techniques and robotic movements, but an actual understanding of the game. Yet I still refused to let them call plays offensively and defensively.

Oh, I had given the quarterbacks the usual "you have the right to change the play" line. But in reality no quarterback changes the play. After a few years at Breck I questioned one of my quarterbacks, Matt Anderson, why he never audibled. Matt once threw 50 passes in one game and held most of our passing records until Gavin Hoffman (All State '96) came along. Matt's response was personally troubling, "What would I change it to, you haven't taught me how to call plays." After a long discussion I realized that, yes, Matt could call a play but had no idea why it was being run or what were its strengths and weakness. If someone presented something new none of our players could understand it and make an adjustment.

After some time thinking about my discussion with Matt I became concerned that I was doing the players an injustice. I had not taught them the game of football, only how to play the game. Sure my players knew their responsibilities and techniques inside and out but they had no idea why there were doing them. I was producing good football players who knew little about the game they loved. They would become arm chair quarterbacks that I despised so much.

This realization caused a dramatic change in my

coaching philosophy. I was going to give the game back to the players. No, I could not just throw the ball out and let them have fun, but I had to teach them the ins and outs of the game. When I first approached my coaching staff with this idea they, like most of you, thought I was nuts. But when I talked with the players they were excited. Seeing the players interest in learning the game and having my reassurance that we were not giving players carte blanche brought my coaches around to at least give it a try.

For the entire off season I attended every clinic on every facet of the game I could. My favorite question was WHY?. I made every presenter justify why they were doing what they were doing. To my surprise many did not have a clue. It was how it was taught to them. I was mystified with these supposed knowledgeable coaches. Many did it because San Francisco or the previous coach did it that way. Needless to say I was depressed. My idea of excellent coaches changed radically. Coaches who previously I had a lot of respect, I now considered idiots. I questioned whether I could pull off what I was considering. If all these great coaches did not think it could be done then how could I do it. These guys spend their whole life doing football.

Well, I decided that if I was going to stay in the game I had to become a teacher of football. My players would have to learn the game. Personally, I needed this intellectual challenge. I was bored with coaching robots. High school players could not do enough to keep me interested in the game. On the college level I could always introduce a new front, stunt or coverage but my present players could not keep pace.

First and foremost we had to scrap our grab bag offense and find a football philosophy and system that we believed strongly was the best for our situation at Breck School. Despite popular belief, most private schools do not recruit. I have never recruited anyone to come to Breck School. So our philosophy had to take advantage of the skills of our players and be flexible enough to change as our talent changed.

Defensively, we were fine. I had been a defen-

sive coordinator collegiately for seven years. The defense was well defined, yet flexible enough to handle the different abilities we would get over the years. I only had to teach my coaches why we were doing things this way.

Offensively it was a different matter. It took a great deal of sole searching to understand what I believed and how it could be instituted on the high school level. In fact that first season after my revelation I changed my mind quite a bit. Both my players and coaches were frustrated. But we worked it out that year and by the end of the season we were sitting pretty good on a strong basic philosophy. I had a lot to learn offensively and with the patience of players and coaches we worked through a great deal. With that season over, attending clinics and talking to coaches personally became the priority. I believe I spent well over 200 hours working on our offense. The result has been a great offense that can take advantage of the talents our players bring to us.

During this phase I did not spend as much time on special teams as I should have but there are only so many hours in a day. Luckily my assistant coaches did an outstanding job and really developed our specialists. We have a great special team philosophy and it allows us to rest most of our starters and get valuable playing time to younger players and upperclassmen who may not be very talented.

So now you're asking yourself, when is he going to tell us how they 'teach' football? Well, here it is. **Nothing is introduced without us going over why we do it, its strengths, weaknesses and how it is applied.** Everything we or an individual will do on the field is thoroughly discussed. Now you might say that it takes too long to do it this way. Your right, if only coaches did the teaching and you are thinking of only winning the next game. We have taken a long range approach. We expect our upperclassmen to teach as well. We also do not expect the underclassmen to thoroughly understand every concept. They pick it up as we go along. Everyone practices together. Our coaches are divided up by position. No one is a JV coach. No one teaches the entire offense or defense. I have seen it many times where a JV or freshmen coach is just trying to get the kids to line up right because they are working with too many

to teach them properly. We have five paid coaches on our staff and usually one volunteer that completed our program.

Because we are a small school, our kids go both ways. So do our coaches. Every coach teaches one defensive and one offensive position. Defensively we break down as two coach defensive backs, two coach linebackers, and two coach line. Offensively; one - quarterback (me), one - running back, one - wide receiver, one - TE, and two - line. Every player learns from the 9th grade on up the same fundamentals, techniques, responsibilities, and reasons from the same coach. We introduce a wide variety of defenses and offenses as well as our own. We have found that most of our players are behind when they are freshmen and we usually lose the first few JV games. But as the season goes along they start to play even with more talented teams. By the end of the sophomore year they are intellectually playing a year ahead of themselves and as juniors they truly understand what is going on. Our players are rarely caught off guard by surprises because they understand not only the concepts of what we do but also football.

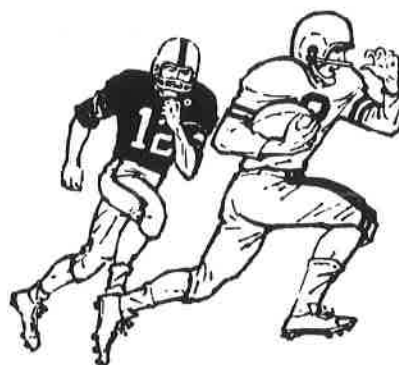
When we add something new I introduce it to the team. We go over all the ins and outs. A question period then occurs and by the end of the day we are running it and most of our players can tell you why we run it and its strengths and weakness. Whether it is a blocking scheme or a pass pattern the entire team is introduced to it. It has become imperative that everyone understand what we are doing. Our seniors have become coaches on the field. They understand what the opponent is doing and why. They make adjustments during the series. When we call time out my first question is what is happening. Next, what adjustments should be made. After a brief discussion, a decision is made and we go with it. I cannot count the number of times I have gone out on the field and find the discussion has already taken place and a decision has been made. Our players can logically present their opinion and I have come to trust their decisions.

This past season every signal caller from Hoffman to the backup linebackers and safeties on the JV called their own signals. No coach questioned a single call all year. If we did not under-

stand a call we would discuss it with the caller. He was never told he was wrong. We may point out other options but we encouraged their growing confidence. Yes, mistakes were made but we reaped the benefits of having signal callers that could take advantage of what the defense or offense gave them. We have all stood on the sidelines and looked at the opponent and said, Boy, I wish I had called...! This year our signal callers made the adjustments. We took advantage of our opponents weaknesses. It was a great deal of fun to see this process become successful. Now, every signal caller believes they can be as successful as Hoffman. We encourage it. It seems like I am talking football, I mean real football, every day. Discussions take place on coverages, patterns and schemes players saw on TV or at the dome. They want to know why things happen the way they do. Our kids are excited by it and we get to enjoy their growth as young adults.

Game days have become much more enjoyable. I am still teaching every chance I get and do not have to worry about what to call and when. I am

teacher and games are my players test. The program has grown and we have become much more successful. College coaches have been impressed with the knowledge of our players and they are able to play much earlier than expected. I believe everyone has benefited from our approach including my wife who says I am much more relaxed and actually fun to be around during the season. Needless to say it hasn't always been that way.



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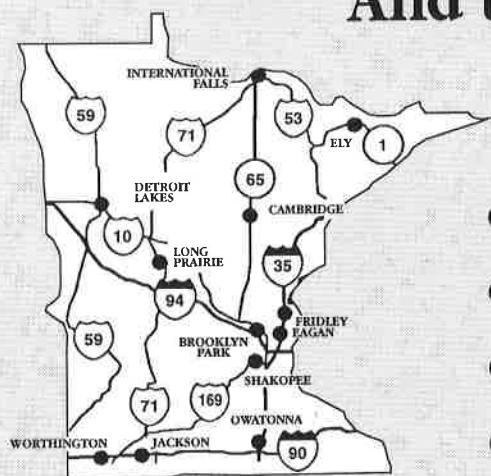
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Reflecting on 25 Years of Coaching

By Gary Turnberg, Dawson-Boyd High School

About The Author



1972 - Present: Dawson-Boyd High School - Health & Physical Education, Athletic Director, Head Football Coach, Head Golf Coach.

1993: M.A., University of St. Thomas.

1971: B.S., Moorhead State University.

1970: A.A., North Hennepin State Junior College.

1966: Robbinsdale High School.

Married, wife Julie (Director of Nursing, Johnson Memorial Home, Dawson, MN); daughter Michelle (Weather Anchor/Reporter, KXJB, Fargo, ND).

After 25 years of coaching at Dawson-Boyd High School, two items in particular are quite clear to me. One, coaching is an extremely important vocation that holds a unique opportunity to impact young people's lives; and two, we need young new blood to join our coaching membership.

Having tried to keep my eyes and ears open through the years, allow me to share some of my observations with you. The ideas and views which follow are intended especially for you young, aspiring coaches to contemplate and discuss. As for you old bucks, you are welcome to move on to the next article.

PERSONAL QUALITIES

In any endeavor, the quality of the product stem largely from the passion and integrity which goes into its creation. I can think of no undertaking which reflects this more than coaching. The human qualities which produce success: loyalty, enjoyment, integrity, and professionalism must be especially evident in athletics for there to be accom-

plishment. Any successful coach or athlete inherently knows this to be true.

In my experience, the number-one priority in building a winning chemistry is loyalty. A sincere allegiance to everyone affiliated with the team, including the assistant coaches, players, managers, even the statisticians, must be the rule. Charisma and intensity can carry a coach a short distance, but loyalty creates substance.

It may go without saying that enjoyment is necessary in coaching, but too often I have witnessed coaches that have forgotten how to have fun. Remember, the primary reason young people participate in athletics is for that very purpose—to have fun. You owe it not only to the athletes, but to yourself and your staff to attempt to make every day enjoyable. Remember, laugh and the world laughs with you. Complain, however, and be prepared for loneliness and isolation.

A truly successful coach never compromises his or her integrity. The faith that others will have in you largely depends on your conduct as a professional. It may sound boy-scoutish, but the one lesson we all need to relearn over and over is that strong character is not only imperative to success, in my estimation it defines success. The glamorization in sports of those who behave as deviates is a sad reflection of our society, but the truth is that those with class and integrity will prevail. We all have a choice in how we conduct ourselves, and the fundamental principle that class, like cream, always rises to the top still applies. And common wisdom has taught us that our kids will model us for what we do, not what we say.

COACHING STAFF

One element that makes coaching special is the fact that we are able to share the trials and troubles with our staff. Fostering a sense of team within one's staff is as important as creating chemistry on the field, and has a profound affect on the coaching experience. Ross Fortier (Moorhead State University) taught me that delegating responsibilities to the assistants could produce successful results, but I believe the true message gained from studying Coach Fortier's tactics is that he had

absolute respect and loyalty toward his assistants. This respect exceeded the level we customarily witness, and he was not hesitant to defer credit to those who helped the team.

Once respect is established, the head coach still must have the ability to lead. Leadership is possible only when the person in charge is genuine (in other words, be yourself!), and is organized. Successful head coaches, like successful businessmen, are meticulous and thoughtful. Failing to prepare properly and thoroughly is a certain prescription for disaster.

HUMILITY

No successful coach that I am aware of is completely self-made, and many of the great ones are quick to defer their success to others. It seems as if every story I have read about successful individuals is inundated with acclamation toward someone they have learned from. My advice here is simple: learn from those who have proven themselves, and emulate especially those with good character.

In my coaching career, I have the good fortune to talk "X's and O's" with some of the best in our state, including Ross Fortier (Moorhead State University), Gary Meidt (Minneota HS and Big Lake HS), Irv Nerdahl (Robbinsdale HS), Dan Kostich (Moorhead HS and Concordia College), George Larson (Cambridge HS), Herb Claffey (Milaca HS), Fred Kuss (Fairfax HS), my brother Gerry (Robbinsdale, Bloomington Kennedy and Park Center). Their insights have been invaluable, and in many ways I feel that what I have learned in conversation with them is as enriching as my own experiences.

If one can truly learn coaching from the experiences of others, it only makes sense to spend a fair amount of time studying their work. There are many excellent books written on coaching football, so my advice is to take some time to read what they have to say! One of my personal favorites is entitled *Run and Shoot Football — The Now Attack*, by Glenn "Tiger" Ellefson. In addition to books, attending local and national clinics can be extremely valuable.

PREPARATION

While it is obvious that every good coach is a well prepared coach, the notion still bears repeating. There are so many special situations within any given game: two-point conversions, short

yardage situations, special passes, etc., that demand particular attention. Many coaches have a signature run and pass play in their playbook, and a special stunt on defense. I recommend writing down a plan for each anticipated special situation.

I am also a believer in adapting your offense, defense, and special teams strategies to your personnel. Determine what skills your squad has, and fashion your work accordingly. Trying to fit the talent to the system is often frustrating, and is akin to jamming the proverbial square peg into a round hole. Give each element of your squad — offense, defense, and special teams — equal attention. They are of equal importance.

ETC.

Football is a boy's game, but that doesn't mean you can't get your daughters involved. One distinct pleasure I have experienced as a coach is having my daughter help with stats when she was in grades 10 -12. I wanted her to see her dad and the rest of the staff in action, and to witness the game from our sideline. It allowed her the opportunity to better understand the game and role of her father. Throughout the years, we have had many girls earn their football letters as statisticians at Dawson-Boyd High School, and their presence has been very positive.

The nature of coaching demands that one be an effective "people person." A revealing exercise that I have had the pleasure of experiencing is the Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI). The MBTI is a tool that helps us understand ourselves and the reasons for our behavior. It helps us appreciate others so we are more able to make constructive use of individual differences. I strongly recommend the MBTI for you, your spouse, and your staff — you will learn more about yourself and those you associate with than you can imagine.

The experiences that I have had throughout my years of coaching are among the highlights of my life. I hope that, in reading this, some things that I learned the hard way will help you in your coaching career. The friends that I have made in football are second to none. The bonds that we share as fellow coaches are very special. As for you old bucks who may have more time on your hands, I have a summer wish for you that is twofold: May you catch a 10-pound walleye and break 80 on the golf course.

The Numbers Game and Current Problems

By Terry Turek, Head Coach, LeSueur-Henderson High School

"Football is a game of numbers." This has been a standard line of reasoning for the game of football, virtually since its inception. Football requires a larger number of participants than any other sport available to today's high school athlete. And many believe that is one of the game's main strengths. Many players will find playing time and success more readily in football than in any other sport, especially some of those who may not have a great deal of natural athletic ability. Football is the one activity where they can positively contribute on a regular basis. And most coaches can relate a long list of positive characteristics attributable to football.

Yet how are those numbers doing in Minnesota? According to figures obtained from the Minnesota State High School League, Minnesota students are participating in the game less than they did in previous years. In analyzing the participation figures, from 1983-84 to 1995-96, it can be noted that there has been a 20% drop in overall participation, even though there are as many or more high school age boys now than in earlier times. There were over 22,000 boys registered by the League in 1983 and that figure has declined to just over 18,000 by 1995. It should also be noted that overall participation in league sponsored events has declined over the past dozen years, from an apparent "high" of 208,000 participants in 1983-84 to 192,000 (an approximate 8% drop) by the 1995-96 school year. Given the fact that most people would agree that extracurricular participation has a very positive impact on young people this would seem to indicate a problem that needs to be addressed.

There are apparently several factors that have attributed to these declining numbers, especially for those concerning football. The factors mentioned below are only a few of the many variables involved.

Consolidation/Mergers. This is probably the biggest contributing factor, especially in regard to football. Various mitigating circumstances such as increased distance to school sites, a feeling of a "lost" identity for small communities when they

merge, coaching changes, increased competition for playing time within the merged programs, and various financial considerations all play a role in the decreased numbers. In 1983 Minnesota had 503 high school football teams, by 1995 that number has been "consolidated down" to 382, a 24% reduction. The outcome being obvious: less teams, less playing time, less players.

"Specialization" of athletes. Seemingly, in the 1980's and '90's there is an increasing tendency for athletes, parents, "boosters" and coaches to advocate that some athletes concentrate on only one sport, to the sacrifice of others. Some people feel that this enhances an athlete's ability to perform and/or even increase their chances for team success or even a post high school career. The "association sponsored" team leagues that have increased in size and number over the years are just one piece of evidence of this philosophy of the so-called "year-round" player.

Competition from other activities. As many people already realize, high school students have more choices as to what to do with their time in the '90's than at any other time. Football, which was once the main fall sport of choice (at some schools it was the only choice), now has "competition" from soccer and cross country, sports whose numbers have shown a slight increase in the last 12 years. And there are the numerous "social choices" such as jobs, vacations, athletic specialization, etc.

Financial constraints. The fallout of tighter budgets has already been addressed with the impact of school consolidations. And a lack of funding continues to affect programs by limiting schools' abilities to field junior high teams (as in the Minneapolis district), purchase equipment, hire coaches, maintain facilities, charge participation fees, etc., etc.

Various other considerations could be cited but these would seem to be the major constraints to the success of football as a progressive, positive activity for Minnesota high school students. And what can be done to rectify these problems? The answers are not easy to ascertain.

The Offensive Line - The Team Within A Team

By Ken Jacobson, Head Coach, Chatfield "Gophers", Three Time Defending State Class C Champions

About The Author



L-R: Mike Walker Assistant Coach, Travis Armstrong Assistant Coach, Ken Jacobson Head Coach, Gary Hansen Varsity Assistant Coach and Don Hurley Assistant Coach.

Ken Jacobson has been the head coach at Chatfield High School for 24 years with a career record of 144-100. Under Jacobson, Chatfield has won seven championships and four section championships, and has participated in the state playoffs six times. The Gophers have won three straight Class C State Championships. Ken was awarded the Minnesota Football Coach of the Year for 1995.

Over the last three years, the one question that has been asked of the coaching staff and myself the greatest amount of time is: "What is the one major factor that has contributed the most to our success?" This is very difficult to answer because football is such a team game. To pinpoint one specific aspect would be to possibly shortchange the importance of the other areas in our scheme; however, we all decided that the one area that probably gave us a better chance to be successful was our offensive line.

We have, over the years, worked hard at raising the publicity level for our young men who play the offensive line. We do this through our local paper, the radio show we participate in, Athlete of the Week, and of course, at our team meetings before each practice begins.

Our philosophy at Chatfield is that size and weight are overrated factors in offensive line play. Weight is no good if you can't move it; if you cannot explode from one point to the other, it is use-

less. We believe there are four physical attributes plus seven intangible qualities that are more important than size or weight in effective line play.

The four physical attributes we think make up a good offensive linemen are strength, explosion, quickness, and body control. The seven intangibles are physical toughness, mental toughness, discipline, teamwork, controlled aggression, intelligence, and flexibility.

The first area we look for is strength. This is leg strength first, then upper body strength. This area is usually worked on in our weight lifting program. We have been using the University of Nebraska's hard-easy system which also includes agility drills for the off-season and in-season workouts.

The second area is explosion. We work on leg strength in order to build improvement in this area. What we mean by explosion is: the ability to move the body very quickly from one point to another. Football is a game of explosive movement. The ability to hit an opponent before getting hit can affect any disadvantage one may have in terms of height, weight or overall athletic ability. We work on this area practically every time we practice. We use the chutes and running ropes, plus we run the hill in short bursts. All of these things are incorporated into our drills in practice.

The third area we look at is quickness. What we are referring to here are the hands and feet. When they have this they will be able to reload very quickly. We want our linemen to be able to hit again from a good football hitting position after the initial contact. All of our agility drills work on this specific area.

The fourth area we look for is body control. This is the ability to change direction while keeping the body balanced. We feel the lineman has to get his body moving under control so that he can get in front of the defender. This is reaction and really comes into play in our run blocking schemes.

The intangibles are those areas you can look for when making a decision as to where to play people, or who should play, etc.

The first intangible is physical toughness. We want our linemen to be hitters. Our axiom is hit hard and keep hitting until the whistle blows. We

impress upon our young men that linemen are the only players who hit and get hit on just about every play. If we can get the first blow in every time, maybe by the fourth quarter they (the opponent) may be ready to toss in the towel.

The second intangible is mental toughness. The opponent may be bigger than you, but you still have to block him. If you break down mentally, you will break down physically. We feel that a lineman has to use all of their technique skill and determination to do the job. If they can do this, they will be successful.

The third intangible is self-discipline. We feel that this is a very crucial area because offensive linemen have so many things to be concerned with in a short period of time, i.e. stance, snap count, and a specific assignment on every play. We feel self-discipline is the one thing that gives them the ability to do the job successfully.

The fourth intangible is teamwork. The ability to work with teammates is probably more important in the line than any other area of the field. You have to work with the man on your right and on your left on just about every play. The offensive line is like a little team inside a team. They cannot afford to be selfish. They must depend upon the other person to do his job. If he improves, the whole team will improve so they have to be able to help each other out.

The fifth intangible is controlled aggression. A lot of people think that offensive linemen are passive people. We don't want them to be! We want them to be nasty! They are as nasty as any defensive player, just more disciplined.

The sixth intangible is intelligence. The more intelligent your linemen are, the easier it is to make changes on the go and to recognize the different defensive sets they will see.

The seventh intangible is flexibility. This is the ability to play more than one position on the line. Our people should be able to play more than just tackle or guard or tight end, for that matter. The more flexibility we have, the better we are able to cover the injury factor.

At Chatfield, we work very hard at improving our linemen's blocking technique, reaction time, lateral movement, balance and quickness. All of our linemen participate in other sports, plus they have been very conscientious about their weightlifting, especially with their legs.

Over the last three seasons, we have been blessed with very good to great offensive linemen. Two years ago, our line averaged 190 pounds, but they were quick and almost all of them had six out of seven of the intangibles we look for. In 1995, our line was completely different. They were bigger by about 15 pounds, but not as quick. We worked hard at improving this area and by the end of the season, they had become a very good line. This year our offensive line was larger (235 pound average across the front, including our tight ends). However, we suffered some in quickness. By the end of the season, we felt our quickness had improved greatly and we had a great offensive line. This was borne out by the fact that we averaged over 370 yards total offense per game.

One of the things we have tried to do with our linemen is to have them go only one way. This really has helped us in the fourth quarter when we needed a drive to seal a win or to score a touchdown to secure a win.

We have tried to make playing in the line a prestigious thing so that our younger people will feel a tremendous amount of pride in being part of this team within a team.



"Three Reasons To Use The Spread Punt"

by Dave Faust, Head Coach, Henry Sibley High School

About The Author



Head Coach at Henry Sibley since 1990. He was the Head Coach for the Metro All-Stars for the 1996 All-Star Game.

Previous Football Experience: Hamline University, Brooklyn Center H.S., Northern State College (SD), Anoka-Ramsey Community College and Park Center High School.

He is the chairman of the Football Academic All-State Committee and is a ten year member of the American Football Coaches Association.

On behalf of Henry Sibley High School, coaches and players I wish to thank the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association for the opportunity to contribute to the annual football magazine.

We have used the spread punt formation for the past six years and have gone to using it exclusively in the past four seasons.

This is our spread punt formation. Our splits are:

Guards - 18 inches.

Tackles - 18 inches to 2 feet.

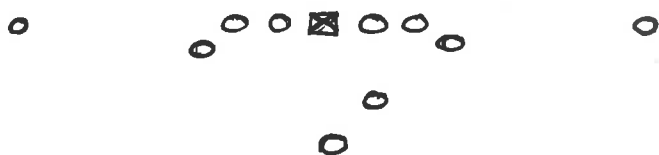
Wing Backs - 18 inches by 1 foot deep.

Ends - 6 to 20 yards.

Protector - 5 yards.

Punter - 12 yards.

DIAGRAM 1



The three reasons for this formation are:

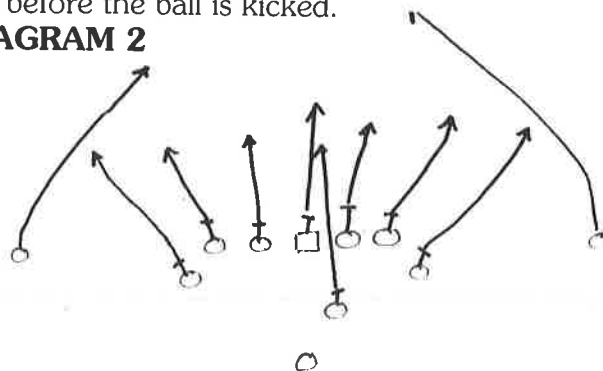
1. Improve coverage, 2. Enhance fake possibilities, 3. Limit opponent punt block combinations.

We do not huddle when we punt. Our protector will call protections or fakes. We feel by not huddling and hustling up to the line we can put pressure on the return team.

1. Improve coverage.

Utilizing split ends who are great coverage players we have created an "outside-in" attack on the return. These players can use space to avoid contact and converge on the ball. Our linemen and wing backs will fan out and cover after they have stopped the opponents charge. It is important to make the players aware (unlike the NFL) they can cover before the ball is kicked.

DIAGRAM 2

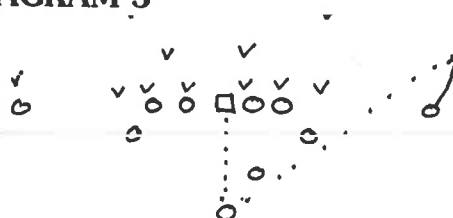


2. Enhance fake possibilities.

Having wing backs and split ends we create the opportunity for four quick receivers to throw to. This can create many different pass possibilities.

Our first fake is an automatic. If our split end is left alone we will throw the ball out to him. The depth of the pass will vary due to the yardage needed for the first down. Both our protector and our punter have been the passer depending on who has the better arm.

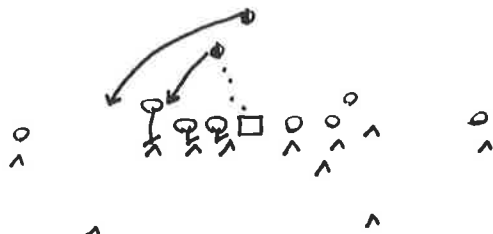
DIAGRAM 3



If teams like to wall return or cover one side of the center with three or less players we will attack the corner with a 2-way option between the protector and the punter. We feel if there are only

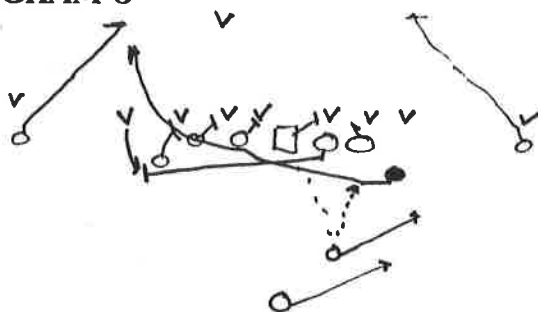
three players on that side of the center we can block all the opponents and put pressure on the corner.

DIAGRAM 4



The third fake I'll mention is a shovel pass to the wingback opposite the option fake. We will pull a guard to kick out the wide rusher.

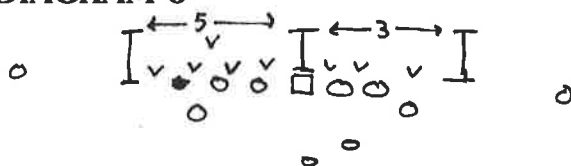
DIAGRAM 5



3. Limit opponent punt block combinations.

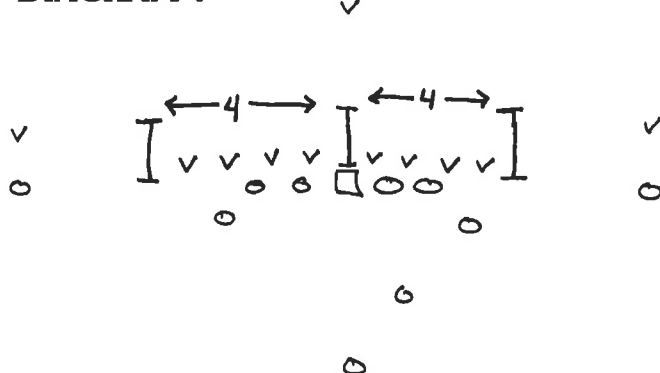
Assuming the opponent has our split ends covered and one player deep to return the kick. We have limited the punt block to an eight man team. If the opponent has three or less players on one side of the center we feel they are vulnerable to a fake.

DIAGRAM 6



If the opponent brings four players from each side we feel with the protector and the center we can handle this situation.

DIAGRAM 7



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The Sprintout Pass Attack

by George Thole, Head Coach, Stillwater High School

About The Author



In his 29 years as a head coach, George Thole has a career record of 266-57-2. He has guided teams to state championships in 1975, 1982, 1984, and 1995. The 1995 state champion team never trailed an opponent during their 14-0 season. This season Stillwater High School reached the Minnesota 2A (large school) semifinals with a record of 12-1.

Philosophy -

We like the sprintout pass attack for these reasons:

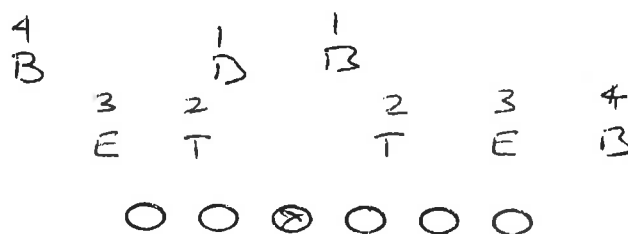
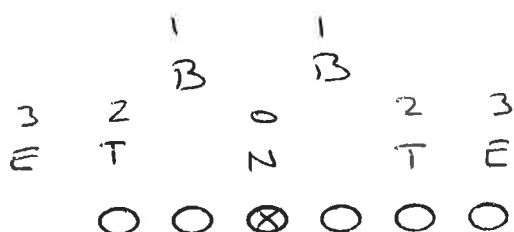
1. It keeps our quarterback on the move.
2. The option to pass or run puts pressure on the defensive perimeter.
3. It involves easy reads for our quarterback.

Protection -

In 90 percent of our offensive plays, both running and passing, we use the same blocking: zone playside and scoop backside. This is true with our sprintout pass attack.

We assign defenders to our lineman by counting the defense. No. 0 is a defender aligned on our center. No. 1 is the first man to each side of the line, No. 2 is the second, and so on.

COUNTING DEFENSES

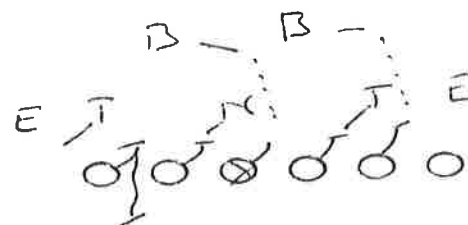
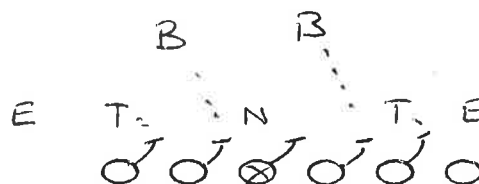


In our sprintout pass protection, we assign our center to the No. 0 man, our guards to No. 1, and our tackles to No. 2. We teach our linemen to block their man through their playside gap, meaning if their man slants backside, he will be blocked by his next teammate backside.

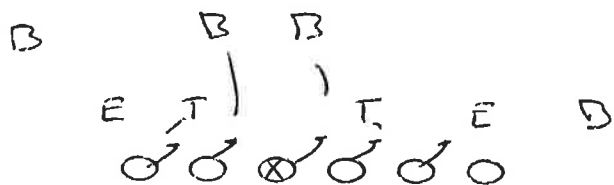
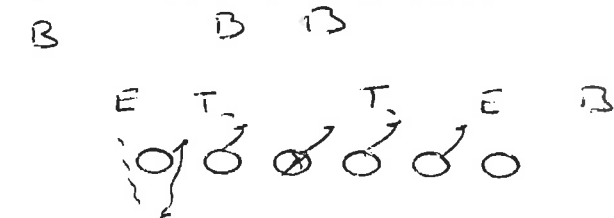
When blocking a defensive lineman, we want our lineman to control the defender's outside breast. We want him to step into his playside gap and whip his head and shoulders upfield. Again, if his assignment slants to the backside, he will look to pick up the next defender playside.

When blocking a linebacker, we want our linemen to step and check the assignment of the linebacker. If the linebacker drops, we tell our playside linemen to help back inside, and our backside linemen to peel back outside.

PROTECTION VS. VARIOUS SCHEMES

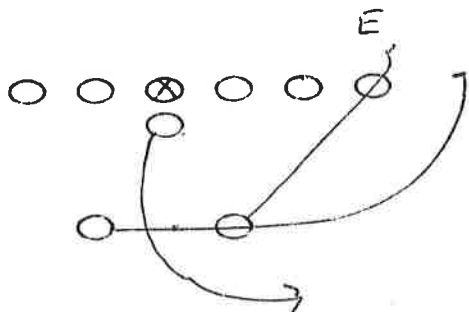


Against a split front the same rules and techniques apply.

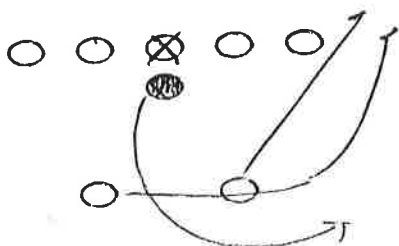
PROTECTION VS. SPLIT FRONT

Our playside back is assigned to block No. 3. We teach him to aim for one yard wider than No. 3 and block him to the inside. We emphasize blocking into the man and not stopping upon contact.

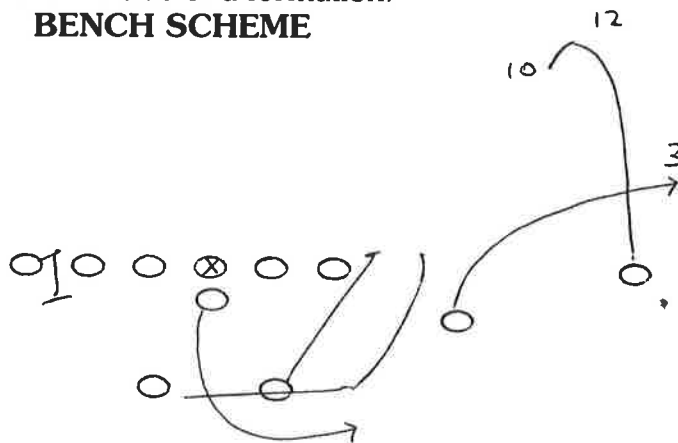
Our backside back is assigned to sprint lateral across the formation and block outside the playside's back's block.

BACKFIELD BLOCKING**Quarterback Technique -**

Our quarterback will reverse pivot and sprint off the tail of the backside back. The main coaching point we stress with our quarterbacks is that they get their shoulders around as soon as possible. They cannot execute the sprintout pass without this aspect of the technique.

QB PATH**Schemes -**

These are a couple of our more successful pattern schemes. The first is our "Bench" scheme. We can run this to either a single receiver or two receiver side of a formation.

BENCH SCHEME

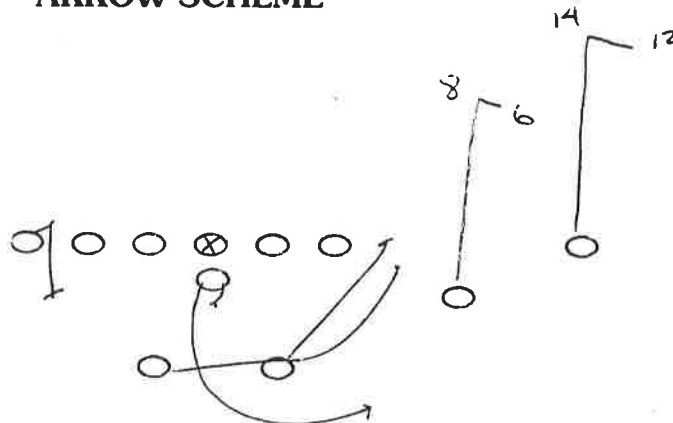
Our receiver is taught to sprint to a depth of 14 yards, plant off his inside foot, and work back to a depth of 12 yards.

We have two receivers in the flat. Our quarterback is taught to sprint out and read the flat defender. If the flanker is covered, the split end should be open.

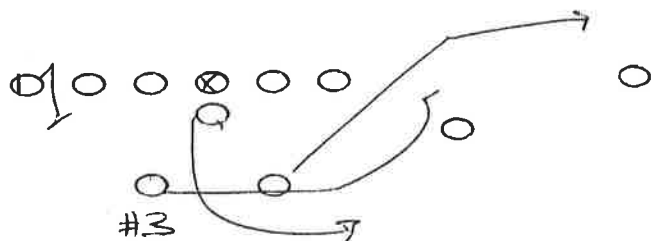
Another scheme we use is the arrow. We can run this to the two receiver side of a pro or twins formation.

Our inside receiver will run into the flat at a depth of three yards. Our outside receiver will run a curl at 12 yards.

Again, we have two receivers in the flat and our quarterback is taught to read the flat defender and throw opposite.

ARROW SCHEME

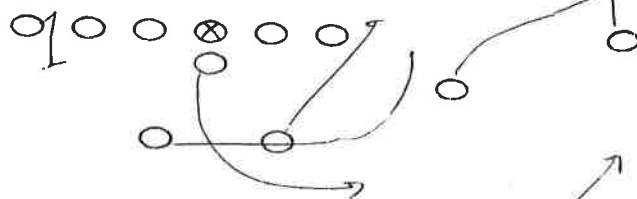
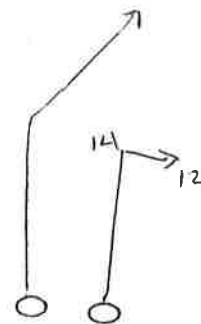
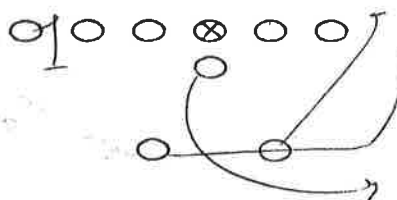
Against cover 2 we like to use a scheme we call "Flood."

FLOOD SCHEME

A good variation off the arrow is the "snake" route. Here the inside receiver will run to the flat then turn downfield.

The quarterback is taught to read the openness of the receivers, looking snake to curl.

A good variation off our bench scheme is the "bench - corner." The flanker now runs to the corner.

SNAKE SCHEME**BENCH - CORNER SCHEME**

Blaine's Josh Savageau follows the blocking of All-State lineman Nate Scheuer (#71) and Rory Coplan (#79) in Twin Cities Suburban Conference action.

Coaches of the Year...



Clark Berglof
Mora
Class A Coach of The Year

Minnesota Coach Of The Year



Mike Grant
Eden Prairie
Class AA Coach Of The Year



John Thiel
Breck
Class B Coach Of The Year



Mike Malmberg
Hawley
Class C Coach Of The Year



Mike Mahlen
Verndale
9-Man Coach Of The Year

1996 MINNESOTA CONFERENCE FOOTBALL COACHES OF THE YEAR

Conference	Coach	School			
212	Steve Solem	BOLD	Polar South	Phil Jensen	Willow River-Moose Lake
Big Nine	Rich Oliphant	Faribault	Prairie North	Gary Graham	Browerville
Big Nine	Bill Brechler	Rochester John Marshall	Prairie South	Jim Roforth	Osakis
Central Lakes	Dennis Kalpin	Alexandria	Red Rock	Dave Elle	Murray County Central
Central Lakes	Ron Stolski	Brainerd	Rum River	Clark Bergloff	Mora
Central MN	Dwight Lundeen	Becker	Sea Range	Dave Mooers	Duluth Denfield
Classic Lake	Todd Olson	Edina	South Central	Jim Simser	Fairmont
Gopher Valley	George Tuvey	Janesville-Waldorf-	Southeast MN	Del Elston	Filmore Central
		Pemberton	Southern Confederacy	Stan Olson	Leroy-Ostrander
Gopher Valley	Chuck Sundeen	Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop	Southern Confederacy	Steve Andrush	Edgerton
Great Northern North	Dave Beadle	Albrook	Southern Minnesota	Ron Berdan	St. Mary's
Great Northern South	Keith Bergstedt	Cromwell	Southwest	Tim Bjorge	Pipestone
Great River	Bruce Harding	Great River	Southwest	Bill Magnuson	Windom Area
Heart O'Lakes	Howie Kangas	Perham	Southwest	Joel Swanson	Luverne
Hiawatha Valley Blue	Jeff Erdmann	Cannon Falls	Southwest	Dennis Hale	Worthington
Hiawatha Valley Gold	Don Henderson	Triton	St. Paul City	John Heller	Highland Park
Lake	Mike Grant	Eden Prairie	St. Paul Suburban	Bob Slater	St. Thomas Academy
Little Sioux	Paul Huber	Canby	Three Rivers	Ken Jacobson	Chatfield
Mid State	Rick Manke	Detroit Lakes	Top of State	Darwin Hagen	Grygla-Goodridge
Minneapolis	Rod Lossow	Minneapolis Roosevelt	Tri Metro Gold	Wally Mahlstrom	Mahtomedi
Minnesota River	Brad Skogerboe	Montgomery-Lonsdale	Tri Metro Maroon	Scott Tiedens	St. Anthony
Minnesota River	Bruce Davis	Montgomery-Lonsdale	Tri-Valley	Joe Scoblic	Lester Prairie
Missota	Bob "Bubba" Sullivan	Northfield	Twin Cities Suburban		
North Country	Steve Connelly	Moorhead	American	Gary Engen	Mounds View
North Suburban	Jeff Schlie	Spring Lake Park	Twin Cities Suburban		
North Tri County	Steve Radniecki	Norman County East	National	George Thole	Stillwater
North Star	Mark Nohner	Lake of the Woods	Valley Plains	Mike Malmberg	Hawley
		School	Valley Plains	Steve Willman	Badger-Greenbush-
North Star	Randy Schwegal	Pine River-Backus	West Central North	Jim Mader	Middle River
Pheasant	Dennis Courneya	Hancock	West Central South	Steve Hill	Albany
Polar North	Steve Ott	Deer River	Wright County	"Buz" Rumrill	Minnewaska
					Glencoe-Silver Lake

1996 SECTION COACH OF THE YEAR

CLASS - 9 MAN

Section	Coach
1	Stan Olson, LeRoy-Ostrander
2	Mike Mahlen, Verndale
3	Keith Bergstedt, Cromwell
4	Mark Kroulik, Stephen-Argyle

CLASS - C

Section	Coach
1	Ken Jacobson, Chatfield
2	Jim Bauer, Minnesota Valley Lutheran
3	Joe Scoblic, Lester Prairie
4	Brian Walker, Red Rock Central, Lamberton
5	Jim Roforth, Osakis
6	Mike Malmberg, Hawley
7	Lyle Anderson, Cook County
8	Steve Willman, Badger-Greenbush-Middle River

CLASS - B

Section	Coach
1	Ken Belanger, Zumbrota-Mazeppa
2	Bill Magnuson, Windom Area
3	Jeff Erdmann, Cannon Falls
4	Jeff Dahline, Benson
5	John Thiel, Breck
6	Mark Messmann, Holdingford
7	Steve Ott, Deer River
8	Terry Horan, Breckenridge

CLASS - A

Section	Coach
1	Bob "Bubba" Sullivan, Northfield
2	Jim Simser, Fairmont
3	Wally Malmstrom, Mahtomedi
4	"Buz" Rumrill, Glencoe-Silver Lake
5	Clark Bergloff, Mora
6	Jim Mader, Albany
7	Ralph Bodin, Duluth Central
8	Rick Manke, Detroit Lakes

CLASS - AA

Section	Coach
1	Bill Brechler, Rochester John Marshall
2	George Thole, Stillwater
3	Rich Kallok, Cretin-Derham Hall
4	Dave Nelson, Blaine
5	John Oelfke, Cooper
6	Mike Grant, Eden Prairie
7	Ron Stolski, Brainerd
8	Dennis Kalpin, Alexandria

Steve Nunnick of Brainerd Named Assistant Football Coach Of The Year For The 1996 Season

Steve Nunnick, long time member of the Brainerd High School coaching staff, has been selected as the winner of the 1996 Minnesota Assistant Coach of the Year Award. The Warriors were Section 7AA champions and finished the season with a 10-2 record.

Steve graduated from Hopkins High School where he played football, hockey, wrestling, and baseball. He went to UND in Grand Forks on a football scholarship and played on the National Championship team in 1968. After graduation he spent two years on the UND football staff before taking his first high school coaching position in 1971 at Park Center where he teamed up with Ron Stolski.

The rest is history as he and Ron have been together ever since. In 1975 they left Park Center after three conference titles and a 28-8-1 record. They have just completed 22 years at Brainerd where Steve has been the number one assistant and defensive coordinator.

The Warriors play an aggressive movement orientated defense that takes a lot of pride in getting 11 people to the ball. Over the past 13 seasons they have played in 10 or more games 10 times; been in the section finals nine times; and been section champions and advanced to state three times. Together they have coached in 255 games and won 65% of them.

Strength and conditioning has been a major factor in the success of the Warriors. Steve has served as strength and conditioning coach for many years and has his specialist C.S.C.S. credential in strength training. He also serves as the high school equipment manager responsible for ordering and maintaining all equipment. His teaching duties include biology and sports medicine.

Steve was selected as a "Butch Nash" Award recipient with the very first group in 1984 and coached in the 1994 All Star Game. He was Brainerd Teacher of the Year in 1991 and was a



finalist for State Teacher of the Year. He is a member of the 25 year coaches club.

Steve has been married since 1972 to his wife Randi. She is a secretary for the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Their two daughters, Stephanie, a sophomore in elementary education at Concordia, and Erika, a freshman at Brainerd, have been involved in many school activities.

Congratulations to Steve Nunnick for his many contributions to education and football.

Distinguished Service Award Winner Dick Walker



Dick Walker was the choice of the executive committee for the 1997 Distinguished Service Award. Dick has been a dedicated worker for the betterment of football in Minnesota for many years. Dick joins Jim Lano, Bud Olson, Bob Roy, Don Swanson, Bill Etter,

Tom Mahoney and Sam Samuelson in being recognized by the MHSFCA for this prestigious award.

Dick was recognized at the 1997 Hall of Fame Banquet. He was presented a plaque and a beautiful watch donated by Stan & Judy Skjei of Bloomington.

Dick is a native of Glenview, Illinois and graduated from Eastern Illinois University in 1955 and his Master of Arts from the University of Illinois in 1958. After coaching in Illinois from 1954 to 1967 Dick moved to Coe College in Cedar Rapids as assistant football and head track coach. Dick came to Richfield High School in 1970 and over the next 21 seasons established a mark of 151-60-2. The Spartans won nine conference champi-

onships, were in the state playoffs ten years, and had state runner-up teams in 1975 and 1979. He finished his career with an overall record of 180-69-4.

Dick has been the recipient of numerous conference and state awards. He was honored as the Class "AA" Coach of the Year in 1984 and 1987 and served as Head Coach in the 1976 All Star Game. He was inducted into the MHSFCA Hall of Fame in 1993.

But it is for his work off the field and behind the scene that Dick is being recognized at this time. He has been a member of nearly every committee of the MHSFCA during his many active years as a coach serving as MHSFCA President from 1984 to 1986 and his commitment has continued since his retirement. He has been a key member of the staff for the "Coach of the Year" Clinic from the start and has been very much responsible for the success of the clinic.

Dick has now retired from his position as Director of Buildings and Grounds for the Richfield School District. It will give him more time to devote to his two loves - his wife Carolyn and his family, and sailing. Congratulations Dick, and thanks from all of us for your dedication!

Coach of the Year Award

1965	Bill Severin, Grand Meadow, Region I	1980	L.E. Dreschel, Crookston, Class A
1966	Stan Canakes, Edina, Region V	1981	Gary Roebuck, Holdingford, Class B
1967	Tom Mahoney, Fairmont, Region II	1982	George Thole, Stillwater, Class AA
1968	Jerry Sullivan, Minneapolis Roosevelt, Region V	1983	Ron Scott, Coon Rapids, Class AA
1969	Art Hass, Austin, Region I	1984	Grady Rostberg, Hutchinson, Class A
1970	Gary Gustafson, North St. Paul, Region IV	1985	Norm Johnson, Mpls. Roosevelt, Class AA
1971	George Larson, Cambridge, Region IV	1986	George Larson, Cambridge, Class A
1972	George Wemeier, Minneapolis Washburn, Region V	1987	Dave Brokke, Granite Falls, Class B
1973	Dick Lawrence, Eveleth, Region VII	1988	Gehardt Meidt, Minneota, Class C
1974	John Drews, Rochester John Marshall, Region I	1989	Jim Mader, Albany, Class A
1975	Bob Swanson, Mountain Iron, Region VII	1990	Ken Baumann, Mahanomen, Class C
1976	Lyle Eidsness, St. Peter, Region II	1991	Neal Hofland, Chokio-Alberta, 9-Man
1977	Paul Benson, Granite Falls, Region III	1992	Larry Thompson, Lakeview, Class AA
1978	Jim Simser, New Richland-Hartland, Region I	1993	Rick Manke, Detroit Lakes, Class A
1979	Ron Raveling, Columbia Heights, Class AA	1994	DeWayne Johnson, Anoka, Class AA
		1995	Ken Jacobson, Chatfield, Class C
		1996	Clark Bergloff, Mora, Class A

"Hall Of Fame"

Sponsored By Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association

PREVIOUS WINNERS

1965

Bernie Bierman
Frank Cleve
Bernie Cole
Jake Christiansen
Vern 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 O'Rourke
Les Knuti
Bud Grant
Wendell Vlasin

1971

Manny Marget
Butzie Maetzold
George "Butch" Nash
Harol 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
Marv 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
Dwaine 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 Bandrup
John Davies
Earl Gramling
Roy Hokkanan
Ron Scott
Bob Youso

1992

Stav 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
Marv Gunderson
Mike Morrissey
Lloyd Peterson

1997

Bill Beck
John Drews
Ross Fortier
Andy Lia
Jerry Peterson

MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
COACHES ASSOCIATION

1997 "Hall of Fame" Inductees Football Hall of Fame Annual Banquet



**Bill Beck - Appleton (Lac Qui Parle)
High School**

A native of Lancaster, Minnesota, Bill Beck graduated from high school in 1950 where he earned letters in football, basketball, baseball and track. After serving a tour of duty in the military, he played football and baseball at Moorhead State University where he earned letters in football and baseball before graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in health and physical education.

Bill began his 37-year career in education at Appleton in 1958. He taught health and physical education and ran the summer recreation program for the community for the next 25 years. In addition to his duties as athletic director, Bill was head coach for football and was an assistant in baseball. When girl's athletic programs were organized in the early 1970s, he coached the girl's track team at Appleton.

By virtue of school consolidation, the district became known as Lac Qui Parle in 1989. Bill continued to coach football and girls' softball until 1994. His overall football coaching record was 210 wins, 131 losses, and 5 ties. Included in this enviable record were eight Little Sioux Conference championships and one West Central South Conference championship. Four of Billy's teams made it into the State Class "B" playoffs,

one time finishing as runner-up.

A long time member of the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association and the recipient of many football coaching honors, Bill is also a distinguished member of both the Moorhead State University Athletic and Northern Intercollegiate Conference Halls of Fame. He and his wife, Marilyn, raised four sons and are now enjoying spending their summers at Ottertail Lake in Minnesota before leaving for the warmer climate of San Marcos, California where they are actively involved with the Boys and Girls Club of California.



**John Drews - Rochester John Marshall
High School**

John Drews graduated from Washington High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1947 after lettering three years each in football and track.

John went on to play football at the University of Wisconsin under two famous collegiate coaches, Harry Stuhldreher and Ivy Williamson, both of whom were to have a profound influence upon his future coaching philosophy. He earned three letters for the Badgers and played on the same team in the early 1950s with the great Wisconsin fullback, Alan "the Horse" Ameche.

After receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in 1952, John became a teacher and assistant football coach at what was then Rochester High

School. He took over the head coaching reins at John Marshall in 1960, and over the next 15 seasons, went on to establish one of the most successful football programs in the Big Nine Conference by achieving an enviable record of 176 wins, 56 losses, and 6 ties.

A strong disciplinarian and stern task-master, his Rocket teams won 12 conference championships, made six state playoff appearances, and won back-to-back State Class "AA" Championships in 1973 and 1974. He was picked by his peers on ten occasions as Big Nine Football Coach of the Year, honored as the Minnesota State High School Football Coach of the Year in 1974, and was also selected as head coach of the South team when the Minnesota High School All-Star Football Game was revived and played under that format in 1974.

John served as an assistant in wrestling and track for ten years at John Marshall and taught American History for 34 years until his retirement in 1986. He then spent six years as an assistant to Cy Champa at Rochester Community College. Some of the great players he is proud to have coached during his career were Bob Schmidt, Tom Moore, Roger Hagberg, Morrie Daigneau, Kent Kitzman, and Darrell Thompson.

John and his wife, Joanne, raised nine children - six girls and three boys. Each of his sons played for him at John Marshall. All were named to the All-Big Nine Conference football team, and one was selected to the All-State Team.



**Andy Lia - KDLM-KDDL Radio -
Detroit Lakes**

A multi-sport athlete, Andy Lia graduated from

Detroit Lakes High School in 1959. He spent one year at the University of Minnesota-Duluth where he lettered in cross-country before deciding to enroll at Brown Institute in Minneapolis and take up the study of broadcasting.

Andy's first job in radio began as a sports announcer at KTRF in Thief River Falls in 1961. Two years later, he moved to KLIZ-Radio in Brainerd where he remained until 1967 when he left Minnesota for a year to work for KFYZ Radio in Bismarck, North Dakota. He returned to KTRF in Thief River Falls in 1968 where he spent the next 11 years before moving back to his hometown to join the staff at KDLM-KKDL Radio in Detroit Lakes.

A close friend of high school and college athletics, Andy has broadcast nearly 2,000 sporting events during his 36-year career as a play-by-play announcer. He has conducted hundreds of interviews with amateur and professional athletes in a variety of different sports. Andy is active in many organizations in the Detroit Lakes area including the Rotary, Elks, Eagles and the United Way Committee.

Presently the Operations Manager and Sports Director at KDLM, he and his wife, Sandy, are the parents of two children, Andrea and Cory.



Ross Fortier - Moorhead State University

The son of a "legendary" basketball coach, Ross Fortier earned 11 letters at Bemidji High School during the mid-1950s. He continued his education at North Dakota State University where he was awarded letters in football, basketball, baseball and tennis.

After receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in 1960, Ross assisted in football at NDSU for several years before assuming his first head football coaching position at Melrose High School in 1962. He left Melrose in 1964 to work as a graduate assistant at Moorhead State University before returning to NDSU in 1967 as a teacher and assistant football coach.

Ross took over the head football coaching duties at Moorhead State in 1970 where over the next 23 seasons he became the winningest coach in the school's history by establishing a mark of 152 wins, 80 losses, and 4 ties. He guided the Dragons through 16 consecutive winning seasons, including nine conference championships, seven post-season playoff appearances, and a national record 20 game unbeaten streak from 1980-82. In 1981, Moorhead State finished the season ranked number one among NAIA teams in the nation with a 10-0-1 record.

Although Ross is still teaching in the physical education department at Moorhead, he retired from his duties as the head football coach and athletic director in 1992. He is also a retired General in the Minnesota Army National Guard. A former president of the NAIA Division I Football Coaches Association, he is proud to have developed 52 All-American players, including six individual national statistical champions. In addition, 24 of his former Dragon players signed professional football contracts. He was selected to the North Dakota State University Hall of Fame in 1979 and more recently, in 1996, named to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame.



the head football coach at Owatonna in 1966. Over the next three decades at the school, Jerry would become the winningest coach in Big Nine Conference history by achieving an enviable record of 179 wins, and 104 losses. Included in this remarkable accomplishment were six Conference Championships as well as a memorable second place finish behind Stillwater in Prep Bowl I (1982) by a score of 34-27.

A very active and dedicated member of the Minnesota State High School Football Coaches Association, Jerry was the Executive Secretary from 1973 to 1982, and served as President 1989-1990. He coached in the 1980 High School All-Star Football Game and was honored on seven occasions by his peers as the Big Nine Conference Coach of the Year. Jerry has also served on the Hall of Fame and Coach of the Year committees since 1973.

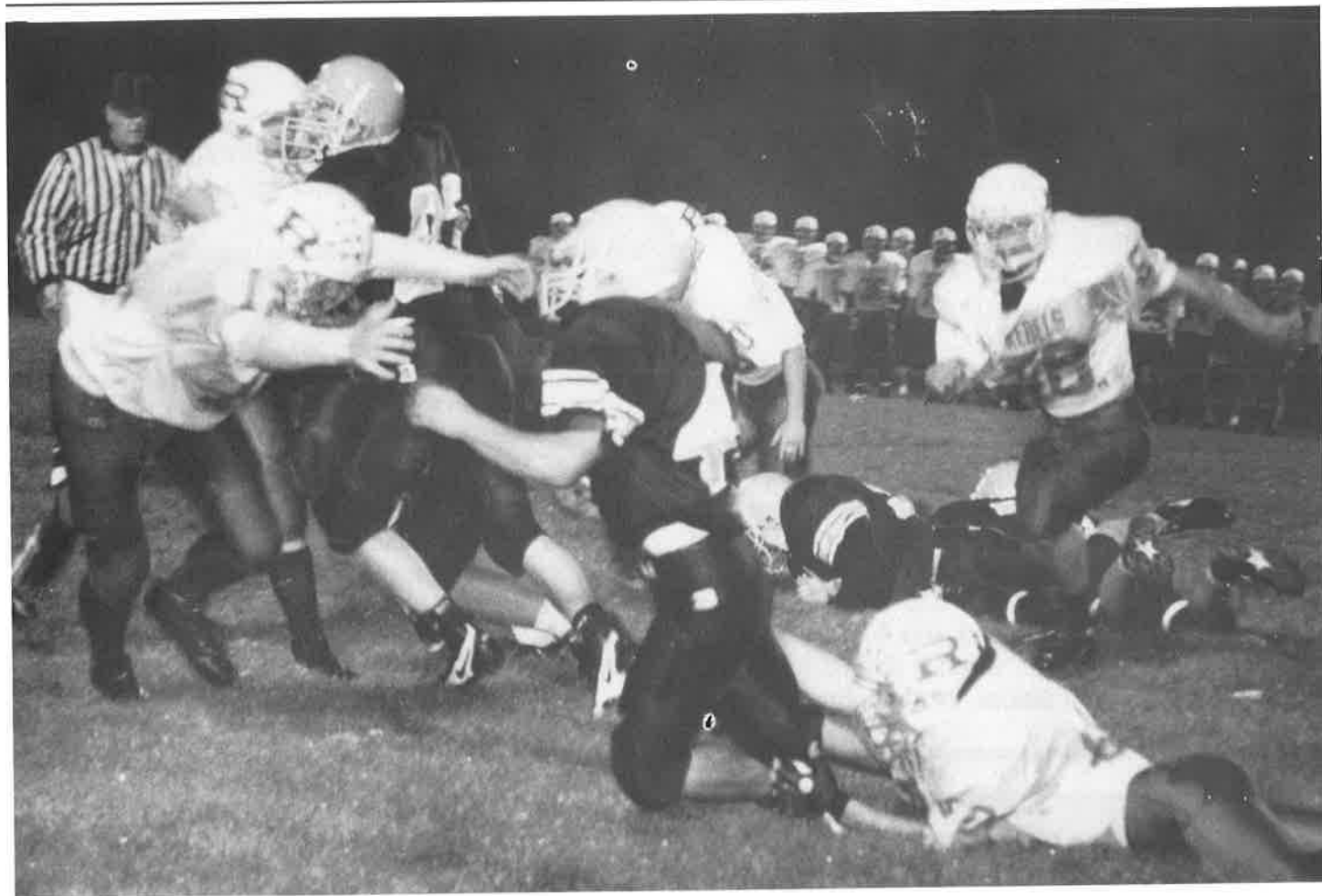
In addition to his teaching and coaching duties, Jerry also found time to help broadcast more than 500 basketball games on KRFO Radio as well as to officiate many local high school and Owatonna City League games. He served nine years on the Owatonna City Council and since 1993 has been a member of the Steele County Board of Commissioners of which he is presently the Chairperson.

Jerry retired from his teaching and coaching duties at the end of the 1995-96 school year. On September 6, 1996, Governor Arne Carlson proclaimed "Jerry Peterson Day" in Minnesota and that evening he was honored at "Jerry Peterson Night" festivities in Owatonna.

Jerry Peterson - Owatonna High School

A 1957 graduate of Minneapolis Washburn High School, Jerry Peterson lettered in football, baseball, and track. Augsburg College then benefited from his athletic talents where he earned four varsity letters in football and three in golf.

After receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1962, Jerry began his teaching and coaching career at Walnut Grove High School. In two years as the head football coach, his team had 10 wins, 4 losses and 2 ties and recorded one conference championship. He then spent two years at Detroit Lakes as an assistant coach before being named



An action shot from the battle for the "Little Brown Jug" between the Barnum Bombers and the Moose Lake-Willow River Rebels. The Rebels won 48-0.—Polar South Conference



Chris Scrabeck #33 of Chatfield is about to break free for a 60 yard run against the Goodhue Wildcats.—Three Rivers Conference

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 players name and G.P.A. must be listed.
- 3) In addition, 3 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 2 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 October 1st, and champions submitted to Committee Chairman by November 1st.

Academic All-State Team Committee

- Class 5A: Dave Nelson, Blaine
- Class 4A: Bubba Sullivan, Northfield
- Class 3A: Dave Hylla, Proctor
- Class 2A: Jerry Wallskog, LeCenter
- Class 1A: Con Natvig, Swanville (Chairman)
- 9-Man: Dave Krenick, Cleveland



NRHEG senior running back Dan Routh (3) experienced one of those once in a lifetime evenings when he rushed for over 300 yards and scored six touchdowns to spark the Panthers to a 39-6 win over WEM in the season opener. Routh, who received some great blocking from his offensive line, had over 200 rushing yards in the opening half.—Gopher Valley Conference

Academic All-State Football Team Application

School _____ Class _____
 Address _____ Phone _____
 Head Coach _____

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 system to 2 decimals will be used, so other 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 October 1st**. 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 Your Team Application To:

9-man	Dave Krenick, Cleveland	(Fax Numbers)
Class 1A	Con Natvig, Swanville	507-931-9088
Class 2A	Jerry Wallskog, LeCenter	320-547-2576
Class 3A	Dave Hylla, Proctor	507-357-4825
Class 4A	Bubba Sullivan, Northfield	218-628-2907
Class 5A	Dave Nelson, Blaine	507-645-3455
		612-422-5804

 (Signature of verifying School Official)

 Position

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

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 Mahlen, Verndale
 Class 1A: Con Natvig, Swanville
 Class 2A: George Tuvey, Janesville
 Class 3A: Marv Peters, Rochester Lourdes
 Class 4A: John Heller, Highland Park
 Class 5A: Todd Olson, Edina

Individual Team Chairman: Dave Faust, Henry Sibley



Chatfield's defensive end Justine Harmening #41 sacks the Southland Rebel quarterback. #61 Dan Conway also is applying pressure in the Sectional Semi-Final game.—Three Rivers Conference

INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION

Academic All-State Player Application

Sponsored by: The Minnesota State Football Coaches Association

Name of Applicant _____ Grade _____
 Birthday _____ month _____ day _____ year _____ Height _____ Weight _____
 School _____ Coach _____
 Football position played as a Starter Offense: _____ Defense: _____
Circle Class - 9 1A 2A 3A 4A 5A Kicking Game: _____

Academic Information

Accumulative High School GPA: _____ Attach a Transcript or list subjects completed or enrolled in.

Grade 10 Subjects

Grade 11 Subjects

1st Quarter Senior Subjects

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

Use a 4.0 Scale for GPA

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 GPA 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 line-man 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, November 2.
- 2) Class selection committees must have teams picked by Saturday, November 9, and sent to the Academic Chairman.
- 3) Class Representatives must notify all team selections by Tuesday, November 12.

Send individual application to: (Fax Numbers)

9-Man Mike Mahlen, Verndale, 218-445-5184
 Class 1A Con Natvig, Swanville, 320-547-2576
 Class 2A George Tuvey, Janesville, 507-234-5796
 Class 3A Marv Peters, Rochester Lourdes,
 507-289-3991
 Class 4A John Heller, Highland Park, 612-239-8939
 Class 5A Todd Olson, Edina, 612-947-1936
 Individual Team Chairman, Dave Faust, Henry Sibley,
 612-405-2461.

1996 ACADEMIC ALL-STATE FOOTBALL TEAMS**CLASS AA****SECTION**

- 1.) Lakeville - 3.53
- 2.) White Bear Lake - 3.66
- 3.) Cretin-Durham Hall - 3.23
- 4.) Blaine - 3.79 - Champion
- 5.) N/A
- 6.) Eden Prairie - 3.65
- 7.) Cambridge - 3.31
- 8.) Alexandria - 3.41

CLASS A**SECTION**

- 1.) Northfield - 3.47
- 2.) Blue Earth - 3.54
- 3.) Totino Grace - 3.45
- 4.) Dassel-Cokato - 3.58
- 5.) Mora - 3.41
- 6.) Montevideo - 3.43
- 7.) Proctor - 3.34
- 8.) Thief River Falls - 3.75 - Champion

CLASS B**SECTION**

- 1.) Wabasha-Kellog - 3.31
- 2.) Windom Area - 3.37
- 3.) Waterville-Elysian-Morristown - 3.46
- 4.) BOLD - 3.69 - Champion
- 5.) N/A
- 6.) Eden Valley-Watkins - 3.36
- 7.) East Central - 3.56
- 8.) Breckenridge - 3.42

CLASS C**SECTION**

- 1.) Chatfield - 3.35
- 2.) Minnesota Valley Lutheran - 3.72 - Champion
- 3.) McLeod West - 3.35
- 4.) Adrian - 3.49
- 5.) Osakis - 3.42
- 6.) Hawley - 3.55
- 7.) Cook County - 3.61
- 8.) Fertile Beltrami - 2.97

9-MAN**SECTION**

- 1.) Lyle - 3.56
- 2.) Verndale - 3.48
- 3.) Cromwell - 3.59 - Champion
- 4.) Stephen/Argyle - 3.43

1996 ACADEMIC ALL STATE PLAYERS

CLASS AA

Name	School
Todd Jelen	Lakeville
Bereket Kiros	Blaine
Tim Messina	Cretin-Derham Hall
David Mikkonen	Anoka
Scott Munson	Rochester Mayo
Michael O'Neil	Cambridge
Tim Pahula	Eagan
Adam Runk	Stillwater
Brian Sauer	White Bear Lake
Mike Schulke	Austin
Doug Schultz	Alexandria
Hunter Simon	Edina
Ryan Sullivan	Lakeville
Dan Weyandt	Cretin-Derham Hall
Josh Wilske	Lakeville

CLASS B

Name	School
Drew Johnson	Breck School
Lucas Kopel	BOLD
Jon Luschen	Moose Lake
Bill Mundt	Deer River
Jerrod Nelson	Wabasha-Kellogg
Corey Peterson	Eden Valley-Watkins
Matt Peterson	Hayfield
John Reber	Agassiz Valley (Barnesville-Rothsay)
Shane Reding	Cedar Mountain
Jeremy Stebbins	Moose Lake
Scott Swanson	West Central Area
Jon Warner	Byron
Alex Wesley	Waterville-Elysian-Morristown

CLASS A

Name	School
Nathan Slattengren	Proctor
Brian Graner	Plainview/Elgin-Millville
Aaron Douglas	Hutchinson
Scott Pogatchnik	Albany
Arron Kalis	Blue Earth Area
Eric Carlson	Wadena-Deer Creek
John Mieczewski	Kasson-Mantorville
Joe Thompson	St. Peter
Steve Freid	LeSueur-Henderson
Beau LaBore	South St. Paul
Jason Welle	Albany
Dan Rheingans	Kasson-Mantorville
Dan Morgan	Blue Earth Area
Andy Edlund	Two Harbors

CLASS C

Name	School
Paul Krogh	Osakis
Odin Jorgenson	Cook County
Adam Grove	Hawley
Sheridan Johnson	Hawley
Tim Schmiedeberg	Warren/Alvarado/Olson
Bradley Ruhoff	Lewiston-Altura
Tom Madison	Adrian
Justin Hipple	Silver Bay
Jovan Willford	Rushford-Peterson
Terry Tipton	Southland
David Valencia	Swanville
Michael Pontius	Eagle Valley

CLASS 9 MAN

Name	School
Andy Anderson	Hills-Beaver Creek
Robbie Anderson	Ulen-Hitterdal
Andrew Fredman	Pillager
Richie Hinkle	Verndale
Tyler Homstad	Cromwell-Wright
Ryan Losinski	Cleveland
Peter Mithun	Chokio-Alberta
Chad Nuest	Hancock
Blair Stoltman	Stephen-Argyle
Justin Thielke	Hancock
Bradley Vieths	Pillager

The Butch Nash Award



To the many of us who know him, Butch Nash is the epitome of the ideal assistant coach:

Total loyalty to his school and the head coach.

Hard working - beyond measure.

Integrity in dealing with athletes and especially high school coaches.

Particularly competent in his coaching specialty—defensive ends.

Unique ability to relate to and be supportive of the athlete - their love for Butch is virtually legendary.

Lastly, the many, many years of dedicated service to his university.

It is these much admired qualities that have motivated the Minnesota High School Football

Coaches Association to institute an annual award to be given to those high school assistant coaches who approach the greatness of Butch Nash.

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 of the Butch Nash award for 1996 are:

Oscar Blegen, Anoka

Vince Conway, Hill Murray

Gary Gauffin, Mora

Gary Hansen, Chatfield

Roger Jones, Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop

Larry Otterblad, Silver Bay

Michael Scanlan, Cretin-Derham Hall

Mike Thomas, Edina

* Head coaches are urged to nominate outstanding assistant coaches for future consideration by the selection committee.



Oscar Blegen
Anoka
Butch Nash Award



Vince Conway
Hill Murray
Butch Nash Award



Gary Gauffin
Mora
Butch Nash Award



Gary Hansen
Chatfield
Butch Nash Award



Roger Jones
Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop
Butch Nash Award



Larry Otterblad
Silver Bay
Butch Nash Award



Michael Scanlan
Cretin-Derham Hall
Butch Nash Award



Mike Thomas
Edina
Butch Nash Award

Twin Cities Suburban Conference

The 1996 season brought about yet more change in the alignment of the football schools in the Twin Cities Suburban Conference. The conference was divided by enrollments for football only. The seven largest schools were grouped together to form the National Division, while the seven smallest enrollment schools were grouped together to form the American Division.

National Division

The National Division proved to be one of Minnesota's top football conferences. The schools in the National Division are: Anoka, Blaine, Champlin Park, Coon Rapids, Forest Lake, Stillwater and White Bear Lake.

The Stillwater Ponies won the first-ever National Division title with a perfect 6-0 record. It was Stillwater's fifth consecutive conference championship under "Gentleman" George Thole. Stillwater held the Number 1 ranking in AA football throughout the season. Two National Division teams made the Class-AA semi-finals when Stillwater met Blaine. The Bengals lost to eventual state champion Eden Prairie in an exciting championship game.

Offensively, Blaine led the division in scoring with 297 points followed by Anoka with 237 points. The divisions top offense belonged to Blaine (385.3 yds. per game) followed by White Bear with (332.8 yds. per game). White Bear led the National Division in rushing with (2,371 yds.) followed by Blaine with (2,020 yds.). Blaine had the top passing offense (1,062 yds.) followed by Anoka with 1,004 yds.

Defensively, Stillwater led the division in total defense (164.9 per game) followed by Coon Rapids (183.6 per game). Stillwater yielded only 61 points during the regular season while Coon Rapids finished second with 104 points. The top rush defense belonged to Stillwater (816 yds.) followed by Coon Rapids (874 yds.). Stillwater also had the top pass defense (503 yds.) followed by White Bear with 541 yds.

Many outstanding individuals show-cased their talents in 1996. Stillwater's Adam Runk was named the division's Most Valuable Offensive Player. Blaine's Josh Savageau led the division in scoring with 92 points followed by teammate

Marvin Spencer with 84 points. White Bear's Greg Kuczynski won the rushing title with 961 yds. followed by Spencer with 833 yds. Anoka's Devin Mikkonen was the division's top passer (1,004 yds.), followed by Blaine's Jesse Albrecht and Stillwater's Jason Jordan, both with 933 yds. Bereket Kiros of Blaine led the Division in receiving with 602 yds. followed by Runk (468 yds.).

Defensively, Drew Dehnicke of Coon Rapids was selected as the most Valuable Defensive Player in the National Division. Stillwater's "Gentleman" George Thole was named the TCSC National Division Coach of the Year.

FINAL STANDINGS

	Division	Overall
Stillwater	6-0	8-0
Coon Rapids	4-2	5-3
Anoka	4-2	5-3
Blaine	3-3	5-3
White Bear Lake	3-3	5-3
Forest Lake	1-5	2-6
Champlin Park	0-6	2-6

American Division

The American Division is comprised of the seven schools with the smallest enrollments in the TCSC. The schools in the American Division are: Elk River, Hill-Murray, Maple Grove, Mounds View, Osseo, Park Center and Roseville.

Elk River and Mounds View tied for the American Division championship with 5-1 records. Mounds View's Gary Engen was selected as the Coach of the Year in the American Division.

Offensively, Mounds View led the division in scoring with 239 points followed by Osseo with 216 points. The division's top offense belonged to Mounds View (329.5 per game) followed by Osseo (316.3 per game). Mounds View led the American Division in rushing with 2,209 yds., followed by Roseville (1,594 yds. per game). Osseo had the division's top passing offense (1,156 yds.) followed by Elk River (920 yds.).

Defensively, Park Center led the division in total defense (194.0) followed by Mounds View (237.6). Park Center yielded 97 points during the season

while Mounds View finished second with 122 points. The top rushing defense belonged to Park Center (865 yds.) followed by Mounds View (1,059 yds.).

Individually, Mounds View's Matt Anderle was selected as the division's Most Valuable Offensive Player. The scoring crown went to Robb Nunn of Osseo with 60 points followed by Andy Pung of Mounds View with 54 points. Elk River's Keith Reemts led the division in rushing with 758 yards followed by Nunn (704 yds.). Osseo's Mike Hendrickson led the division in passing with 1,022 yds. followed by maple Grove's C.J. Woodrow

with 868 yds. In receiving, Maple Grove's Jesse Hesse led the division with 488 yds. followed by Osseo's Bob Simon (307 yds.).

Defensively, Adam Lehr of Park Center was selected as the division's Most Valuable Player.

FINAL STANDINGS

	Division	Overall
Mounds View	5-1	6-2
Elk River	5-1	6-2
Park Center	4-2	5-3
Osseo	3-3	4-4
Roseville	3-3	3-5
Hill-Murray	1-5	1-7



Stillwater linebackers Pete Zoller (82) and Matt MacDonald (57) close in on All-Metro running back Chris Moore of St. Thomas Academy. Stillwater (12-1) beat St. Thomas Academy (10-1) 42-14 for Section 2AA title.

Brad Putnam hauls in a pass as Stillwater defeats Anoka 27-20 en route to Twin Cities Suburban Championship. Ponies finished season at 12-1.



Rum River Conference

1996 FINAL STANDINGS

	Conference	Overall
Mora	7-0	14-0
Princeton	5-2	6-4
Foley	5-2	6-4
Chisago Lakes	4-3	4-5
Sauk Rapids	3-4	3-6
North Branch	2-5	2-7
Pine City	1-6	2-6
Milaca	1-6	1-7

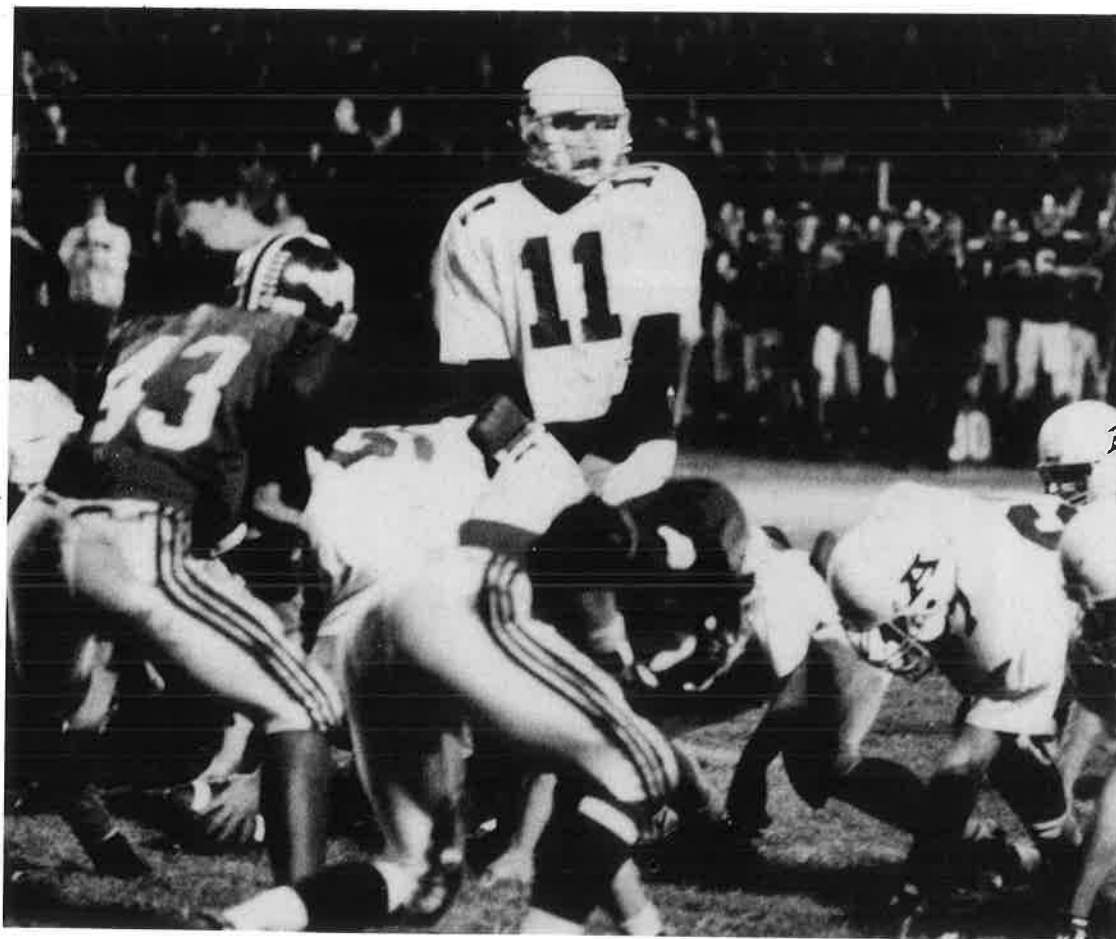
The Mora Mustangs captured the 1996 Rum River Conference crown on their way to Section 6-A and Class A State Championship honors. Mora Head Coach Clark Bergloff and his staff of assistants: Karl Deis, defensive coordinator; Gary Gauffin, offensive line; Mark Antonson, receivers and defensive backs, and Joel Thompson, defensive line, were chosen coaching staff of the year in the Conference.

The Rum River again provided some entertaining and competitive football. Foley's Curt Dumonceax led the league in rushing with 1,228 yards in 187 carries in eight games. Tom Fernholz of Sauk Rapids was second with 919 yards.

Tony Stay of Princeton was the conference's leading receiver yardage wise with 18 receptions for 439 yards. Willy Lines of North Branch led in receptions with 27.

Ryan Zimmer of Foley was the league's passing leader, completing 53% of his passes for 964 yards and six TD's. Sophomore Chad Carlson of Princeton was second with 957 yards and nine TD's.

Jerry Westphal, head coach and athletic director at Milaca, resigned his head football coaching position to concentrate on his AD duties. Ken Hill at Sauk Rapids remains the dean of Rum River coaches with over 25 years of service as head coach at Sauk Rapids.



Mora linebacker Bill Methren #43 goes eye to eye with Albany quarterback Samskay #11 with a 4th and goal from the Mora 2 yard line. The Mora defense held and won the state quarter-final game 20-14 en route to the State Class A title.

Valley Plains Conference

The 1996 Hawley Nuggets won their fourth consecutive undefeated regular season Valley Plains Conference Championship. The Valley Plains was very proud of having a strong conference representation in the playoffs.

Four teams played in a section championship game. Steve Wilman and the Gators from BGMR won the Section 8C championship game against Les Dreschel and the Eagles of Red Lake Falls. They went on and lost a close game to Cook County in the first round of the state playoffs and finished with a 9-3 record. Mike Malmberg and the Hawley Nuggets went on to defeat conference opponent Waubun for the Section 6C title in the Fargodome and finished the year 13-1 as the State Class C runner-up, losing a tight ball game to Chatfield by a score of 12-7. John Clark and the Bombers from Waubun had an eight game winning streak snapped in the 6C championship game. This was also the third year in a row that a team from the Valley Plains played in the Prep Bowl.

The Valley Plains had a great season rushing the football. Joe Kvamme from Warren led the conference with 203 carries and gained 1,054 yards. He also led the conference in scoring with 16 touchdowns. Not to be out done was Waubun's Greg Voss, who tallied 994 yards on 106 attempts and

averaged over nine yards a carry.

Travis Olson from Hawley was the top passer in the conference completing 51% of his passes for 518 yards and 10 touchdowns. Jerod Steer from Warren completed 65% of his passes for 447 yards. Eric Larson from Ada-Borup was the leading receiver with 39 catches for 381 yards while Randy Stene from Fertile-Beltrami had an average of 26 yards a catch.

1996 Valley Plains Standings

Hawley	8	0
Badger-Greenbush-Middle River (BGMR)	6	2
Warren-Alvarado-Oslo	6	2
Waubun	6	2
Red Lake Falls	5	3
Fertile-Beltrami	4	4
Lake Park-Audubon (LPA)	3	5
Ada-Borup	1	7
Fosston	1	7
Red Lake County Central (RLCC)	0	8

Coach of the Year - Mike Malmberg, Hawley, and Steve Wilman, BGMR

Outstanding Back - Joe Kvamme, Warren

Outstanding Lineman - Matt Jensen, Waubun



Hawley's John Olson stops Waubun's Rod Keezer for a short gain in the Section 6C Championship game held in the Fargodome.

Top of the State Conference

The 1996 season saw the conference drop from eight teams to seven teams as Stephen and Argyle consolidated to become the Storm. The 1996 coach of the year honor was earned by Darwin Haugen and his Grygla/Goodridge staff. Another highlight of the year that deserves special attention is the accomplishments of the Marshall County Central Nordics in reaching the playoffs for the first time after a long drought. The Nordics were lead by Head Coach Kent Warne and a very quick and strong backfield.

First year Head Coaches Eric Melcher of Tri-County and Darin West of Sacred Heart saw their teams make big strides throughout the season as their teams learned a new system. Tri-County finished the season at 2-5 and Sacred Heart at 0-7.

Head Coach Brad Homstad at Kittson County North had possibly the largest number of players out for football that he has ever experienced and out of that bunch was able to produce the conference's Most Valuable Lineman in Waylon Olson. The Cougars finished in fourth place of the conference at 3-3 and the season in the Section 4 semi-finals.

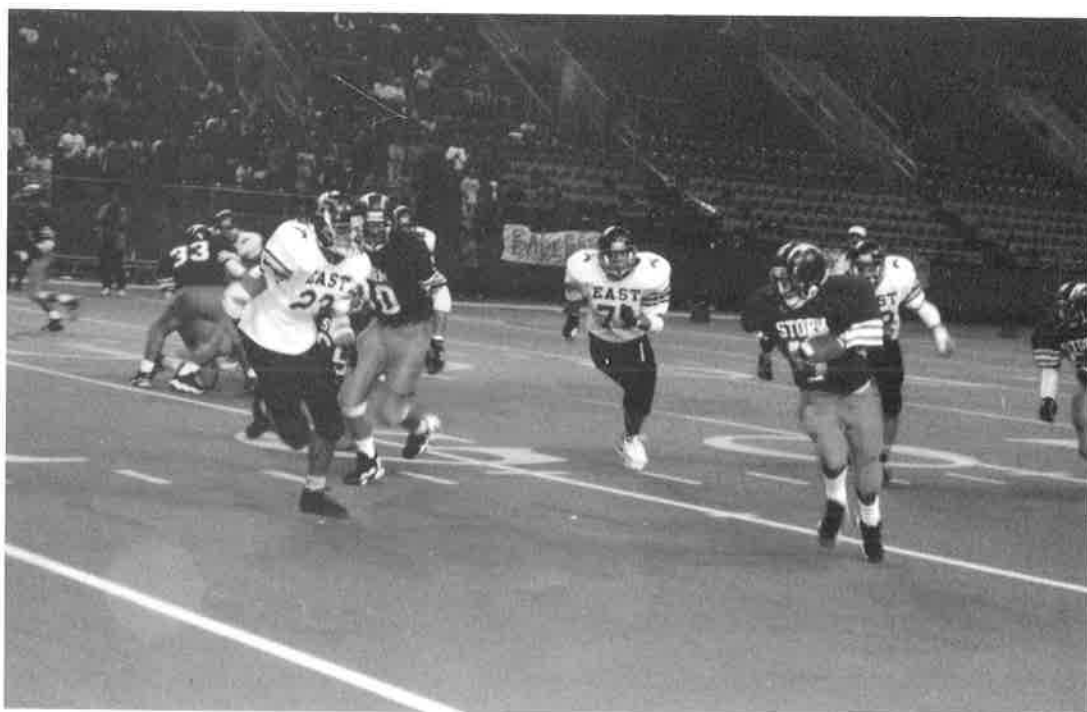
Two time State Champion Coach Terry Ogarek of Kittson Central put a team on the field lead by some seniors with a very good bunch of under-

classmen and finished third in the conference at 4-2 and the Section 4 semi-finals. The Wolfpack will definitely be one of the teams to watch next season.

The Blue Devils of Grygla/Goodridge finished second in the conference, posting a 6-1 overall record, while providing the conference's Most Valuable Back, Aaron Holthusen, with running room. They jumped to the Class C playoffs and lost a fourth quarter heart breaker to the defending state runner-up, Red Lake Falls. Long time assistant coach Vern Johnson has hung up the gridiron whistle, but will still be seen chomping that popcorn on the basketball court.

The Storm earned their first conference championship and Section 4 championship, starting out the new consolidation with a very positive history. The Storm also captured the Section 4 Nine-Man All-Academic championship. Stephen-Argyle finished conference play undefeated and was denied from the state title game by Verndale in the state semi-finals. Head Coach Mark Kroulik was extremely pleased with how the two long time rivals came together to form one true team, and felt this may have been the greatest accomplishment of the past season for the Storm.

Storm fullback Brad Rivard carries the ball against Norman County East in the Section 4 Championship game.



South Central Conference

The 1996 South Central Conference was another competitive season of football. The conference championship was decided in the last game of the season. Fairmont beat Blue Earth Area 13-7 before 3,600 spectators to win the championship. Fairmont went on to win the Section 2A title.

Fairmont led the conference in points scored and total yards offensively. Blue Earth Area's defense was first in points allowed and Waseca's rugged defense first in yards given up. Waseca led the conference in passing for the third straight year.

Statistical leaders were as follows:

Scoring: Anderson, Blue Earth Area.

Rushing: Tietje, Fairmont.

Passing: Schmidt, Waseca.

Pass Receptions: Rundquist, Waseca.

Kickoffs: Hakestad, Fairmont.

Punts: Tietje, Fairmont.

Kickoff Returns: Langford, Fairmont.

Punt Returns: Anderson, Blue Earth Area.

Tackles: Howard, Waseca.

Interceptions: Boro, Fairmont.

Total Offensive Yards: Tietje, Fairmont.

Total All-Purpose Yards: Anderson, Blue Earth Area.

Fairmont's Jake Tietje, who led the conference in rushing, and Jay Zabel of Blue Earth Area will represent the South Central Conference on the Outstate All-Star Team.

The South Central Conference had two long time coaches retire at the end of the 1996 season, Frank Fredlund of St. Peter and Terry Gilbertson of Waseca. These two men led quality programs and seemed to always be in the hunt for the championship. Frank recently led St. Peter to a 1995 Class A runner-up finish. The conference coaches congratulate Frank and Terry on a job well done. Marc Bachman will take over at St. Peter and Keith Kottke at Waseca.

1996 Final Standings

Fairmont	6-0
Blue Earth Area	5-1
Waseca	4-2
St. Peter	3-3
New Ulm	2-4
St. James	1-5
United South Central	0-6

Fairmont's Jake Tietje #30 breaks through the Blue Earth line on his way to the winning TD in the Cardinals 13-7 victory. The win before 3600 at Blue Earth was for the South Central Championship. Defending for the Bucs is Jay Zabel #53 and blocking for the Cards #73 Dave Struck.



Missota Conference

By Bob Bradford III, Northfield News

Northfield High School ruled the Missota Conference in 1996, claiming its first-ever outright undefeated Missota championship with an unblemished league record of 7-0.

After winning the conference, the Raiders went on to capture their fourth consecutive Section 1A championship, and for the third time in four years advanced all the way to the state championship where they lost Prep Bowl XV to Mora, 7-3.

The conference saw many outstanding individual performers this year. Red Wing's Nate Sundberg led the league in rushing with 193 yds. per game. New Prague's Dan Kadrlik led the league in passing with 105 yds. per game. Prior Lake's Jay Kocon, one of the conferences most exciting athletes in years, was second in passing with 103 yds. per game. Holy Angels' Andy Blissenbach led all receivers with 17 catches and Northfield's Mark Mokoff led in receiving yards with 295. Mokoff also tied a state record with 15 interceptions from his defensive back position.

Sundberg, Kocon, and Mokoff all made the all-metro team along with Northfield's 280 lb. two way tackle Eric Fredrickson and kicker Christian White, also of Northfield.

Fredrickson, Mokoff, and Sundberg will be representing the Missota Conference in this summers all-star game.

Northfield's Bubba Sullivan was named coach of the year.

Bennet Nears Milestone

Prior Lake's John Bennet is nearing his 100th victory. He will enter the 1997 season with 95 wins under his belt.

Star Dome the State of the Art

When it comes to facelifts, no program in the Missota Conference has improved its facilities in recent time like the Academy of Holy Angels.

In early November of 1996, the school district completed the construction of a 2.4 million dollar sports facility — The Star Dome.

An indoor and outdoor facility, the structure comes in handy during our cold Minnesota winters. But what makes the Star Dome unique is the Elayer turf — a playing surface unlike other artificial fields.

While most athletic facilities have turf lying on top of cement, the Elayer turf at the Star Dome lies on crushed rubber. With the crushed rubber base, the entire field gives in when in use, making for a softer surface.

"It's a lot like running on grass," said Holy Angels' Athletic Director Gary Rufsvold. "And when it rains, the water goes straight into the turf, not to the side. The field can take seven inches of water an hour. That's what makes it nice, because we have boys' and girls' soccer and football, so we can use it constantly."

"We basically borrowed the money," said Rufsvold, "and have a business plan to pay for it in about 10 years."

New Coach, Too

Along with the new Star Dome, Holy Angels will also have a new face in charge of the varsity football program.

Mike Pendino, 37, takes over as the Stars' first-year head football coach, replacing Dan Woods.

Pendino is a native of New Jersey where he graduated from Cinnaminson High School in 1978. At Cinnaminson, Pendino played on the offensive and defensive line and earned all-conference honors as a senior.

In 1984, Pendino graduated from Temple University where he majored in marketing and distributive education. Pendino also played Division I football at Temple as a three-year starter at offensive guard. As a starter during his sophomore year, Temple was ranked as high as No. 16 in the nation.

Before coming to Holy Angels, Pendino's coaching experience included six years with the University of Minnesota, one year with the University of Maine, and two seasons at Kent State University (Ohio). Pendino at all three colleges was an assistant coach with the offensive line.

In 1996, Pendino took a teaching position as a business instructor at Holy Angels where he was also hired as an assistant football coach, under head coach Dan Woods.

With Woods resigning, Pendino jumped at the head coach opportunity at Holy Angels. "It will be

fun," said Pendino. "We got a bunch of kids there and it will be a challenge. I'm looking forward to it."

After being an assistant coach at Maine and Kent State, Pendino came back to Minnesota, mainly because of his wife. "My wife is from Minnesota," said Pendino. "I met her when I was coaching at the University of Minnesota."

Pendino's wife, Amy, is originally from Prior Lake where her father, Mike Jerabek, coached Prior Lake High School to a pair of state basketball championships in the late 70s.

Conference to Change Scheduling

This fall the Missota Conference will be a nine-school league with the addition of Farmington. However, Holy Angels and Benilde-St. Margaret's will not be eligible to compete for the Missota title. Both private schools have elected to play a split

schedule for just football. The purpose of the split schedule is to avoid more games with the bigger Missota schools. Benilde and Holy Angels will each play just five conference games and three con-conference games. The other seven Missota schools — Hutchinson, New Prague, Prior Lake, Red Wing, Shakopee, Northfield and Farmington will each play seven conference games and one non-conference.

1996 Missota Standings

Northfield	7-0
Red Wing	5-2
Hutchinson	5-2
New Prague	4-3
Prior Lake	4-3
Shakopee	2-5
Benilde-SM	1-6
Holy Angels	0-7



Hans Bengtson of Northfield takes off on a fake punt. Holy Angels defenders are in pursuit.

Three Rivers Conference

In 1996 the Three Rivers Conference saw another dog fight for the conference crown. Chatfield, who won the title in 1994 and finished second to Kingsland in 1995, finally emerged as the conference champions in 1996.

The conference championship was up for grabs as four teams, Chatfield, Dover-Eyota, Kingsland, and Wabasha-Kellogg seemed to have a legitimate shot at winning the title.

The issue wasn't decided until the final game of the regular season, which pitted the Chatfield Gophers against the Dover-Eyota Eagles. The game had all the atmosphere of a state play-off game as both teams were undefeated and rated in the final AP poll in Class C. In front of 4,000 fans, the Chatfield Gophers came away from the Dover-Eyota Eagles' home field with a hard-fought 13-0 victory and their second Three Rivers Conference championship in three years.

In 1996 the Three Rivers Conference also saw success in post-season play as it has in the past seasons.

Kingsland, the defending state Class B champions, made it to the semi-finals of Section 1B and Dover-Eyota was in the semi-finals in Section 1C.

Chatfield, the defending Section 1C champion

in 1995, again was successful and defeated previously undefeated Fillmore-Central 37-0 in the Section 1C championship game.

The Gophers, two-time defending state champions in Class C, went on to defeat the Minnesota Valley Lutheran Chargers in the state quarter-finals and the Red Rock Central Falcons in the dome in the state semi-finals.

This set the state for a repeat of the 1995 Class C state championship game as the Gophers faced the tough Hawley Nuggets. The championship game saw both teams defenses rise to the occasion and stifle both teams potent offenses. Chatfield, under Head Coach Ken Jacobson, defeated Hawley 12-7 to win their third straight Class C state championship.

Final Standings

	Conference	Overall
Chatfield	8-0	14-0
Dover-Eyota	6-1	8-2
Kingsland	5-2	6-4
Wabasha-Kellogg	4-3	5-4
Lewiston-Altura	3-4	4-5
St. Charles	2-5	2-7
Goodhue	1-6	2-6
Plainview-Elgin-Millville	0-7	0-8



Justine Harmening #41 of Chatfield gains yardage in the Class C Championship game. Chatfield offensive tackle #72 Mike Boelten is down field ready to block on Hawley's #30 Mike Riddle.



Chatfield linebacker Trever Niemeyer #62 hits Hawley's quarterback Travis Olson just as he has released the ball at the end of the Class C Championship game.

Sea-Range Conference

Duluth Denfeld was able to emerge from the pack and win the 1996 Sea-Range title by winning all nine conference games. Denfeld, coached by Dave Mooers, had to overcome close games with Hermantown, Duluth Central and Proctor in order to go undefeated. Hermantown, Duluth Central and Cloquet all finished 7 and 2 with Proctor following with a 6 and 3 mark. Greenway also posted a winning season in the 12 team conference.

Four outstanding players represent the Sea-Range conference in the 1997 Minnesota High School football game. Named to the Outstate team were Jared Murray of Hermantown, Jon Jazdewski of Denfeld, Richard Jerome of Central and Eric Nephew of Proctor. Other outstanding players last season included Caleb Blomdahl of Denfeld, Nathan Sandman of Proctor, Kyle Vedder of Central, Steve Battaglia of Cloquet, Dan Fillbrandt of Greenway, Jeff Bright of Two Harbors and Jed Swenson of International Falls.

Dave Mooers was selected as the conference coach of the year. The conference will be losing one of its premier head coaches with the retirement of Randy Bowen of Hermantown. Daryl Illikainen, former head coach at Duluth Marshall, will be replacing Bowen. Stuart Nordquist of International Falls will attempt to join the exclusive club of coaches with 200 victories next fall. Norquist has a coaching record of 197 and 96

while serving 23 years as the Bronco's head coach and five years at Adams. Frank Fabish will attempt to reach his 100th victory next fall. He currently is 92 and 66 in 15 years at Virginia. Dave Hylla of Proctor reached a milestone last season with his 100th victory. He currently is 102 and 55 in 16 seasons.

The Sea-Range Conference will revert back to an eight team league next fall. Crosby-Ironton, Eveleth-Gilbert, Greenway, Hermantown, International Falls, Mesabi East, Proctor and Two Harbors will continue in the Sea-Range Conference. Duluth Central, Denfeld and East as well as Cloquet, Hibbing and Virginia will form a new conference composed primarily of 4A schools.

Final Standings

Duluth Denfeld	9-0
Hermantown	7-2
Duluth Central	7-2
Cloquet	7-2
Proctor	6-3
Greenway	5-4
Virginia	4-5
Eveleth-Gilbert	3-6
International Falls	2-7
Mesabi East	2-7
Crosby-Ironton	1-8
Two Harbors	1-8

Great River Conference

Bruce Harding's East Central Eagles won the Great River Conference title. The Eagles were undefeated in the conference winning the title with a thrilling 21 to 13 victory over the Braham Bombers. The Eagles advanced to Section 7B semi-finals before being beaten by Esko.

In winning the conference championship, East Central led the conference in rushing, pass defense, and total yardage defense. Braham led the conference in total yardage offense and rushing defense. Hinckley/Finlayson was the top passing team in the Great River Conference.

The Eagles were also the Class B Section 7 Academic champions for the third straight year.

Coach Harding was named the Great River

Conference Coach of the Year. East Central's Alan Laursen, who led the conference in rushing, scoring and punting was named the Most Valuable Player. The Offensive Player of the Year was Braham's David Price and Tony Volk, a linebacker from East Central, was the Defensive Player of the Year.

Final Standings

East Central Eagles	6-0
Braham Bombers	5-1
Mille Lacs Raiders	3-3
Ogilvie Lions	3-3
Aitkin Gobblers	2-4
Hinckley/Finlayson Jaguars	1-5
Rush City Tigers	0-6

Polar South Conference

By Phil Jensen, Moose Lake-Willow River

Once again the Polar South Conference proved to be very competitive and exciting. Pre-season favorites Esko and Moose Lake-Willow River proved to be the powers this year as they both entered the season ending showdown with 7-0 records.

With over 2,200 fans attending, the Eskomos, under Coach Bill Hudspeth, proved to be too much for the Rebels and came away with their sixth straight conference championship. There were many close and exciting games along the way for all of the teams.

Jim Anderson, first year Carlton Bulldog coach, guided his team to a 3-3 conference record and advanced to the section finals. Dave Homestead's

Marshall Hilltoppers also finished the conference season with a 3-3 record. The Barnum Bombers, under Jim Hosmer, were very young and finished the year 2-4 in league play. Kim Staum of McGregor found his team low on numbers but not on heart and finished conference play with a 2-4 record. Doug Conboy's Silver Bay Mariners struggled with a young team and finished with a 0-6 conference mark.

Looking forward to the 1997 season the Polar South will once again be very talented and the title will be up for grabs with no clear cut favorites as all of the teams are returning a good number of players.



Action from the Section 7B playoff game between Ely and Moose Lake-Willow River. The Timberwolves outlasted the Rebels 36-34.

Tri-Valley Conference

By Dean Aurich, Mayer Lutheran Football Coach

The final games of the regular season of the Tri-Valley Conference football season were all played in the Metrodome. Lester Prairie finished the regular season with a perfect 8-0 record and went on to win the Class 3C section championship, advancing to the state tournament with a perfect 11-0 record. Lester Prairie's 43 defense was outstanding and did not allow a single team to score in any of the first three quarters in the entire regular season. Congratulations to Chris Bahr (line-man) and to Joe Scoblic (head coach) of Lester Prairie for being selected as the Tri-Valley MVP and Coach of the Year.

Winsted Holy Trinity started slow with a 0-2 start but finished strong winning their next eight games behind the strong running of Junior Mike Baird. The Section 3C championship was a rematch between conference champions Lester Prairie and second place Winsted Holy Trinity.

This was Maple Lake's first season in the Tri-Valley Conference. Maple Lake, led by a very solid defense, was in a three way tie for second place with Winsted Holy Trinity and Mayer Lutheran coming into the final regular season game at the dome. However a blocked punt and an upset victory by St. Croix Lutheran bounced them down into a 4th place finish.

Next year the Tri-Valley Football Conference will be expanding to include 10 teams. St. Bernards of St. Paul and Minneapolis Lutheran of Bloomington will be added to the schedule. With 10 teams in conference play in 1997 each team will play an eight game conference schedule and not play one conference team.

There are several veteran coaches in the Tri-Valley, three of which are listed in the 100 victory club: Carl Lemke, St. Croix Lutheran, 162-87-0 (25 yr.); Jim Brown, Winsted Holy Trinity, 126-81-0 (21 yr.); Dave Montgomery, SPA, 120-111-2 (26 yr.). All three of these coaches have over 20 years of head coaching under their belts and deserve praise for their efforts in dealing with young men.

Conference Standings

	Conference	Over-All
Lester Prairie	7-0	11-1
Winsted Holy Trinity	5-2	8-3
Mayer Lutheran	5-2	6-4
Maple Lake	4-3	5-4
Concordia Academy	3-4	4-5
Randolph	2-5	2-7
St. Croix Lutheran	2-5	2-7
St. Paul Academy	0-7	1-7

The Lester Prairie 4-3 defense lines up against Concordia Academy in play at the Metrodome. The Bulldog defense did not allow a score during the first 3 quarters of regular season games en route to a 11-1 season.



Prairie South Conference

By Con Natvig, Swanville

In 1996 the Prairie South had only six teams, with St. John's Preps slated to return to the Conference in 1997.

The first week of the season all the teams played non-conference games against the Prairie North. There were some very good games. Swanville defeated Browerville 14-6 at Browerville in a game that is a great rivalry every year. Swanville and Browerville will not play each other for the next two years because of non-conference rotation. Osakis defeated Sebeka 35-8, and KMS defeated New York Mills 20-6. Two teams from the Prairie North were victorious with Parkers Prairie defeating Brandon-Evansville 34-14 and Menasha defeating Royalton 48-6.

The second week two teams from the South played non-conference games with Osakis defeating Minneapolis Lutheran 60-0 and Swanville defeating New York Mills 14-0. The conference games were very exciting games with KMS defeating Brandon-Evansville 16-0 and Upsala defeating Royalton 20-6.

The big game the third week was Swanville vs. Upsala with both teams 2-0. Swanville won at home 28-7 in a very physical game. Brandon-Evansville was defeated in a non-conference game 45-13 by Big Lake. KMS and Osakis remained undefeated with KMS over Parkers Prairie 30-6 and Osakis over Royalton 34-0.

The big game the fourth week was Swanville at Osakis in a showdown of two 3-0 teams. Osakis played a super game and defeated Swanville 53-7. Brandon-Evansville defeated Royalton 43-6, Bertha-Hewitt defeated Upsala in a very physical game 16-7 and KMS remained undefeated over Minneapolis Lutheran 68-21.

The fifth week saw Swanville defeating Brandon-Evansville 21-0 and KMS and Osakis remaining undefeated and aiming for a showdown at KMS in the last game of the year. Osakis defeated Upsala 37-7 and KMS defeated Royalton 36-14.

The top game the sixth week was Swanville at KMS. Swanville had injury problems with their two all-conference running backs, David Valencia and Jason Van Havermaet, getting hurt in the second quarter and not returning. KMS prevailed to stay undefeated 22-0. Osakis defeated Eagle Valley 48-7, Howard Lake-Waverly defeated Royalton 41-20 and Brandon-Evansville defeated Upsala 21-0.

The seventh week saw Osakis and KMS both scoring big wins. Osakis over Brandon-Evansville 35-14 and KMS over Upsala 32-0. Royalton defeated Sebeka 28-22 in overtime and Swanville was beaten by ACGC 26-12.

The last week of the regular season featured the showdown for the Prairie South championship. The game featured two long time successful coaches, Jim Roforth from Osakis and Chuck Kavanagh from KMS. Osakis' potent offense with the great running of Stan Moore prevailed 45-14. Swanville defeated Royalton 24-0, Upsala over Minneapolis Lutheran 44-14 and Brandon-Evansville was defeated by Browerville 17-0.

In the Section 5-C playoffs KMS dethroned defending champions Browerville in the semi-finals. Osakis went on to defeat KMS once again to win the Section 5-C championship played at the Fargodome. Osakis' season came to end the next week when they were defeated by Hawley at Osakis.

The coach of the year in the Prairie South was Jim Roforth from Osakis. The most valuable back was Stan Moore from Osakis and the most valuable lineman was Joey Kircher of Swanville.

Standings

	Conference	Overall
Osakis	5-0	11-1
KMS	4-1	9-2
Swanville	3-2	5-4
Brandon-Evansville	2-3	2-7
Upsala	1-4	3-5
Royalton	0-5	1-7

Prairie North Conference

By Tom Trisko

The Prairie North Conference, in its second year, proved to be very competitive again. Going into the season the teams appeared to be very blanced.

Bertha-Hewitt, the 1995 conference champion, lost many seniors to graduation and had to fill key positions with inexperienced players. In addition, a replacement of 18 year offensive coordinator Jim Sutherland needed to be found. Head Coach Tom Trisko, in his fifth year, had a lot of work to do to get his team prepared.

Browerville, under the leadership of Gary Graham, was expected to field a strong, though young team.

The young Menahga Braves, with Andy McCarty at the helm for his second year, could not be overlooked either. The Braves were 4-5 the year before and were starting to catch on to McCarty's style of football.

The Eagle Valley Rebels, with Head Coach John Sieling and assistant Rick Hest, returned a very talented back field.

Matt Radeneki's New York Mills Eagles had high hopes, with quarterback John Pauna returning as a starter in his fourth season, and a new offensive coordinator, Paul King.

The Parkers Prairie Panthers and Head Coach Dean Yocum had a young squad with the ability to make the big play. In addition, they brought John Noga, former head coach, back as offensive coordinator.

The Sebeka Trojans, under the direction of Al Erickson, hoped to see some improvement from the past season as well.

As the first three weeks of the season progressed, it was evident that Menahga, Browerville, Bertha-Hewitt, and Eagle Valley would be contenders for the conference championship. After Browerville edged Menahga by a point 21-20, and Bertha-Hewitt did the same with Eagle Valley 14-13, the stage was set for a rematch of the conference championship. The game was an exciting one. Bear's running back Corey Hennigar couldn't be stopped in the first half as Bertha-Hewitt jumped out to a 20-8 lead. The second half was owned by the Browerville line though, as they stormed back to defeat the Bears 29-26.

Final Standings

	Conference	Overall
Browerville	6-0	7-1
Bertha-Hewitt	5-1	7-1
Menahga	4-2	6-2
Eagle Valley	3-3	3-5
New York Mills	2-4	2-6
Parkers Prairie	1-5	1-7
Sebeka	0-6	0-8

In section play, the conference did not fair as well. Bertha-Hewitt fell to Waubun and Menahga was defeated by Hawley in the semi-finals of Section 6. Browerville lost to KMS in the semi-finals of Section 5.

The 1997 outlook has Browerville and Menahga as the two pre-season favorites. Both teams were loaded with talented underclassmen in 1996. They have excellent coaching staffs and will be tough to beat.

Bertha-Hewitt's Matt Tyrrell #68 makes the tackle on Parkers Prairie's Brett Christianson #7.



Gopher Valley Conference

Five Gopher Conference football teams joined forces with five Valley Conference teams to form the first season of the Gopher/Valley League. Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton and Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop tied for the overall championship with 7-1 records, after GFE was upset in the final week of the season.

JWP made the jump from fifth place in the Gopher Conference in 1995 (1-4) to the top of the league this fall. Coach George Tuvey passed the 100-career win mark in his 22nd year as the Bulldog coach.

JWP featured an explosive offense that averaged over 27 points a game and a stingy defense that posted two shutouts and gave up less than 12 points a game. JWP's only regular season loss was a 13-7 setback to GFW.

The Bulldogs beat the remaining four Gopher Conference foes, including Blooming Prairie twice. JWP finished with a 9-2 overall record, losing to Cannon Falls in the Section 3B title game.

JWP was led by the rushing duo of Travis Hinze (596 yds.) and Clint Westphal (579 yds.); the passing of Hinze (846 yds, 19 TD's), the receiving and scoring of Ben Wheelock (23 recpt., 10 TD's, 84 pts.) and Westphal (16 recpt., 7 TD's, 78 pts.); and the defense of Jake Zimmerman (107 tackles), Jeff Adams (105 tackles), Hinze (7 interceptions) and Westphal (7 interceptions).

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva overcame a three-game losing streak in the middle of its schedule to post a 4-4 regular season record, and then dropped a 7-0 defensive struggle to Triton in the opening round of Section 3B.

Coach John Schultz is still trying to get the Panthers to take that step ahead, as he now has a 20-18 mark in four years at NRHEG.

NRHEG started the year with high expectations with an opening game win over WEM, but then dropped four of its next five games. The Panthers were 3-1 against former Gopher Conference foes, losing only to JWP 22-16.

NRHEG averaged 17.2 points a game featuring the rushing of senior tailback Dan Routh. Routh was the league's top scorer (122 pts.) and second leading rusher (1,306 yds.). Routh had five 100-yard rushing games during the year, including 321

against WEM.

Junior quarterback Grant Berg passed for 590 yards and four TD's, but no receiver had more than nine catches.

Linebacker Jeremey Berg (127 tackles) and nose guard Matt Petsinger (105 tackles) led a stingy Panther defense that gave up 15.6 points game, but held four teams to a single touchdown and forced 23 turnovers.

Jon Bakken and his WEM Buccaneers suffered a rare losing season. Bakken, who has an 83-25 record plus seven conference championships in 10 years at WEM, saw the Bucs drop to 3-5 in league play and 3-6 overall. The Bucs beat only Faribault Academies among their four former Gopher Conference foes.

An inexperienced Buccaneer crew lost 7-6 to JWP and 28-27 to GFW, the top two teams in the league.

WEM averaged only 13.3 points a game, and gave up 18.1 points a contest.

The Bucs still featured a strong ground attack with juniors Tony Stoering and Mark O'Malley leading the way. Stoering ran for 758 yards and four TD's, while O'Malley added 668 yards and eight touchdowns.

Freshman quarterback Corey Hackett threw for 496 yards, but suffered 10 interceptions in his first year of varsity competition.

Receivers Alex Wesley (16 recpts.) and Ryan Tegmeier (12 recpts.) were Hackett's main targets.

Linebacker Josh Larsen was a rock on defense the entire year, making 127 tackles to lead the Bucs.

Blooming Prairie opened the year with three straight wins, but never won again. The Blossoms finished 3-5 in the league, and lost their opening round playoff game to JWP. BP was 1-4 against former Gopher Conference opponents.

The Blossoms were the league's fourth-best offensive team, but next to last in defense.

Running back Chris Wilson (634 yds. rushing) and quarterback Brian Farr (439 yds. passing, 5 TD's) led the BP offense.

Faribault Academies suffered through a 2-6 record, failing to make the playoffs. The Cardinals were in every game they played, having lost their

first four games by a total of 11 points.

FA was second in the league in offense, thanks to the passing attack directed by junior quarterback Nick Ambrasas. Ambrasas, the league's top passer, threw for 1,762 yards and 13 touchdowns, averaging over 33 passes a game.

Tom Underdahl (60 recpts.) and Wade Bronnenberg (26 recpts.) were the top two receivers in the league.

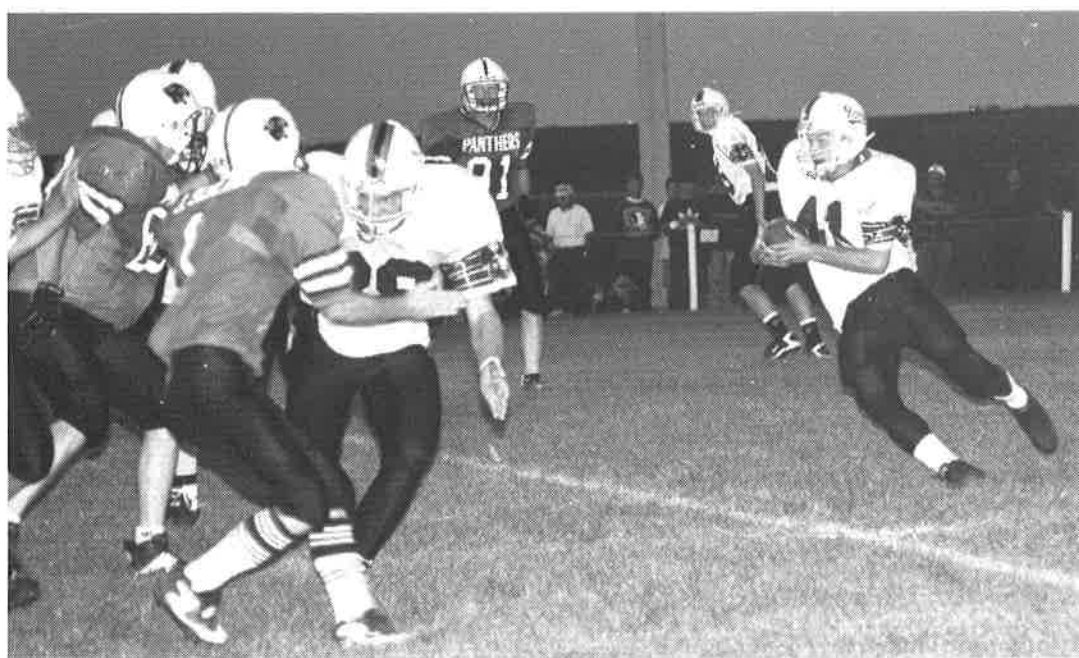
FA's defense ranked sixth in the league, allowing 22.4 points a game.

Faribault Academies and Maple River were the only two teams in the 10-team league that did not

qualify for the playoffs.

Final Standings

	Conference	Season
JWP	7-1	9-2
Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthop	7-1	8-2
Martin County West	6-2	7-3
Madelia-Truman	5-3	7-4
NRHEG	4-4	4-5
WEM	3-5	3-6
Blooming Prairie	3-5	3-6
Faribault Academies	2-6	2-6
Lake Crystal-WM	2-6	2-7
Maple River	1-7	1-7



County News/Dale Kugath
Best Night Ever

Junior Running Back Tony Stoering (41) of WEM, shown in the season opener against NRHEG, had his best game ever at Faribault. Stoering rushed for 195 yards and scored both WEM touchdowns as the Bucs upended Faribault Academies for their second straight win. Stoering galloped 54 yards on a fourth and two play with 3:20 left to give the Bucs a 13-7 win.



County News/Dale Kugath

Looking for room to romp

Jake Zimmerman (35) sprints through a hole as his teammates look to help him out with some downfield blocking. JWP found the going tough against top seeded Cannon Falls, losing 26-6 and rushing for only 80 yards the entire game.

Central Lakes Conference

The Central Lakes Conference saw some outstanding individual performances along with dominating team play in the 1996 season. Alexandria and Brainerd finished with identical 6-1 records to claim the conference championship. Brainerd under the direction of Head Coach Ron Stolski lead the conference with their pounding ground attack. Senior running back Brian Day broke many records while rushing for 1,666 yards in just seven conference games. Dennis Kalpin's Alexandria Cardinals led the pack in defense allowing only 200 yards and less than 10 points per game. Brainerd won the conference meeting of the two teams, but Alexandria claimed revenge winning the first round state tournament contest.

The St. Cloud Tech and Apollo football teams enjoyed great success in the 1996 season. Under the direction of first year coaches Ron Kaczor and Jim Wagner, respectively, both registered upset victories and battled the conference leaders all year long. Tech finished in third place, including an impressive win over the conference champion Brainerd Warriors. St. Cloud Apollo was lead by Junior Jeff Schneider's strong arm as he threw for over 1,700 yards in seven games and put Apollo in a tie for fourth place.

Rocori, Sartell, and Willmar all finished in a tie

with Apollo with 3-4 records. It was a year in which no win was sure and no lead was safe. Mark Johnson's defense once again lead his Rocori team to success and a Section 6A semi-final birth. Rocori's Joel Vettleson led the conference in tackles. Sartell, under the direction of second year coach John Ross, battled everyone to the end and enjoyed a late season surge. Willmar's Deryl Ramey led his team to a fourth place finish in his last season as the Cardinals head coach. The highly respected Ramey will be missed greatly by the conference.

The Little Falls Flyers continued to build for the future by playing many underclassmen. Head Coach Mike Olson saw sophomore QB Mario Filippi throw for over 1,000 yards in conference play and will be a player to watch in the next two years.

Final Standings

Brainerd	6-1
Alexandria	6-1
St. Cloud Tech	4-3
Rocori	3-4
Sartell	3-4
Willmar	3-4
St. Cloud Apollo	3-4
Little Falls	0-7



Brainerd's #32 FB Eric Charpentier blocks Cambridge's #21 Lucke Bechner to spring #47 Brian Day to a touchdown in the Warrior's Section Championship victory. #45 for Brainerd is Dan Whinley.

St. Paul Suburban Conference

St. Paul Suburban Conference Champion St. Thomas Academy finished the season with a perfect 7-0 conference record. Coach Bob Slater was named coach of the year. The Cadets led the league in offense with 403 yards per game.

Park finished second with a 6-1 conference mark. Doug Ekmark's Wolfpack lead the league in points scored (209), points allowed (55) and team defense (166 yards per game). The only blemish to a great year came on September 20 when Dick Weinberger's Tartan Titan's beat them 6-3. Park and St. Thomas Academy didn't play in 1996.

South St. Paul had a great season finishing with a 5-2 record. The Packers had the opportunity to tie for the conference title the last game of the season but were defeated by St. Thomas Academy in a thrilling 20-13 game. Packer's coach Randy Bjorklund was named KARE 11 TV's Metro Coach of the Year.

There were fine performances in 1996. South St. Paul's Beau Labore won the scoring title with

98 points. Hasting's Charlie Black won the passing title with 57 of 118 (922 yds.) and five TD's. Rob Foster of Tartan led receivers with 34 receptions and five TD's.

The conference welcomes back Tim Hickey to Tartan as head coach. He served the Titans as defensive coordinator and returns after assisting at Augsburg College.

The St. Paul Suburban Conference does not name conference MVP or other individual awards.

1996 Standings

St. Thomas Academy	7-0	8-0
Park	6-1	6-2
South St. Paul	5-2	6-2
Woodbury	4-3	5-3
Hastings	4-3	4-4
Tartan	3-4	4-4
Henry Sibley	1-6	1-7
North St. Paul	1-6	1-7
Simley	1-7	1-7

Wright County Conference

The Wright County Conference completed another successful season in 1996. Glencoe/Silver Lake won their first Wright County championship with a record of 7-0. The Panthers also went on to win the Section 4A championship with wins over Shakopee, Delano, and Hutchinson.

Making its first state tournament appearance, Glencoe/Silver Lake lost 20-19 to Mahtomedi.

Another conference member, St. Michael/Albertville, defeated the number one rated Becker Bulldogs in their Class B section.

Final Standings

Glencoe/Silver Lake	7-0
Delano	5-2
Dassel-Cokato	5-2
St. Michael-Albertville	3-4
Waconia	3-4
Annandale	3-4
Watertown-Mayer	1-6
Rockford	1-6

WCC Coach of the Year — Buz Rimrill, GSL.

WCC Most Valuable Lineman — Curtis Matuska, Delano.

WCC Most Valuable Back — Mike Hermann, DC.



GSL running back Gary Kusek runs for good yardage in the Panthers 37-6 win over Annandale in Wright County action.

Tri-Metro Maroon Conference

St. Anthony went undefeated in their last year in the conference. Coach Scott Teidens did an outstanding job molding a tremendous group of seniors. The big win in the season was a conference clinching victory over eventual state champion Breck. The Husky offense scored four times with plays over 50 yards in a hard hitting conference. Unfortunately, Teiden's team fell in the section semi-finals to conference rival St. Agnes, whom they had defeated during conference play. Both games were very close and had all the marks of a championship game.

The Breck Mustangs were disappointed in their second place conference finish and made the rest of the state pay for it. After losing the conference title to St. Anthony in the seventh game of the season the Mustangs, behind All-State Quarterback Gavin Hoffman and a swarming defense, went on a seven game march, averaging over 37 points scored while giving up only 7 points per game. The Mustang offense averaged 215 yards rushing and 200 yards passing for the playoffs. As prolific as the offense was the defense was as tough. During the playoffs the Mustang defense recorded 23 sacks and 27 takeaways while giving up less than 125 yards per game. It was the first football state championship and the fourth team title for the school in the last 20

months.

St. Agnes, coached by Tom Flood, had another outstanding season reaching the section finals before losing to the eventual state champion. Flood is particularly happy because he will return almost every starter from this team. The Aggies had a potent running attack and a stingy defense. They will be the odds on favorite to win the conference next year.

DeLaSalle, under the coaching of Tony Johnson, had a very young team. He will return most of his starters and they will only be juniors. He is very excited about the next two seasons and should be in the running at the end of the season.

Minnehaha Academy, under Ron Monson, started the season 4-0 before running into injuries and bad luck. The Redhawks will return an outstanding running game and a quality defense and could be the surprise team of the conference in 1997.

Blake School, under John Buford, had an unusual off season. Despite having a potent offense the Bears struggled through the season, but are optimistic about the 1997 campaign.

St. Bernard's, under the guidance of Mark Lenihan, also struggled this season but is building a nucleus to contend in the future. The Bulldogs will leave the conference for one year and then come back for the 1998 season.



Breck's All State QB Gavin Hoffman hands off to #22 Jon Simmons in Breck's semi-final game with Breckenridge in the dome. Breck won 14-12 to advance to the Championship Game. Breckenridge's #4 Nate Trydahl defends.

Southern Independent Confederacy

The Southern Independent Confederacy was split into two divisions with LeRoy/Ostrander winning the east and Cleveland winning the west. Stan Olsen of L/O, Dave Krenik of Cleveland and Steve Ondrush of Edgerton received coach of the year honors.

Back of the year went to Craig Tangen of Grand Meadow and Ryan Losinski of Cleveland. Lineman of the year went to Brad Farlinger of L/O, Steve Stauff of Cleveland and Ryan Burgers of H/BC.

Craig Tangen lead the conference in scoring (149) and rushing yards (1,200). Charlie Freitag (St. Clair) was the leading receiver with 358 yards. Scott Perron (Cleveland) was the leading passer with 1,022 yards and 20 TD's.

Stan Olsen's L-O team again won the Section 1 playoffs and represented the conference in the

state playoffs.

John Cross retired at Medford after 156 career wins in 32 years.

East Standings

LeRoy/Ostrander	8-0
Grand Meadow	6-2
Glenville-Emmons	5-3
Lyle	3-5
Alden-Conger	1-7
Medford	1-7

West Standings

Cleveland	7-1
Edgerton	6-2
Hills/Beaver Creek	5-3
Ellsworth	4-4
Granada-HEC/ML	2-6
St. Clair	0-8

Polar North Conference

Football in the Polar North Conference was very competitive in 1996. Four teams were capable of winning the championship and the outcome was not known until the final regular season games. Deer River defeated defending champion Ely in a close 28-21 battle to gain the title. A three way tie for second place developed as Cook County, Cherry and Ely all earned conference records of 5-2. Nashwauk-Keewatin, Chisholm, Cook, and Mt. Iron-Buhl finished fifth through eighth, respectively.

Deer River continued successfully into the playoffs by winning the Section 7B Championship in a 26-6 win over Esko. The state quarter-final ended the Warrior's season with a 13-12 loss to Breckenridge.

Cook County also made a very strong showing in the playoffs by taking the Section 7C title. The Vikings continued their winning ways all the way to the Metrodome before losing a very close state semi-final game to Hawley.

Since the Polar North Conference began in 1991, Deer River has been champion three times, Cook County two times, and Ely once. Next season should again be very competitive with the championship up for grabs.

Standings

	Conference	Overall
Deer River	7-0	11-1
Cook County	5-2	9-3
Cherry	5-2	7-3
Ely	5-2	6-4
Nashwauk-Keewatin	3-4	3-5
Chisholm	2-5	2-6
Cook	1-6	1-7
Mt. Iron-Buhl	0-7	0-8



Deer River senior wingback Jason Thompson cuts to the outside for a nice gain against Chisholm in a Polar North Conference game.

Southeast Conference

The Southeast Conference had an exciting football season in the fall of 1996. Del Elston's Fillmore Central Falcons became champions by defeating the Mabel-Canton/North Winn Cougars in the last regular season game of the year. Coach Elston's Falcons were a good defensive team, strong on special teams and as in the past years, displayed a wide open offensive attack led by league Most Valuable Offensive Player of the Year Matt Hellickson.

Following is a quick description of the remaining teams in the conference in the fall of 1996.

Karl Urbaniak's Mabel-Canton/North Winn Cougars were a strong defensive unit, sound special teams along with a very tough wing-T running attack, as evident when offensive tackle Paul Tollefsrud was named Most Valuable Offensive Lineman in the League.

Dick Strand's Southland Rebels once again displayed a powerful running attack, along with an attacking defensive unit led by Brian Larson.

Jim Rienhardt's Rushford-Peterson Trojans, initially a passing unit, returned to their well known option attack and played very well in the second half of the season.

Mark Froehling's Caledonia Warriors displayed

a tough 4-4 defense with a pro I, pro twins running and passing attack.

The Lanesboro Burros, coached by Terry Highum, were a very tough 4-4 defensive unit. Burro's standout Jesse Rein was named Most Valuable Defensive Player of the Year in the conference.

The Lions of Spring Grove, coached by Lew Kelly, once again showed great improvement in their play. They ran a wing-T offensive attack and a multiple look on defense.

Dave Meyer's Houston Hurricanes, although short in numbers, played hard, inspired football and are on the right track for the future. All in all, the fall of 1996 was a great football year in the Southeastern Conference.

Standings

Fillmore Central	7-0
Mabel-Canton/North Winn	6-1
Caledonia	4-3
Southland	4-3
Lanesboro	3-4
Rushford-Peterson	3-4
Spring Grove	1-6
Houston	0-7

West Central North Conference

Albany High School football team was undefeated in conference play. The Huskies averaged over 45 points and 377 yards a game while allowing only 4.5 points and 171 yards per game on defense. Litchfield and Melrose finished in a tie for second place with 4-2 conference records.

The most valuable player in the West Central North was Albany's Neil Austin. Neil was the only Huskie to play both offense and defense. He was a wing back on offense where he averaged 6.0 yards per carry. On defense Neil led the Huskies in defensive points. Austin also joined teammate Luke Mitchell to lead the conference in punt returns, accounting for 235 yards on 16 returns. Albany's over all record for the season was 11-1,

losing to Mora in the state quarter-finals.

Other West Central Conference North awards went to Josh Kotelnicki of Litchfield and Nick Tylutki of Melrose for the outstanding back. Jason Welle of Albany was named the outstanding lineman.

Conference Standings

Albany	6-0
Litchfield	4-2
Melrose	4-2
Paynesville	3-3
Sauk Centre	2-4
LPGE	1-5
Cathedral	1-5

Great Northern Conference

The Cromwell Cardinals, undefeated in two full seasons, cruised to their fourth straight conference title and second straight 9-Man State Football Championship. In the 1996 Prep Bowl the Cardinals were winners in a record setting 46-44 affair over the Verndale Pirates. Perennial conference powers, Albrook and Cromwell, squared off in the Sectional title game. Albrook challenged early, but in the second half, Cromwell, led by Tom Gervais and Mike Olesiak, cruised to a 32-7 victory.

North Division champion Albrook was pushed in two regular season games by a speedy Cotton squad and a young and talented Babbitt-Embarrass team. After the dust settled, Babbitt-Embarrass finished in the runner-up spot followed by Cotton, Tower-Soudan, Bigfork, Littlefork-Big Falls, and Orr. A look at 1997 sees Bigfork, Babbitt-Embarrass and Littlefork-Big Falls in the title hunt.

South Division Champion Cromwell was untouchable in every conference game in 1996. Each game featured scores in the 50's or high 40's with the second team players seeing considerable game time. Nevis was a potential title contender with 13 contributing seniors on their ball

club. Nevis settled for the runner-up spot followed by Floodwood, Pillager, LaPorte, Hill City and Wrenshall. The Great Northern South division can look for Albrook, Cromwell and Nevis to knock heads for the conference crown in 1997.

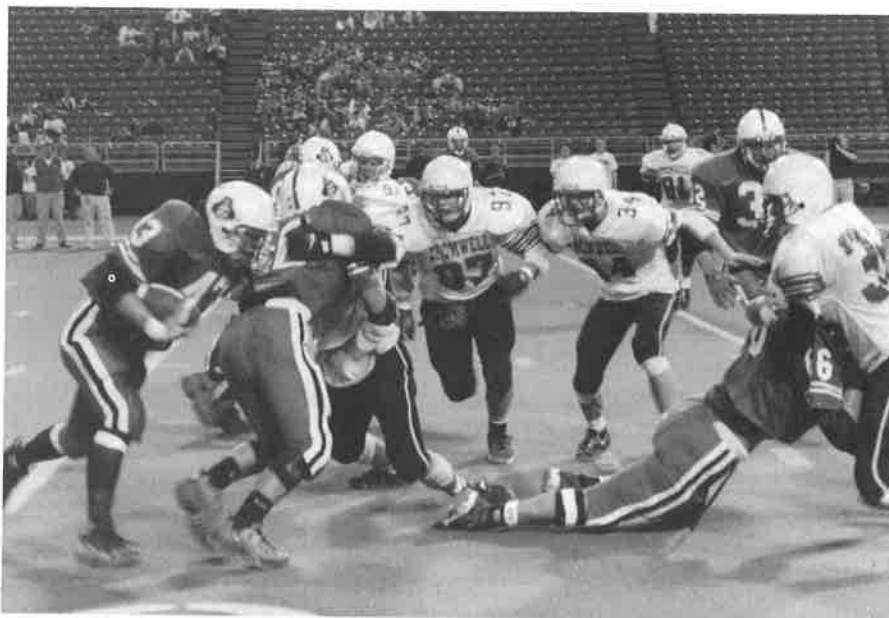
The conference again was loaded with feature players who appeared in the Duluth Tribune Prep Stats report as consistent leaders in 1996. North Division notables were Joe Gunderson of Albrook, Cory Kowarsch of Cotton and Thor Johnson of Bigfork. South Division headliners included the Anderson twins (Jeff and James) of Cromwell, Eric Kovack of Nevis and Bob Young of Floodwood.

The 1997 season also sees the Great Northern Conference changing and new faces added to an already powerful conference.

The North Division will have Littlefork-Big Falls, Bigfork, Tower, Orr, Babbitt-Embarrass, Cotton and "old" new comer Cherry returning to 9-Man from the Polar League. The South Division teams for 1997 are Cromwell, Hill City, Nevis, Wrenshall, LaPorte, Floodwood along with new comer Northland-Remer from the North Star Conference and Albrook moving in from the North Division.



Cromwell's Tyler Homstad #20 meets the left side of the Verndale Pirates in Prep Bowl XV action.



Cromwell defenders Troy Bridge #88, Brian Lind #97, Bob Dahl #34, and Tom Gervais #38 pursue Verndale's Joe Kern #43 in Prep Bowl XV action.

Hiawatha Valley League

The HVL is divided into two divisions for football with the six largest schools in the Blue division and the smallest six schools in the Gold division. Each school plays three non-conference games against teams from the other division and five conference games against teams from their own division.

In 1996 Triton, of the Gold division, started the season with two losses only to come back with six consecutive victories and capture the HVL Gold title. The first conference game was a critical one for the Cobras as they faced the Zumbrota-Mazeppa Cougars. The Cobras won the game and the division as the Cougars finished second. Triton did get a scare in the last game of the regular season as they hung on to defeat Hayfield 17-16. To the victors go the spoils and Triton Coach Don Henderson was again named Coach of the Year for the HVL Gold.

Kasson-Mantorville is always tough and 1996 was no exception. The KoMets were beaten badly in their first game of the season but like Triton bounced back winning six of their next seven and gaining a share of the HVL Blue title. The Ivan Kroulik coached KoMets suffered their only conference loss to Jeff Erdmann's Cannon Falls Bombers who shared the title with KM. The Bombers had their best season in years finishing the regular season with a 7-1 record. Their only

loss was to Winona Cotter, who was under the direction of first year coach Doyle Smidt. For their efforts Kroulik and Erdmann were both named Coach of the Year.

Every two years the HVL realigns the Blue and Gold divisions and next year will see Zumbrota-Mazeppa move to the Blue division while Winona Cotter moves to the Gold division. There will be some new faces on the sidelines also next fall as three veteran coaches are stepping down — Paul Senjem at Kenyon-Wanamingo, Al Hodge at Byron, and Todd Kieffer at Hayfield.

Gold Standings

	Division	Overall
Triton	5-0	6-2
Zumbrota-Mazeppa	4-1	6-2
Pine Island	3-2	4-4
Hayfield	2-3	3-5
Byron	1-4	1-7
Kenyon-Wanamingo	0-5	0-8

Blue Standings

	Division	Overall
Cannon Falls	4-1	7-1
Kasson-Mantorville	4-1	6-2
Lake City	3-2	6-2
Winona Cotter	2-3	5-3
Stewartville	2-3	3-5
Rochester Lourdes	0-5	1-7

CM Conference

The offensive leader was Big Lake with an average of 388 yards per game. Defensively Becker led the way allowing only 171 yards per game.

Defensive Lineman of the Year — Trevor Duevel, Holdingford.

Defensive Back of the Year — Paul Olson, Becker.

Linebacker of the Year — Alvin Kimman, Pierz.

Offensive Lineman of the Year — Chris Odden, Holdingford.

Offensive Back of the Year — Aaron Krych, Holdingford.

Receiver of the Year — Jordan Schlichting, Big

Lake.

Quarterback of the Year — Josh Lauzer, HL-W.

Specialist of the Year — John Treptau, Becker.

Coach of the Year — Dwight Lundeen, Becker.

Final Standings

Becker	6-0
Holdingford	4-2
Pierz	4-2
Big Lake	3-3
Howard Lake-Waverly	2-4
Kimball	2-4
Eden Valley-Watkins	0-6

Tri-Metro Gold Conference

Mahtomedi took its second straight Tri-Metro Gold title with a second perfect conference record in two seasons. The Zephyrs were led by Parade All-American Ben Sobieski and All-State selections Mike Dolezal and Fred Harris. Harris was named Back of the Year for his 1300 plus yard rushing season and over 3,600 yards for his three year career. Unfortunately he sustained a season ending broken leg in the second round of the playoffs and had to sit on the sidelines as the Zephyrs made their first ever semi-final dome appearance, losing to Northfield.

Second place Orono had an outstanding year from a healthy Craig Gorder, also an All-State selection. He amassed big yards thorough the air to a host of outstanding receivers, as well as running the ball effectively. He will be the man to watch next year.

Farmington's final year in the Tri-Metro was a third place finish, although as always, the Tigers were in every ball game. Jason Hustad made All-Metro and was named the Lineman of the Year for the conference. As a tight end/linebacker, he was a big time hitter.

Brooklyn Center's trio of running backs gave fits to opponents all year, Fergus Falls bowed out of the T-M after two years and Mound-Westonka had a successful rebuilding year.

Three athletes will play June 28 in the MSHSF-CA All-Star Game: Mike Dolezal and Fred Harris of Mahtomedi and Jason Hustad of Farmington.

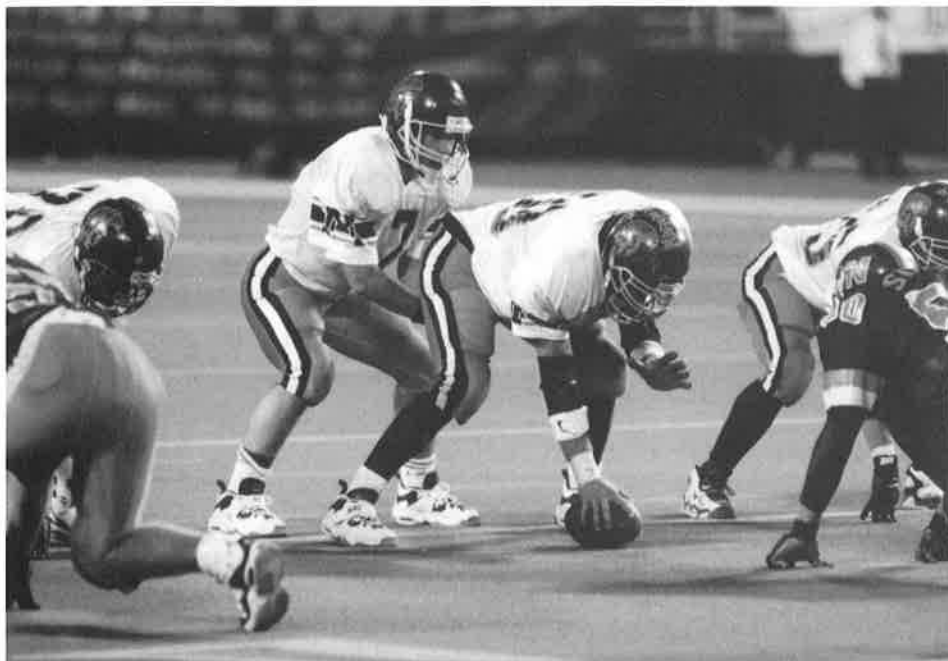
Back of Year: Fred Harris, Mahtomedi.

Lineman of Year: Jason Hustad, Farmington.

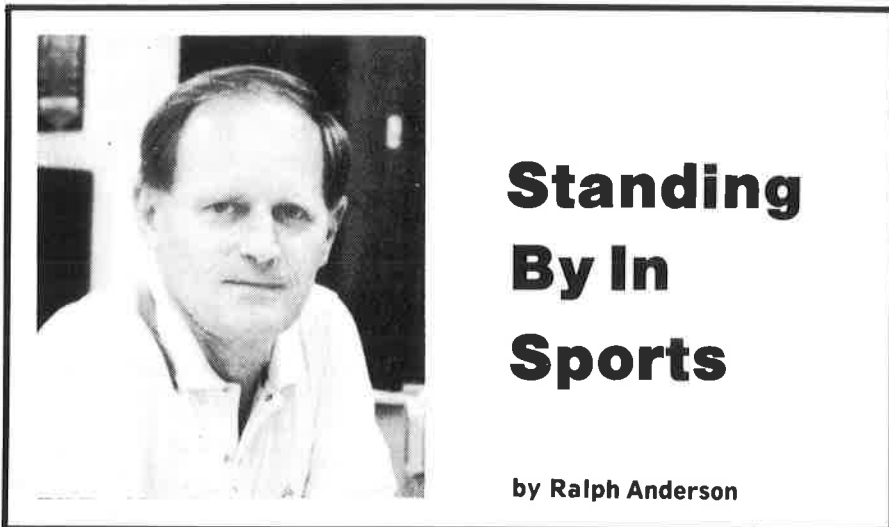
Coach of Year: Wally Malmstrom, Mahtomedi.



Mike Dolezal comes in for insurance as a teammate brings down Alan Kargbo of Brooklyn Center.



Quarterback Nick Dettinger threw for over 1000 yards and 9 TD's in only 118 attempts for the Zephyrs.



Standing By In Sports

by Ralph Anderson

Two schools repeated as champions and three new winners were crowned during Prep Bowl XV at the Metrodome in Minneapolis on Friday, Nov. 29, 1996.

The 1995 champions who also claimed titles in 1996 were Cromwell (Class 9-Man) and Chatfield (Class C).

New champions crowned were Breck (Class B), Mora (Class A) and Eden Prairie (Class AA). It was the first championship for each school.

Two 1995 champions had their hopes for a repeat dashed in the semi-final round. Detroit Lakes, the 1995 Class A champion, lost to Mora, while Stillwater, the 1995 Class AA winner, fell to Blaine.

Class AA-Eden Prairie 23, Blaine 22

(Mike Grant, Head Coach)

In a game that wasn't decided until the final minute, the Eden Prairie Eagles finished with a perfect 14-0 record by defeating Blaine 23-22.

Blaine's Marvin Spencer caught a 9-yard touchdown pass from Jess Albrecht with 55 seconds left to pull the Bengals within one point at 23-22, but a two-point conversion attempt on a pass was batted away by Eden Prairie defender Kevin Carney to preserve the Eagles' win.

The game was a see-saw affair, with Eden Prairie leading 7-3 at the quarter, Blaine ahead 9-7 at the half and the Eagles regaining the lead at 15-9 after three periods.

Eden Prairie pulled ahead 21-16 with 1:37 remaining when Ricky Fritz passed to Ryan Iverson on a 25-yard scoring play and Fritz ran for the two-point conversion to give the Eagles a seven-point edge.

Blaine then drove to its third touchdown of the night only to have its title hopes shattered by the failed two-point conversion try.

Eden Prairie finished with a 14-0 record on the season and the school's first state championship.

Blaine (10-4) was seeking its second state title and entered the game after defeating third-ranked Cretin-Derham Hall and top-rated Stillwater in the first two rounds of the state.

Class A-Mora 7, Northfield 3

(Clark Bergloff, Head Coach)

Mora's Mustangs capped a perfect 14-0 season with a 7-3 victory over the Northfield Raiders and claimed the

school's first state football title in its sixth appearance in the tournament.

The win over Northfield capped a remarkable achievement for the Mustangs, who downed the No. 4-rated team in the championship game after beating second-ranked Albany in the quarter-final round and top-rated Detroit Lakes in the semi-final.

Travis Lagasse's 8-yard touchdown run and a PAT by placement put Mora ahead 7-0 in the second quarter and the Mustangs then relied on a stout defense to hold off the Raiders.

Northfield drove to the Mora 3-yard line in the third period before Bill Methven intercepted a Northfield pass and returned it 39 yards to stave off what appeared to be a certain Northfield score.

The Raiders cut the Mora lead to 7-3 on a 27-yard field goal by Christian White in the fourth period and Mora later recovered a Northfield fumble on its 33-yard line to stifle still another scoring chance by the Raiders.

Head Coach Clark Bergloff of Mora said the fact his players "believed in themselves" was a big key to the school's winning the championship.

Mora had finished as Class A runner-up in 1976 and in 1985 before claiming its first state crown.

Mora finished with a perfect 14-0 record, while Northfield ended with a 12-2 mark.

Class B-Breck 24, Windom Area 7

(John Thiel, Head Coach)

Breck School, located in Golden Valley, relied on its offense most of the 1996 season and then played some stirring defense in defeating Windom Area 24-7 in the Class B championship game.

Windom was held to just two yards by rushing and Breck intercepted six Windom passes in posting a 24-7 championship game victory.

Jon Simmons ran for two Breck touchdowns and quarterback Gavin Hoffman, who will attend Northwestern University, passed to Colin Brooks for another score, but it was defense that told the story. The TD pass was Hoffman's 25th of the season.

Breck, which finished 12-2 overall, set a new Prep Bowl record with the six interceptions, one more than the five which had been achieved by five schools.

Windom (9-5) sacked Hoffman five times and inter-

cepted three of his passes, but the Breck defense proved to be too much.

Simmons, who ran for two Breck touchdowns, finished the season with 2,014 yards rushing and 20 touchdowns.

Class C-Chatfield 12, Hawley 7

(Ken Jacobson, Head Coach)

In a rematch of the 1995 finalists, the score in the Class C Prep Bowl XV title game was nearly the same as the previous year.

Chatfield had beaten Hawley (12-6) in 1995 and it was 12-7 in 1996 as Chatfield (14-0) claimed its third straight Class C crown. The Gophers defeated Red Lake Falls, which is in the same conference (Valley Plains) as Hawley in the 1994 title clash.

Luke Thieke, who scored both Chatfield touchdowns in the 1995 championship game, scored on a 72-yard pass play, while Justin Harmening tallied the other Chatfield TD.

Hawley scored on a 19-yard pass from Travis Olson to Sheridan Johnson and had what appeared to be a 64-yard TD pass nullified by a penalty later in the fourth period.

The loss left Hawley with a 13-1 record on the season.

Class 9-Man-Cromwell 46, Verndale 44

(Keith Bergstedt, Head Coach)

Cromwell's Cardinals appeared on their way to a one-sided victory in the Class 9-Man title game when they opened up a 24-0 lead at the quarter, but Cromwell was out-scored 44-22 in the game's last 36 minutes in a wild championship game.

The Cardinals finished 12-0 on the season and won their 26th straight game, but Verndale (11-2) drew within two points at 46-44 and then a bad snap foiled a two-point conversion attempt.

Mike Olesiak ran for two Cromwell touchdowns, while Verndale's Allan Gades passed for three touchdowns and ran for another to lead the Pirates.

The 90 points scored by the two teams is the most ever in a championship game, eclipsing the 73 points tallied as Albany defeated Totino-Grace 41-32 in the 1986 Class A title game.

Cromwell's James Anderson had two pass interceptions and returned one of those 45 yards for a touchdown.

Headed for Concordia

Two outstanding high school football coaches—both of whom played college football at Concordia at Moorhead—resigned their prep positions to join the Concordia staff in May.

They are Dale Hertel, who left Fargo (N. D.) South, and Terry Horan who resigned his position at Breckenridge High School.

Hertel, who will continue to teach at Fargo South, succeeds Al Rice on the Cobber staff.

A 1971 Concordia graduate, Hertel coached high school football for 26 years (21 years at Fargo South and, for five years before that, at Ortonville High School) and has an overall 209-59 won-lost record.

His Fargo South teams won eight North Dakota Class A Football Tournament championships and were 183-41 in 21 years. Hertel was named North Dakota High School Football Coach of the Year three time.

Horan will serve on the Concordia football staff and will also be a member of the Concordia admissions department staff as athletic recruiting coordinator. He began his new duties on July 7.

A three-time Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) receiver while at Concordia, he had been at Breckenridge since 1991 and served four seasons as the Cowboys' head football coach. Breckenridge was 40-10 under his direction and made it to the final four in Minnesota Class B Football Tournament play the last three years.

Hertel and Horan join Head Coach Jim Christopherson, Bob Nick, Doug Perry, Dave Klug, Bob Kohler and Dan Kostich on the Concordia football coaching staff.

Manke has new duties

Rick Manke, who has coached Detroit Lakes High School to three Minnesota Class A Football Tournament championships (1992-93-95) has new duties at the school for 1997-98.

The Detroit Lakes School Board has appointed Manke to the position of activities director, a position in which he succeeds Ron Peterson, who has served in that capacity since 1985-86.

Detroit Lakes will have a four-grade high school (9-12) replacing the former 10-12 structure and the DL School Board established a new position (dean of students) and appointed Peterson to that post.

Manke, who has taught physical education and driver education, applied for the activities director position after Peterson was named dean of students.

Both Manke and Peterson have coached high school teams to state football championships.

Peterson was head coach of the 1982 Truman High School team which won the Minnesota Class C Football Tournament. That was the first year all five state championship games were played at the Metrodome in Minneapolis.

Bill Hansen

William "Bill" Hansen, retired head football coach at Willmar High School, died Tuesday, March 18.

Hansen, 84, who also taught industrial arts, was head football coach at Willmar for 33 years and his teams had only one losing season during that time.

Active in the Minnesota State Football Coaches Association, he served as its president in 1965-66.

His lifetime record was 188-66-18 and the school won the West Central Conference football championship 14 times while he served as the head coach. Willmar had five undefeated seasons and lost only one game in six other years under Hansen's coaching.

Lou Barle

Lou Barle, who served as president of the Minnesota State Football Coaches Association in 1961-62, died at the age of 80 at his home in Coleraine on Monday, Dec. 30, 1996.

Barle, a legendary figure in Greenway of Coleraine athletic circles, was a star athlete at Gilbert High School, went on to play college football and basketball at Duluth Teacher's College and played professional football with the Detroit Lions and Cleveland Rams and pro basketball with the Oshkosh All-Stars.

He was a member of the teaching and coaching staff at Coleraine for 30 years and later was principal at Bovey Junior High School.

The football stadium at Coleraine has been known as Dixon-Barle Field for many years.

Brainerd's Day honored

Brian Day, a 1997 Brainerd High School graduate, was named Minnesota High School Football Player of the Year for 1996 by the Associated Press.

Day, who gained 3,451 yards on 425 carries during his high school career, scored 48 touchdowns for Coach Ron Stolski's Warriors and led the school to the Class AA-Section Seven championship as a senior.

During his senior season, Day had one particular shining evening, that coming the night Brainerd played St. Cloud Apollo in its homecoming.

Brainerd won the game by the incredible score of 76-51 and Day's statistics were staggering. He carried the ball 32 times, scored seven touchdowns and gained a state-record 461 yards!

Those statistics are even more amazing in the light that Day left the game with 8:19 to play.

In the Associated Press voting, Day received nine of a possible 16 votes, while Stillwater's Adam Runk and Ryan Keating of Minnetonka finished second and third, respectively.

Prep Bowl player, coach

Bill Magnuson, head football coach at Windom Area High School, completed a type of cycle at Prep Bowl XV last November.

Magnuson thus became involved in Prep Bowl as both a coach and a player.

He was a member of the Andy McCarty-coached Park Rapids Panthers, who lost to Hutchinson (36-14) in Prep Bowl II in 1983.

His Windom team also lost, falling to Breck (24-7) in the 1996 Class B Football Tournament final.

The 28-year-old Magnuson is hopeful that his 1997 team will make a run at a state championship, since Windom returns 49 players who were on the 1996 team that reached the state title clash.

Only one made it

Just one of the five schools crowned as Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) football champions in 1996 was rated at the top of its class in the final Associated Press poll last fall.

That school was Cromwell, which was successful in repeating as the Class 9-Man champion.

Other schools rated No. 1 in the final AP poll included Stillwater (AA), Detroit Lakes (A), Deer River (B) and Hawley (C).

Stillwater lost to Blaine (28-7) in the Class AA semi-final round, Detroit Lakes was beaten by Mora (24-13) in the Class A semi-final, Deer River fell to Breckenridge (13-12) in the opening round of the Class B tourney and Hawley reached the Class C championship game and lost to Chatfield (12-7).

Eden Prairie, which won the Class AA title, was second in the final AP poll; Mora, winner of the Class A crown, was ranked 12th; Breck, the Class B champion, was unranked, while Chatfield, which won the Class C title a third straight season, was ranked second in the final poll.

McCarty hopeful

Andy McCarty, who guided Park Rapids High School to many successful football seasons, completed his second year as head football coach at Menahga High School last fall and was pleased at the way his team improved.

Menahga finished 6-4 and that was only the second time in 25 years in which the school has won at least six games.

The season ended in a 32-8 loss to Hawley in the section tournament and Hawley went on to finish as runner-up in the Minnesota Class C Football Tournament.

McCarty, who retired from his duties at Park Rapids, was coaxed into taking the job at Menahga and his teams have shown vast improvement during that time.

"Next year (1997) I feel we're really going to have a good year," McCarty said as he looked ahead to this fall. "We're still a little squeaky, but—once we get our timing down—look out!"

Mahnomen request denied

Mahnomen High School's request to join the Valley Plains Conference, which is a football-only league, was denied by the conference membership last fall.

Schools making up the Valley Plains circuit include Ada-Borup, Badger-Greenbush-Middle River (BGM), Fertile-Beltrami, Fosston, Hawley, Lake Park-Audubon, Red Lake Falls, Warren-Alvarado-Oslo and Waubun.

The conference has been a 10-school league in recent years, but Red Lake County Central (Oklee-Plummer) has withdrawn from the league and will play 9-man football in 1997 and will be part of the North Tri-County Conference, which also is comprised of Clearbrook-Gonvick, Fisher-Climax, Kelliher-Northome, Norman County East, Norman County West, Red Lake, Ulen-Hitterdal and Win-E-Mac.

Makeup of the Heart O'Lakes Conference will continue to be 10 schools with Mahnomen's bid to join the Valley Plains Conference being denied.

Other Heart O'Lakes Conference football members are Roseau, Warroad, Agassiz Valley (Barnesville-Rothsay), Breckenridge, Dilworth/Glyndon-Felton, Frazee, Otter Tail Central (Battle Lake-Henning), Pelican Rapids and Perham.

Receipts are \$44,437

Gate receipts for the seven Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) football tournament championship games played Oct. 31-Nov. 1 at the Fargodome in Fargo were \$44,437, according to Supt. Dale Skallerud of the Hawley Public Schools, who is secretary of the Region Six (Class A) committee of the MSHSL.

Three Class C, two Class 9-Man and one Class B and one Class A title games were played at the indoor site.

"The games represent a lot of work for a few, but it is extremely rewarding to see the large crowds have the opportunity to watch football at its best in optimum conditions," said Skallerud.

Globe-trotting Lakers

With the sponsoring Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) approving a six-class football tournament format for 1997, Detroit Lakes High School found itself scrambling to line up a schedule.

The Lakers were no longer in the Mid-State

Conference (which dropped its sponsorship of football) and also were out of Class A-Section Eight.

Four schools—Crookston, East Grand Forks, Wadena-Deer Creek and Staples-Motley—dropped Detroit Lakes from their schedules.

Four schools which Detroit Lakes played in its regular schedule last fall—Fergus Falls, Thief River Falls, Park Rapids and Minneapolis South—will return on the 1997 slate and the Lakers also will travel to play Bemidji, Duluth Central and Blue Earth and will face Saint Paul Arlington at home.

Shakeup in the HOL

Three head football coaches in the Heart O'Lakes Conference announced their resignations within a short period of time in the late spring and early summer.

They are Terry Horan of Breckenridge, who joined the Concordia College staff at Moorhead; Craig Samuelson of Agassiz Valley (Barnesville-Rothsay), who left to become an insurance representative, and Darrell Olson of Pelican Rapids, who resigned to join the staff at Maple Grove High School.

Replacements had not been named at Agassiz Valley and Pelican Rapids as of mid-July.

Named as Horan's successor at Breckenridge is Chad Fredericksen, a graduate of Wahpeton (N. D.) High School who later played college football at North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS).

Fredericksen has been on the teaching staff at Breckenridge and has been an assistant on Coach John Richman's football coaching staff at NDSCS.

Malm retires

Carl Malm, a graduate of Park Rapids High School and Bemidji State University, has retired from his duties at Bagley High School.

Malm taught industrial arts at Bagley for 37 years and also coached football, basketball and track.

His wife (Julienne), who taught 17 years at Bagley, also retired at the close of the 1996-97 school term.

Ends 35-year career

Charles Grams, a coach for 35 years and an athletic director for 30 years, retired from his duties with the Belview-Danube-Renville-Sacred Heart (BDRSH) School at the close of the 1996-97 term.

A graduate of Montevideo High School and St. Cloud State University, Grams coached at least one sport for 35 years. He coached golf, track, basketball, football and baseball from the time he joined the Sacred Heart district in 1962. During his career, he went through three pairing agreements which eventually led to BDRSH.

Dan Westby has been appointed to succeed Grams as the school system's athletic director.

Coaching moves

APPLE VALLEY—Paul Miller, who directed Apple Valley High School to seven Minnesota Class AA Football Tournament appearances and two state titles (1983-86), has resigned to become head football coach at St. Olaf College in Northfield. Miller takes over from interim coach Rod Grubb, who was named to that position following the death of head coach Don Canfield.

CHISAGO LAKES—Bill Weis, an assistant on the staff last fall, is the new head football coach, succeeding Brett

Larson.

HOLY ANGELS—The new head football coach at Holy Angels Academy is Mike Pendino, who replaces Dan Woods. Pendino served nine years as a NCAA Division I line coach, including six years at the University of Minnesota. He joined the Holy Angels staff last fall as a teacher and coach.

MILACA—Mike Lundeen has been appointed as the new head football coach, replacing Jerry Westphal, who will concentrate on his duties as athletic director.

PAYNESVILLE—Virg Vagle, who served as head football coach and head wrestling coach for 30 years at Paynesville High School, resigned his duties as head football coach at the close of the 1996 season. Vagle-coached football teams at Paynesville were 138-131-1 in the 30 years, during which Paynesville played in five conferences (Central Gopher, West Lake, West Central, West Central North and West Central South). Starting with the 1997 season, it will be the first time since 1957 that Vagle has not been involved with football as a player or coach. He played high school ball at Fargo Oak Grove High School and then played as a collegian at Augsburg in Minneapolis.

PLAINVIEW—Bill Ihrke, a former head football coach at Winona High School, has been named the new head grid mentor at Plainview. He will be the third coach in the last two years. Head Coach Rory Vesel died and was replaced by John Norlander, the former head coach, who finished the season.

SAINT PAUL ACADEMY—Bill Sandifer takes over the head coaching duties. Sandifer, a former football assistant at the University of St. Thomas and Normandale Community College, played arena football with the Minnesota Pike in 1996.

SAINT PETER—Marc Bachman, who has been an assistant football coach at the school, replaces the retiring Frank Fredlund as the head coach. Bachman played high school football under Tom Mahoney at Fairmont, played at Gustavus Adolphus in college and was on the Augsburg College staff before joining the St. Peter system.

UNITED SOUTH CENTRAL—The new head football coach at United South Central is Greg Ellsworth, who replaces John Koupal, with Koupal to become the school's freshman football coach. Ellsworth was head football coach at Wells-Easton in the mid-1970's before it paired with United South Central. He also served as head volleyball coach at Wells-Easton and is the United South Central softball coach.

WASECA—Terry Gilbertson, who served 25 years as the head football coach, has retired and has been replaced by Keith Kottke, who has served as the school's ninth-grade football coach.

WILLMAR—Deryl Ramey resigned as the head football coach, although he will continue to teach physical education at Willmar High School. He coached 29 seasons at three high schools (Atwater, Sauk Centre and Willmar), as well as at the University of Minnesota-Crookston (UMC) and his teams were 163-98-4. Named as Ramey's successor has been Ken Heitzman, who joined the Willmar staff in 1988 after an outstanding football playing career at Sartell High School and the University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM). Heitzman is only the third head football coach at Willmar High School since World War II, being preceded in that capacity by Ramey and the late Bill Hansen.

1997 FOOTBALL PLAYOFF FORMAT

SECTION ASSIGNMENTS

Class A (75 Teams)

Section 1 (10)

Bethlehem Academy, Faribault
Glenville-Emmons
Goodhue
Houston
Lanesboro
* Lyle/Austin Pacelli
Mabel-Canton
Rushford-Peterson
Southland, Adams
Spring Grove

Section 2 (10)

*Cedar Mountain, Morgan/
Comfrey
*Granada-Huntley-East Chain/
Martin Luther
Mankato Loyola
*Mountain Lake/Butterfield-Odin
New Ulm Cathedral
Nicollet
Saint Clair
Sleepy Eye
Sleepy Eye Saint Mary's
Springfield

Section 3 (9)

Adrian
Dawson-Boyd
Fulda
Lincoln H I, Ivanhoe
Minneota
Red Rock Central, Lamberton
Russell-Tyler-Ruthon
Wabasso
Westbrook-Walnut Grove

Section 4 (9)

Concordia Academy, Roseville
Holy Trinity, Winsted
Le Center
Lester Prairie
*Lutheran High School of
Minneapolis/West Lutheran
Ogilvie
*Randolph/Getty Home School
Rush City
Saint John's Prep, Collegeville

Section 5 (9)

*Brandon/Evansville
Buffalo-Lake-Hector
Eagle Valley, Eagle Bend
Kerkoven-Murdock-Sunburg
McLeod West, Brownston
Osakis
Royalton
Swanville
Upsala

Section 6 (9)

Bertha-Hewitt
Browerville
Hawley
*Lake Park-Audubon/Brown
Home School
Menahga
New York Mills
Parkers Prairie
Sebekka
Waubun

Section 7 (9)

Barnum
Carlton
Cook
Cook County, Grand Marais
McGregor
Mountain Iron-Buhl
Nashwauk-Keewatin
Pillager
Silver Bay

Section 8 (10)

Ada-Borup
Blackduck
Clearbrook-Gonvick
Fertile-Beltrami
Fosston
*Kelliher/Northome
*Lake of the Woods, Baudette/
Indus.
Red Lake
Red Lake Falls
Warren-Alvarado-Oslo

Class AA (73 Teams)

Section 1 (10)

Caledonia
Chatfield
Dover-Eyota
Filmore Central, Harmony
Hayfield
Kingsland, Spring Valley
Lewiston-Altura
Pine Island
Saint Charles
Wabasha-Kellogg

Section 2 (10)

Belle Plaine
Blooming Prairie
Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton
Jordan
Kenyon-Wanamingo
Maple River, Mapleton
New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-
Geneva
Triton, Dodge Center
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown
Zumbrota-Mazeppa

Section 3 (10)

B D R S H, Renville
B O L D, Olivia
Canby
Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop
Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial
Martin County West, Sherburn
Minnesota Valley Lutheran,
New Ulm
Murray County Central, Slayton
Saint James
Windom Area

Section 4 (10)

Breck School, Golden Valley
De La Salle, Minneapolis
Mayer Lutheran
Norwood-Young America
Rockford
Saint Agnes, Saint Paul
Saint Anthony Village
Saint Bernard's, Saint Paul
Saint Croix Lutheran, West Saint
Paul
Saint Paul Academy & Summit
School

Section 5 (9)

Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City
Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa
Eden Valley-Watkins
Holdingford
Howard Lake-Waverly
Kimball Area
MACCRAY, Clara City
Maple Lake
Pierz

Section 6 (9)

*Barnesville/Rothsay
*Battle Lake/Henning
Benson
Breckenridge
Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton
*Frazee/Weesner Home School
Ortonville
Pelican Rapids
West Central Area, Barrett

Section 7 (8)

Braham
Chisholm
Deer River
East Central, Sandstone
Ely
Esko
Hinkley-Finlayson
The Marshall School, Duluth

Section 8 (7)

Bagley
Cass Lake-Bena
*Greenbush-Middle River/Badger
Mahnomen
Pequot Lakes
Pine River-Backus
Walker-Hackensack-Akeley

* Denotes cooperatively
sponsored programs

Class AAA (74 Teams)

Section 1 (9)	Section 2 (9)	Section 3 (9)	Section 4 (11)
Byron Cannon Falls Kasson-Mantorville LaCrescent Lake City *Plainview/Elgin-Millville Rochester Lourdes Stewartville Winona Cotter	Blue Earth Area Glencoe-Silver Lake Jackson County (Jackson-Lakefield) *LeSueur-Henderson/MN New Country School *Madelia/Truman Montgomery-Lonsdale Saint Peter Sibley East, Arlington United South Central, Wells	Lac qui Parle Valley, Madison Luverne Minnewaska Area, Glenwood Montevideo Morris Area Pipestone-Jasper Redwood Valley, Redwood Falls *Tracy-Milroy/Balaton Yellow Medicine East, Granite Falls	Academy of Holy Angels, Richfield *Benilde-Saint Margaret's, Saint Louis Park/Groves Academy The Blake School, Minneapolis Brooklyn Center Delano Hill-Murray, Maplewood Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis Mound-Westonka *Saint Michael-Albertville/Country Lane School Waconia Watertown-Mayer
Section 5 (9)	Section 6 (9)	Section 7 (9)	Section 8 (9)
Annandale *Becker/Autumn Ridge Academy Big Lake Foley Milaca *Mille Lacs (Isle/Onamia/Schmidt Home School) Mora Pine City Saint Cloud Cathedral	Albany Dassel-Cokato Litchfield Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Melrose New London-Spicer Paynesville Area Sartell Sauk Centre	Aitkin Eveleth-Gilbert Greenway, Coleraine Hermantown *International Falls/Indus Mesabi East, Aurora *Moose Lake/Willow River Proctor Two Harbors	Crookston Crosby-Ironton East Grand Forks Park Rapids Area Perham Roseau Staples-Motley Wadena-Deer Creek Warroad

Class AAAA (56 Teams)

Section 1 (6)	Section 2 (7)	Section 3 (7)	Section 4 (7)
Albert Lea Austin Faribault Northfield Owatonna Red Wing	Fairmont Mankato East Mankato West *Marshall/DPC High School New Ulm Waseca Worthington	Farmington Saint Paul Arlington Saint Paul Highland Park Saint Paul Humboldt Saint Thomas Academy Simley, Inver Grove Heights South Saint Paul	Chisago Lakes Area, Lindstrom Fridley Mahtomedi North Branch North, North Saint Paul Spring Lake Park Totino Grace, Fridley
Section 5 (8)	Section 6 (7)	Section 7 (7)	Section 8 (7)
Columbia Heights Minneapolis North Community Minneapolis Patrick Henry Minneapolis Roosevelt Minneapolis Southwest Minneapolis Washburn Richfield Saint Louis Park	Buffalo *Hutchinson/Irvin Home School/ Pulkrabek Home School Monticello New Prague Orono Prior Lake Shakopee	Cambridge-Isanti Cloquet Duluth Central Duluth Denfeld Hibbing Princeton Virginia	Alexandria Detroit Lakes Fergus Falls *Little Falls/North Star Christian Academy Rocori, Cold Spring Sauk Rapids Thief River Falls

Class AAAAA (56 Teams)

Section 1 (8)	Section 2 (7)	Section 3 (7)	Section 4 (7)
Apple Valley Eastview Lakeville Rochester Century Rochester John Marshall Rochester Mayo Rosemount Winona	Bloomington Jefferson Burnsville Chaska Eden Prairie Edina Minnetonka Willmar	Hastings Park, Cottage Grove Saint Paul Harding Saint Paul Johnson Stillwater Area Tartan, Oakdale Woodbury	Centennial, Circle Pines Irondale, New Brighton Mounds View Roseville Area *Saint Paul Central/Saint Paul Open Saint Paul Como Park White Bear Lake Area
Section 5 (6)	Section 6 (7)	Section 7 (7)	Section 8 (7)
Bloomington Kennedy Cretin-Derham Hall Eagan Henry Sibley, Mendota Heights Minneapolis Edison Minneapolis South * Denotes cooperatively sponsored programs	Hopkins Maple Grove Osseo Park Center, Brooklyn Park Robbinsdale Armstrong Robbinsdale Cooper Wayzata	Anoka Blaine Champlin Park Coon Rapids Elk River Forest Lake Saint Francis	Bemidji Brainerd Duluth East Grand Rapids Moorhead Saint Cloud Apollo Saint Cloud Tech

Class NINE MAN (49 Teams)

Section 1 (6)

Alden-Conger
Cleveland
Grand Meadow
LeRoy-Ostrander
Medford
MN Academy for the Deaf,
Faribault

Section 2 (6)

Edgerton
*Ellsworth/Hills-Beaver Creek
Lake Benton
Lakeview, Cottonwood
Sioux Valley-Round Lake-Brewster
Southwest Star (Heron Lake-
Okabena)

Section 3 (7)

Ashby
Chokio-Alberta
Clinton-Graceville
*Hancock/Morris Baptist Academy
Herman-Norcross
Hillcrest Lutheran Academy,
Fergus Falls
Wheaton

Section 4 (6)

Albrook, Saginaw
Cotton
Cromwell
Floodwood
Hill City
Wrenshall

Section 5 (6)

Laporte
Nevis
*Northland, Remer/Bullock Home
School/Eagle Country Christian
Ulen-Hitterdal
Underwood
Verndale

Section 6 (6)

*Fisher/Climax
Norman County East, Twin Valley
Norman County West, Halstad
*Oklee/Plummer (Red Lake County
Central)
Sacred Heart, East Grand Forks
Win-E-Mac, McIntosh

Section 7 (6)

Babbitt-Embarrass
Bigfork
Cherry, Iron
Littlefork-Big Falls
Orr
Tower-Soudan

Section 8 (6)

*Goodridge/Grygla-Gatzke
Kittson Central, Hallock
Kittson North, Lancaster
Marshall County Central,
Newfolden
Stephen-Argyle
Tri-County, Karlstad

* Denotes cooperatively
sponsored programs

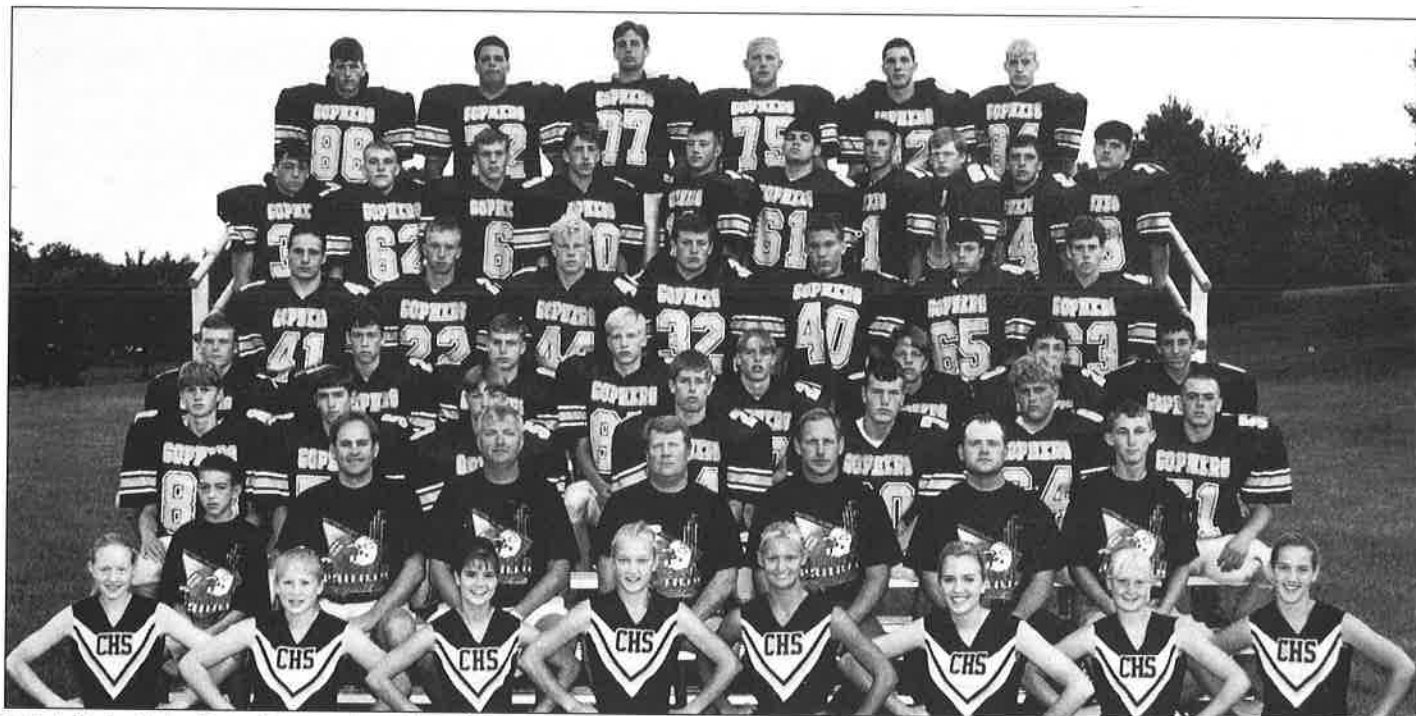
1996 State Champions

CROMWELL—SECTION 3 CHAMPIONS—9-MAN



Row 1 (L-R): Student Manager Rusty French, Nick Axtell, Chevvy Borglund, Student Manager Craig Johnson. Row 2: Robert Dahl, Tyler Homstad, Jeff Anderson, Troy Bridge, Daniel Dahl, Brian Lind, Brandon Suhonen, James Anderson. Row 3: Daniel Olesiak, Russell Dobosenski, Michael Johnson, Mason Hansen, Jesse Jordan, Ben Suhonen, Jesse Olesiak, Andy French. Row 4: Carl Switzer, Tom Gervais, Matt Martin, Dean Goranson, Darin Smith, Seth Koivisto, Mike Olesiak. Row 5: Head Coach Keith Bergstedt, Shayne Korpela, Matt Hakala, Seth Aho, Assistant Coach Dan Holgate.

CHATFIELD—SECTION 1 CHAMPIONS—CLASS C



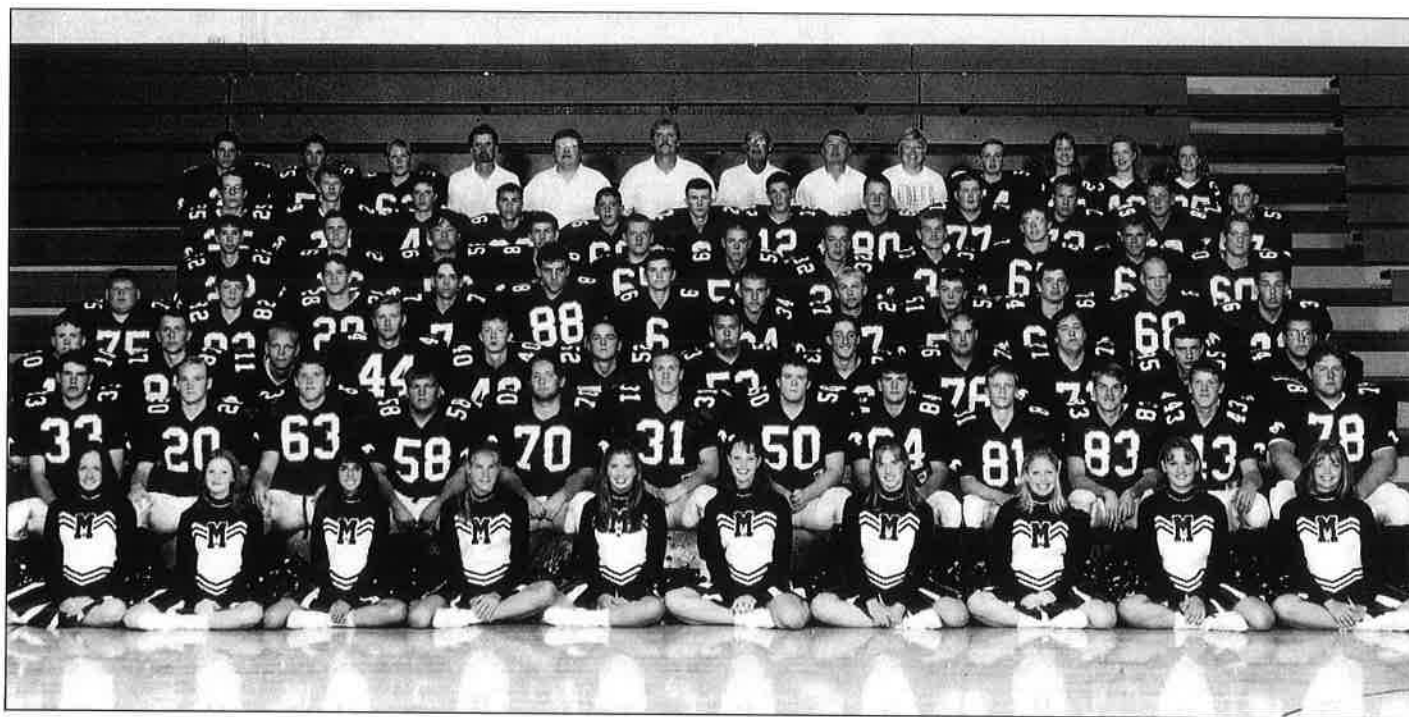
Row 1 (L-R): Roxi Rabe, Teresa Swanson, Jenny Hammell, April Copeman, Becky Hylland, Tisha Greenslade, Meghan Thieke, Jodie Giebtbrock. Row 2: Student Manager Steve Opat, Assistant Coach Dan Hurley, Assistant Coach Mike Walker, Head Coach Ken Jacobson, Assistant Coach Gary Hansen, Assistant Coach Travis Armstrong, Student Manager Mark McMahon. Row 3: Kevin Donahoe, Mark Paynic, Jason Drogemuller, Ryan Hawkins, Josh Eisenman, Tony Klema, Noloan Schild. Row 4: James Kozinski, Adam Smith, Casey Borgen, Dustin Rich, Chris Priebe, Joe Boelter, Mike Manahan, Mike Opat. Row 5: Justin Harmening, Matt Sogla, Adam Daniels, Matt Hincley, John Copeman, Jon Sutherland, Matt McCabe. Row 6: Chris Scrabeck, Trever Niemeyer, Luke Thieke, Jared Borst, Tim Walker, Dan Conway, Brian Bicknese, Troy Proper, Andy Hamann, Matt Davidson. Row 7: Darin Eisenman, Mike Boelter, Jeremy Wright, Dan Schellhammer, Aaron Fohrman, Tom Hahn.

BRECK SCHOOL—SECTION 5 CHAMPIONS—CLASS B



Row 1 (L-R): Mark Andersen, David Moriarty, Tor Instad, Matt Hemsley, Eric Ryan, Bryce Gillispie, Michael Proman, Vangyee Yang, Mike McKeon. Row 2: Kee Lockhart, Anders Reinertson, George May, Tom Richardson, Andrew Christopherson, Jeff Kemnitz, Seth Barnes, Karl Dedolph, Jesse Doheny. Row 3: John Beane, Mike Boosalis, Assistant Coach Rich Joseph, Assistant Coach Dan Doheny, Head Coach John Thiel, Assistant Coach Brian Schauer, Assistant Coach Brett Bergene, Assistant Coach Rick Thurston, Drew Johnson, Jon Simmons. Row 4: David O'Hagen, Eric Anderson, Paris Johnson, Smith Wilkenon, Greg Robinson, Anders Seeland, John Fraser, Eli Kramer, Ed Dunn, Chris Dale. Row 5: Ross Hussey, Bowen Osborn, Peter Prudden, Adam Drill, Carl Nelson, Gavin Hoffman, Colin Brooks, Pat Varecka, Jason Keene, Regis Eller, Chris Johnson.

MORA—SECTION 5 CHAMPIONS—CLASS A



Row 1 (L-R): Autumn Ruse, Krystal Fox, Karee Gall, Karen Kawalek, Jill Blomdahl, Jessica Bork, DeAnna Richert, Kristy Lindquist, Tasha Hodges, Kristi Belkholm. Row 2: Jeremy Brostrom, Mark Newman, Bryce Methven, Jake Fredrickson, Mike Udem, Nate Kirschner, Ryan Kerr, Steve Ennis Matt Palmien, Nick Reynolds, Bill Methven, Brett Anderson. Row 3: Mike Ohnemus, Travis Sanders, Eric Svoboda, Travis Lagasse, Adam Carda, Mike Skurdalsvold, Steve Aas, Matt Klepsa, Mike Arnold, John Kramschuster, Justin Mann, Hans Papenhausen. Row 4: Sam Kearney, Andy Olson, Zach Boxrud, Phil Carlson, Andy Kaiser, Zach McBroom, Justin Sawyer, Jeff Oehler, Jason Donaghue, Matt Belford, Corey Erickson, Jim Bartel. Row 5: Jeff Paulson, David Cook, Matt Everett, Peter Yankowiak, Ken Mattson, Mark Udem, Tim Haley, Chad Plescher, Bryan Cook, Dan Gunderson, Seth Gehrke. Row 6: Mike Wimmer, Steven Sjoborg, Dan Zufall, Jeremie Munkberg, Scott Helmbrecht, Jerry Smith, Cullen Nelson, Jessi Zortman, Greg Lykins, Nate Peterson, Josh McGrath, Jeremy Schultz. Row 7: Jim Pydynkowski, Jeremy Gardner, Eric Stromberg, Coach Antonson, Assistant Coach Gauffin, Assistant Coach Thompson, Assistant Coach Deis, Head Coach Bergloff, Cindy Stamness, George Blesi, Student Manager Amy Shaw, Student Manager Kari Whiteford, Student Manager Tressa Mcclouth.

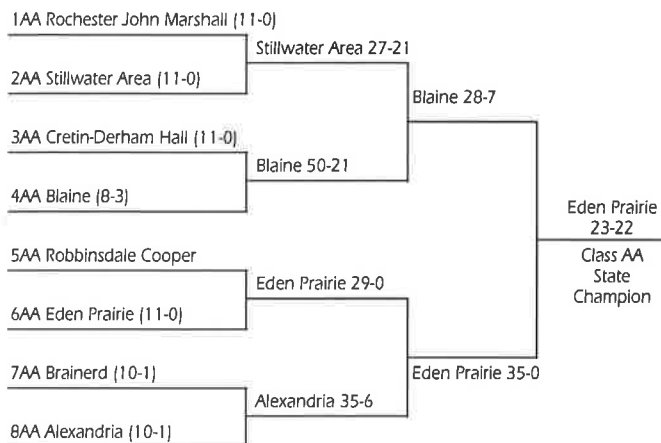
EDEN PRAIRIE—SECTION 6 CHAMPIONS—CLASS AA



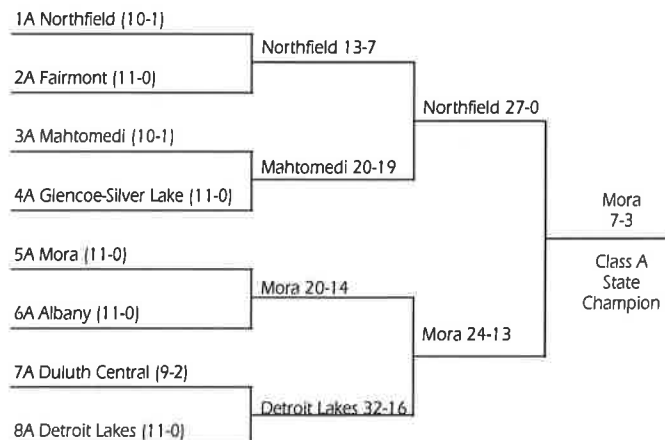
Row 1 (L-R): Cheerleaders: Jackie O'Neil, Lindsey Baredziak, Kirsten Saunders, Angela Aase, Gayle Messerli, Rachel Johnson, Brenda Rydeen, Suzie Dady, Erin Seitz, Heather Holian, Christy Linder, Beth Peterson, Alyssa Dodge, Jaime Omile, Leslie Worsham, Jessy Spinner, Holly Holian, Delphine French. Row 2: Reed Bergmann, Troy Blodgett, Tim Hartshorn, Jason Black, Grant Senitz, Travis O'Neil, Keith Weatherby, Derek Burns, Adam Tremain, Paul Ryan, Tony Krmpotich. Row 3: Student Manager Adam Hanneman, Assistant Coach Pepper Price, Assistant Coach Brad Dorholt, Assistant Coach Chris Olson, Assistant Coach Dick Gaughan, Assistant Coach Terry Sullivan, Assistant Coach Tim Kasprowicz, Assistant Coach Chris Stensgaard, Head Coach Mike Grant, Assistant Coach Pete Dymil, Assistant Coach Ron King, Assistant Coach Joe Jezierski, Assistant Coach Mark Ritter, Assistant Coach Steve O'Toole, Assistant Coach Dan Hennen, Assistant Coach Marty Teigen. Row 4: Andy Blankenship, Jason Dahlin, Jeff Thirk, Jeff Gagstetter, Leil Nilsen, Kyle Vollin, John Kalzung, Chris Carlson, Brandon Sullivan, Scott August, Shawn Carlson, Chris Stienagle. Row 5: Sam Mosman, Jason Barkley, Dan Porta, Mario Johnson, Ken Andris, Lars Fricke, Chris Hokanson, Brody Felchle, David Farr, Brian Bottolone, Ben Tangert, Ryan Jensen, Ricky Fritz. Row 6: Eric Winegarden, Matt Clark, John Weller, Brett Sorenson, Jeremy Meyer, Jeff Chauncey, Jeff Harer, Damien Goldenberg, Ryan Iverson, Colin Smaagard, Joe Kukia, Terry Power, Keith Gettleman. Row 7: Brett Johnson, Jared Carlson, Kevin Carney, Joey Krmpotich, Jeff Pan, Jason Lenz, Justin Schemmel, Paul Glover, Andy Forde, Ryan Volker, Chris Grabowski, Mike Tucker, Ryan Laden, Joe Borum. Row 8: Greg Hahn, Mike Walters, Nate Reed, Ben Mulvey, Eric Kalin, Pat Neuman, Brendon Krieg, Andy Maruska, Luke Wiley, Steve Ringquist, Dan Johnson, Adam Keim.

1996 Playoff Results

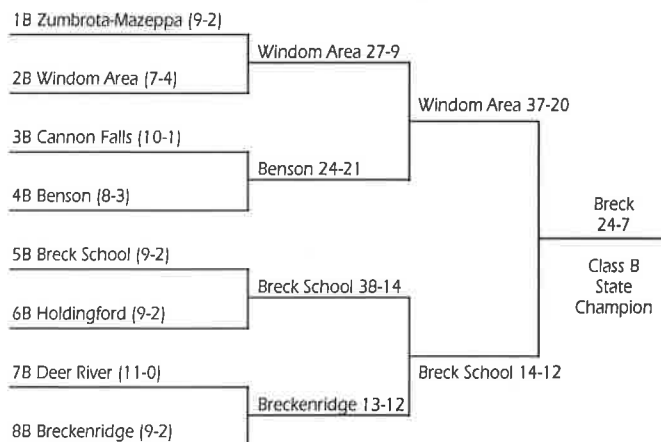
1996 Class "AA" Playoff Results



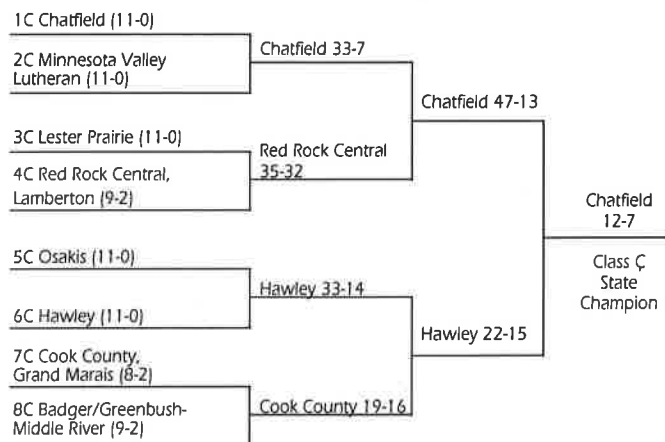
1996 Class "A" Playoff Results



1996 Class "B" Playoff Results



1996 Class "C" Playoff Results



1996 Class "9-MAN" Playoff Results



Active High School Head Coaches 100 Victory Club (Entering 1997 Season)

Head Coach & School	W-L-T Record	Years Head Coach	Head Coach & School	W-L-T Record	Years Head Coach
1. George Thole, Stillwater	266-57-2	29	40. Wayne Beisel, Lewiston/Altura	153-102-1	28
2. Ken Baumann, Mahanomen	259-50-2	28	41. Dick Strand, Southland	150-74-0	24
3. Grady Rostberg, Hutchinson	253-87-2	33	42. Ken Jacobson, Chatfield	144-100-0	24
4. Les Dreschel, Red Lake Falls	251-99-9	39	43. Gene Stritesky, Ogilvie	140-67-0	21
5. Gerhard Meidt, Big Lake	235-73-0	31	44. Del Elston, Fillmore Central	138-90-0	23
6. Burton "Buz" Rumrill, Glencoe/S.L.	233-113-3	35	45. Ken Hill, Sauk Rapids	138-121-1	28
7. Ron Stolski, Brainerd	229-111-5	35	46. Larry Thompson, Lakeville	137-58-1	17
8. Jim Roforth, Osakis	225-98-3	37	47. Larry Mischke, Ely	134-72-0	22
9. Don Stueve, Fergus Falls	217-121-1	37	48. Earl Wetzel, Farmington	133-69-0	20
10. Neal Hofland, Chokio-Alberta	213-56-2	28	49. Lyle Anderson, Cook County	132-81-0	23
11. Jerry Wallskog, LeCenter	209-91-1	31	50. Neil Royer, Martin County West	132-93-0	24
12. Dave Nigon, Totino Grace	208-72-0	26	51. John Heller, St. Paul Highland Park	132-121-1	28
13. Mike Mahlen, Verndale	205-67-3	28	52. Virg Vagle, Paynesville	132-128-1	29
14. Jim Simser, Fairmont	203-80-1	29	53. Ed Melcher, Brahm	130-119-0	27
15. Stuart Nordquist, Int. Falls/Indus.	197-96-2	30	54. Terry Karlsgodt, Atwater-Grove City	126-72-0	21
16. Terry McLean, Elk River	194-85-2	29	55. Jim Brown, Winsted Holy Trinity	126-81-0	21
17. Roger Lipelt, Wayzata	194-101-1	32	56. Mike Finco, Fisher/Climax	125-83-0	19
18. Clark Bergloff, Mora	190-56-0	24	57. Steve Ott, Deer River	122-20-0	12
19. DeWayne Johnson, Anoka	188-87-2	28	58. Gary Brantl, Red Lake Co. Central	122-125-0	27
20. Con Natvig, Swanville	187-106-2	31	59. Dennis Hale, Worthington	121-95-0	23
21. Jerry Sonnek, Blackduck	184-82-3	31	60. Jim Swanson, Maple River	120-94-0	24
22. Ron Johnson, Clearbrook-Gonvick	183-76-0	28	61. Ken McDonald, Hopkins	120-110-0	26
23. Dave Beadle, Albrook	180-110-3	38	62. David Montgomery, St. Paul Academy	120-111-2	26
24. Rich Oliphant, Faribault	179-111-0	31	63. Floyd Smaller, St. Paul Central	118-105-0	25
25. Bill Bailey, Minnewaska	177-114-0	31	64. Michael Hyland, Wrenshall	114-76-0	24
26. Rick Manke, Detroit Lakes	174-53-0	21	65. Rich Kollok, Cretin-Derham Hall	112-46-0	16
27. Stan Olson, Leroy-Ostrander	173-77-0	25	66. Steve Radniecki, Norman County East	111-71-0	18
28. Ken Belanger, Zumbrota-Mazeppa	170-121-2	31	67. Terry Arduser, Madelia/Truman	109-81-0	19
29. Gary Graham, Browerville	169-51-0	21	68. Dan Rohman, BORSH	109-89-0	21
30. Dave Brokke, Yellow Medicine East	168-61-0	22	69. Don Seipkes, Ottertail Central	109-111-0	22
31. Gary Trimble, Kimball Area	168-98-0	26	70. Doug Patnode, Princeton	108-109-0	23
32. Bruce Harding, East Central	164-116-2	31	71. Curt Strand, McLeod West	106-54-0	16
33. Jim Mader, Albany	163-53-0	20	72. Terry Ogorok, Kittson Central	106-64-0	17
34. Charles Sundeen, Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop ..	163-80-1	25	73. Craig Anderson, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton ..	105-58-0	16
35. Carl Lemke, St. Croix Lutheran	162-87-0	25	74. Steve Frickey, Hill-Murray	104-83-0	20
36. Dwight Lundeen, Becker	161-100-3	27	75. Dan Zubich, Babbitt-Embarrass	104-94-0	22
37. Keith Swanson, West Central Area	160-65-0	21	76. George Tuvey, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton ..	104-101-0	22
38. Howard Emerson, Warren	158-81-1	27	77. Dave Hylla, Proctor	102-55-0	16
39. Merrill Pavlovich, Delano	154-61-0	22	78. Terry Highum, Lanesboro	100-65-0	17

COACHES APPROACHING 100 VICTORIES AT BEGINNING OF 1997 SEASON

Head Coach & School	W-L-T Record	Years Head Coach	Head Coach & School	W-L-T Record	Years Head Coach
1. Dave Nelson, Blaine	99-44-0	13	7. Dave Trautman, Frazee	96-77-0	19
2. John Sieling, Eagle Valley	99-84-0	22	8. John Bennett, Prior Lake	95-89-0	20
3. Jim Trapp, Jordan	98-71-0	17	9. John Bakken, Waterville	93-34-0	12
4. Mike Watson, Centennial	98-103-1	22	10. Mark Herman, Dassel Cokato	93-61-0	17
5. Dennis Holsman, Hill City	97-84-0	20	11. Neil Johnson, Wheaton	92-22-0	11
6. Robert Just, Little Falls	97-116-0	23	12. Frank Fabish, Virginia	92-66-0	15

200 VICTORY CLUB

Two veteran coaches achieved their milestone 200th victory during the 1996 season. That takes a lot of hard work and dedication and is a real tribute to them and their staff.

Mike Mahlen of Verndale finished his 28th season with a record of 205-67-3. Mike and Verndale have been a dominant force in the Pheasant Conference and Nine Man football for a number of years. This past year they were Section 2 Nine Man Champions and lost an exciting 46-44 State Championship game to Cromwell.

Jim Simser of Fairmont finished the 1996 season with a record of 203-80-1. Jim spent 22 years at New Richland-Hartland before taking over the reins at Fairmont seven years ago. The New Richland Cardinals won state championships in 1976 and 1978. This past fall the Fairmont Cardinals won the South Central Conference and Section 2A before losing to Northfield in the state

quarter-finals.

Other active coaches with 200 victories are George Thole, Stillwater; Ken Baumann, Mahnomen; Grady Rostberg, Hutchinson; Gerhard Meidt, Big Lake; Buz Rumrill, Glencoe/Silver Lake; Ron Stolski, Brainerd; Jim Roforth, Osakis; Don Stueve, Fergus Falls; Neal Hofland, Chokio-Alberta; Jerry Wallskog, LeCenter; and Dave Nigon, Totino Grace.



Mike Mahlen
Verndale



Jim Simser
Fairmont

NCAA INITIAL - ELIGIBILITY CLEARINGHOUSE (General Information)

(COACHES SHARE THIS WITH YOUR STUDENT/ATHLETE)

The Clearinghouse's responsibilities begin with the students who enrolled as freshmen in college during 1995-96. Certification processing for these students began August 1, 1994. Students who want to participate in NCAA Division I or II athletics should start the certification process by the end of their junior year or early in their senior year.

To be certified by the Clearinghouse, students must:

1. Graduate from high school. Preliminary certification will be issued for students not yet graduated. Final certification will be issued only after final transcript receipt, including proof of graduation.
2. Earn a grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale in at least 11 academic core courses, including at least the following: 3 years of English, 2 years of Math, 2 years of Social Science, 2 years of Natural Science (including at least one laboratory class, if offered by the high school), 2 years of additional academic courses.

NOTE: Effective August 1, 1995, the minimum number of required courses will increase from 11 to 13. The additional core courses must be in English, Math, or Natural/Physical Science. Also effective August 1, 1995, the minimum core course GPA for Division I will be determined by an initial-eligibility index. Effective August 1, 1996, course requirements for Division I will include four years of English, and the two-year Math requirement will include one year of Algebra and one year of Geometry.

3. Earn a composite score of at least 17 on the ACT or a combined score of 700 on the SAT.

NOTE: Effective August 1, 1995, the minimum test score requirement for Division I will be determined by an initial eligibility index.

1997-1998 UNIFIED DUES APPLICATION FORM

Minnesota State High School Coaches Association

1650 Brown's Lane N., Brainerd, MN 56401
DARIEN DEROCHE - EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

NAME (Print) _____
(Last) (First) (Initial)

SCHOOL _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS _____ ZIP CODE _____

HOME ADDRESS _____ ZIP CODE _____

ATHLETIC REGION NO. _____ SR NO. _____ A (CIRCLE ONE) AA

ATHLETIC CONFERENCE _____ HOME PHONE # () _____

DUES PAYABLE: Check One
() ANNUAL DUES PAYING MEMBERS \$25.00
Eligible: League Member secondary coaches
and athletic directors

() ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: \$10.00
Eligible: Out of State Coaches
In State & Out State College Coaches

() LIFE MEMBER _____

(NUMBER OF YEARS COACHING, INCLUDING 1997-1998 SCHOOL YEAR _____)

SPORT ASSOCIATION DUES

(Optional - Must join parent organization before
you can join individual Sport Association)

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS.....\$30
BASEBALL (Mar. 9 deadline)\$10 (H); \$5 (A)
BASKETBALL (Dec. 1 deadline).....\$10 (H); \$5 (A)
CROSS COUNTRY (Oct. 1 deadline).....\$6
FOOTBALL (Oct. 1 deadline).....\$15 (H); \$5 (A)
Retired Life\$25
GOLF (Mar. 15 deadline)\$10
HOCKEY (Jan. 7 deadline).....\$25 (H); \$15 (A)
Retired Life\$15
NORDIC SKIING (Dec. 15 deadline)\$8
ALPINE SKIING (Mar. 1 deadline) ..\$10 (H); \$6 (A)
SOCCER (Oct. 1 deadline)\$5
SWIMMING (Jan. 30 deadline).....\$20
Ass't or Diving Coach.....\$5
TENNIS (Mar. 15 deadline)\$10 (H); \$5 (A)
TRACK & FIELD (Mar. 15 deadline)\$5

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

List Your Coaching Assignments

MSHSCA DUES\$25.00

(INCLUDES \$1,000,000 LIABILITY INSURANCE)
LIFE MEMBERS THAT WISH LIABILITY
INSURANCE SHOULD SEND \$5 TO MSHSCA

SPORT ASS'N DUES\$ _____

TOTAL.....\$ _____

MSHSCA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS LISTED ON NEXT PAGE

REASONS WHY MSHSCA MEMBERSHIP IS BENEFICIAL

1. Full time Executive Secretary available to work for you on a daily basis.
2. Dues include a \$1,000,000 Liability Insurance for classroom and coaching.
3. Membership card is for admission at many high schools and colleges in Minnesota.
4. Teams are eligible to earn Academic Team and Individual honors.
5. Provide scholarships for Minnesota High School students.
6. NOCAD membership creates revenue marketing that is helpful for the promotion of programs that benefit coaches and their athletes.
7. Four issues of *The Minnesota Prep Coach*, the MSHSCA newsletter which contains information about and for coaches and their association's activities.
8. Provides potential for clinics for any sport association that wishes assistance.
9. Offers a national clinician exchange for our qualified high school clinicians.
10. Opportunity to be recognized as Minnesota Coach of the Year.
11. Opportunity to be recognized as Minnesota Assistant Coach of the Year.
12. Delegate representation that allows coaches to remain fully updated on issues.
13. Close working relationship with all affiliated sport associations.
14. Provides active representation and support on the MSHSL Board of Directors.
15. Recognition for state team championships.
16. Opportunity for 25 Year Club and Life Membership of the MSHSCA.
17. Opportunity to be nominated and selected to the MSHSCA Hall of Fame.
18. United support for each other's programs.

MSHSCA MEMBERSHIP PERKS AS OF MARCH 1, 1997

•**SHERATON METRODOME HOTEL, MPLS** - \$60 per night

•**HOLIDAY INN, ALEXANDRIA**

Sunday-Thursday \$42/single; \$47/two or more

Friday & Saturday \$55/single; \$60/two or more

For information call Jim Satterlund at 612-763-6577

•**NORMANDY INN - MINNEAPOLIS - 1-800-373-3131**

Corporate Rate - \$59.50 - Parking included

•**BRAINERD HOLIDAY INN - 1-218-829-1441**

Corporate Rate - \$49/Single; \$54/Family

Special Rates for Teams - Call Mark Innes

•**BEST BUY - Commercial Division - 1-800-373-3050**

Commercial Rate (store rate minus 15-25% - usually)

Call and ask for Jay Sitter. Identify yourself as a member of the MSHSCA. They will give you a quote on any merchandise they carry. Quotes include freight. They will ship on receipt of personal check or school purchase order. They will fax specs on different kinds of equipment.

•**MINNESOTA ZOO - APPLE VALLEY**

Corporate Rate - 20% off all admissions.

Call Shirley Allsot for discount card at 612-431-9298.

•**SAM'S CLUB - Affiliated Group Membership**

Allows all State High School Coaches Ass'n members to sign up for individual advantage memberships at Sam's Clubs. Call Jo Moderie (612) 844-2527.

•**MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES** - \$3 discount on tickets - Team discount on tickets. Call John From at 612-673-1388.

•**SUPER 8 - SHAKOPEE** - Corporate Rates - 612-445-4221

•**SUPER 8 - BLOOMINGTON** - 10% discount - 612-888-8800

•**ALAMO RENT-A-CAR** - Discount on Car Rentals - 1-800-354-2322

•**NORDIC TRACK** - 15% OFF - Call 1-800-292-4797. Tell them you are a MSHSCA member participating in corporate benefitness program.

COACHES ASSOCIATION SEEKS TO UPDATE RECORD BOOK

The Minnesota Football Coaches Association is continuing its efforts in compiling and recording high school football statistics, records, and other associated stories. The current book, which contains the records/statistics from over 150 football programs throughout the state, continues to grow with updates provided by football coaches, newspaper writers, and various sports statisticians.

As the current book grows it is still necessary for football programs to submit their records/statistics and/or to update records as they are broken or established by recent players, programs, and coaches. It is understood that some football programs do not keep certain types of statistics or even any records. But the majority of schools do have some kind of records and the Association will take whatever type, and however much, of the records that coaches are willing to submit.

Records can, and have, been submitted by creditable "statisticians," some of whom have been very helpful in compiling the current book. The Association will take help and records from any and all credible sources. The Minnesota State High School League has also been a source of statistics. The League is in the initial stages of compiling the sources for records in other activities, as well as football, sponsored by the MSHSL.

Coaches who wish to have a copy of the current, updated version of the records and/or would like to submit school records may do so by contacting the Association's record bookkeeper/statistician at the following address:

Terry Turek
Le Sueur/Henderson H.S.
901 E. Ferry St.
Le Sueur, MN 56058
507-665-3305 ext. 68

Coaches should keep in mind that we are looking for any and all statistics kept or recorded by themselves, their newspaper, local statisticians, etc.

MSHSL FOOTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Each year the president of the MHSFCA selects an advisory committee to the MSHSL. The committee serves as the link between the two organizations and as such is your means of communication of problems or proposed changes. This committee represents you!

Committee members for 1997-98 are: 9-Man—Steve Radniecki, Norman County East, and Keith Bergstedt, Cromwell; 1A—Gene Stritesky, Ogilvie, and Kent Mikkelsen, Russell-Tyler-Ruthton; 2A—Steve Ott, Deer River, and Ken Belanger, Zumbrota-Mazeppa; 3A—President Dave Hylla, Proctor, and Terry Turek, LeSueur-Henderson; 4A—Jeff Mumm, Thief River Falls, and Wally Malmstrom, Mahtomedi; 5A—Dave Fritze, Eagan, and James Miller, Rochester Mayo.



Halfback Dan Reidner finds running room during Blaine's 41 to 20 Section 4AA Semi-Final win over Anoka.—Twin Cities Suburban Conference

Retired Life Membership

What's new in the MHSFCA? Lifetime membership in the MHSFCA for retired football coaches is what's new! Thanks to the efforts of Ron Raveling and Bob Roy we now offer an opportunity for retired football coaches to remain involved in association matters.

Membership is open to retired football coaches (both assistant and head) who are life members or who have been longtime football coaches. A one-time fee of \$25.00 will bring all benefits of association membership. PASS THE WORD! Contact Jim Simser, 900 Johnson St., Fairmont, MN 56031.

MHSFCA Retired Life Members

Bob Anderson - Minneapolis
Roosevelt
Roland Bromberg - Cloquet
Bob Celt - Red Wing
Herb Claffy - Milaca
Mac Dahl - LaCrescent
Wayne Dietz - Woodbury
Les Dreschel - Crookston
Pete Eikren - Chisago City
Earl Gramling - LeCenter
Lauren "Huns" Hagge -
Rochester
Chuck Halsted - Brainerd
Russ Helleckson - Minneapolis
Washburn
Jim Henkes - Wheaton
Peter Herges - Albany
Del Hiebert - Ceylon

Richard Jaeger - Montevideo
Jerry Jerdee - Benson
Richard Kubes - West St. Paul
George Larson - Cambridge
Dick Lawrence - Eveleth-Gilbert
Tom Mahoney - Fairmont
Bob Nangle - Pipestone
Andy Nelson - Lake Benton
Warren Olson - Brooklyn Center
Bob O'Neil - Fridley
Bob Peterson - Esko
Jerry Peterson - Owatonna
Ralph Peterson - Fridley
Ron Raveling - Columbia
Heights
Reno Rossini - St. Paul
Bob Roy - St. Louis Park
Robert Ryan - St. Paul Humboldt

Ron Scott - Coon Rapids
Cliff Senne - Welcome
Al Siegle - Pelican Rapids
Steve Silianoff - South St. Paul
George Smith - Mahtomedi
Tom Smith - New Richland-
Hartland
Lloyd Stussy - Wells-Easton
Don Swanson - Minneapolis
Henry
Tony Thiel - Battle Lake
Leo Traurig - New Ulm
Dick Walker - Richfield
Bob Wilkowski - Perham
Jack Willhite - St. Louis Park
William Wilson - Fairmont
Bob Youso - Moose Lake

#30 Jake Tietje of Fairmont breaks a tackle against New Ulm in SCC action. Tietje rushed for 1,450 yards and lead the Cardinals to a 11-1 record.—South Central Conference



State Football Playoff Championship Games (1972 - 1995)

1972				1979			
Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score	Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Mpls. Washburn	Moorhead	26-6	AA	Columbia Heights	Richfield	8-3
A	Burnsville	Sauk Centre	46-19	A	Rochester Lourdes	Apple Valley	22-6
B	Mountain Iron	Dassel-Cokato	54-6	B	Gaylord	Mahnomen	15-6
C	Gaylord	Preston	26-6	C	Bird Island-Lake		
9-Man	Rothsay	Cotton	64-12	Lillian	Harmony	34-6	
				9-Man	Russell	Toivola-Meadowlands	17-14
1973				1980			
Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score	Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Rochester-	St. Paul Harding	25-0	AA	Burnsville	Cambridge	23-6
	John Marshall	Willmar	28-18	A	Crookston	Pipestone	32-6
A	Eveleth	Appleton	13-7	B	Mahnomen	Austin Pacelli	34-0
B	New Prague	Holdingford	29-6	C	Bird Island-Lake		
C	Gaylord	Brandon	50-12	Lillian	Mountain Lake	20-7	
9-Man	Lake Benton			9-Man	Hoffman	Toivola-	
				Kensington	Meadowlands	18-14	
1974				1981			
Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score	Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Rochester	Bloomington	41-19	AA	Rosemount	Moorhead	40-14
	John Marshall	Jefferson	26-7	A	St. Peter	Hermantown	18-14
A	Alexandria	Chaska	41-12	B	Holdingford	Pine Island	39-0
B	New Prague	Caledonia	34-26	C	Medford	Clarkfield	33-28
C	Battle Lake	Bird Island	(2 OT)	9-Man	Argyle	Starbuck	31-19
9-Man	Lake Benton	Fisher	36-6				
1975				1982			
Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score	Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Stillwater	Richfield	20-17	AA	Stillwater	Owatonna	34-27
A	St. Thomas Acd.	St. Peter	21-14	A	Brooklyn Center	E. Grand Forks	30-8
B	Gaylord	Onamia	14-13	B	LeCenter	Mahnomen	12-6
C	Esko	Karlstad	62-0	C	Truman	Belgrade	16-14
9-Man	Ruthton	Audubon	42-20	9-Man	Westbrook	Fergus Falls Hillcrest	
						Lutheran Academy	34-12
1976				1983			
Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score	Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	White Bear Lake	Cloquet	14-36 (OT)	AA	Coon Rapids	Bloomington	
A	St. Peter	Mora	56-12			Jefferson	34-31
B	Caledonia	Sartell	38-7	A	Hutchinson	Park Rapids	36-14
C	New Richland-			B	Jordan	Breckenridge	27-0
	Hartland	Bird Island	21-19	C	Southland	Bird Island-0	
9-Man	Deer Creek	Fergus Falls		(Adams)	Lake Lillian	28-0	
		Hillcrest Luth. Acd.	57-14	9-Man	Silver Lake	Norman County West	
						Climax	27-12
1977				1984			
Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score	Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Mpls. Washburn	Stillwater	13-0	AA	Stillwater	Burnsville	36-33
A	Fridley Grace	Cold Spring Rocori	36-12	A	Hutchinson	Centennial	32-7
B	Granite Falls	Stewartville	44-6	B	Granite Falls	Breckenridge	13-7
C	Battle Lake	Henderson	22-20 (OT)	C	Harmony	Glyndon-Felton	20-14
9-Man	Deer Creek	Fergus Falls		9-Man	Norman Co. West	Silver Lake	37-20
		Hillcrest Luth. Acd.	20-0				
1978				1985			
Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score	Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Edina West	Fridley	21-0	AA	Burnsville	Apple Valley	27-21
A	Fridley Grace	Apple Valley	17-14	A	New Prague	Mora	16-12
B	New Richland-			B	Jackson	Mahnomen	26-20
	Hartland	Barnesville	48-8	C	Glyndon-Felton	Zumbrota	38-14
C	Alden-Conger	Battle Lake	15-14	9-Man	Westbrook	Norman Co. West	45-18
9-Man	Hoffman	Albrook	44-28				

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	Perham	27-15
C	Winthrop	Mahnomen	14-7
9-Man	Waterville-Elysian	Albrook	47-12

1990

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Anoka	Elk River	14-0
A	Fridley	Sartell	34-12
B	BOLD	De La Salle	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	Gyrgla/Goodridge	7-6

1992

Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Lakeville	Cretin-Durham Hall	19-7
A	Detroit Lakes	Farmington	21-0
B	St. Cloud Cath.	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 J.M.	29-7
A	Detroit Lakes	Northfield	21-14
B	St. Cloud Cath.	Zumbrota-Mazeppa	28-6
C	Mahnomen	Minneota	43-23
9-Man	Chokio-Alberta	LeRoy-Ostrander	35-0

1994

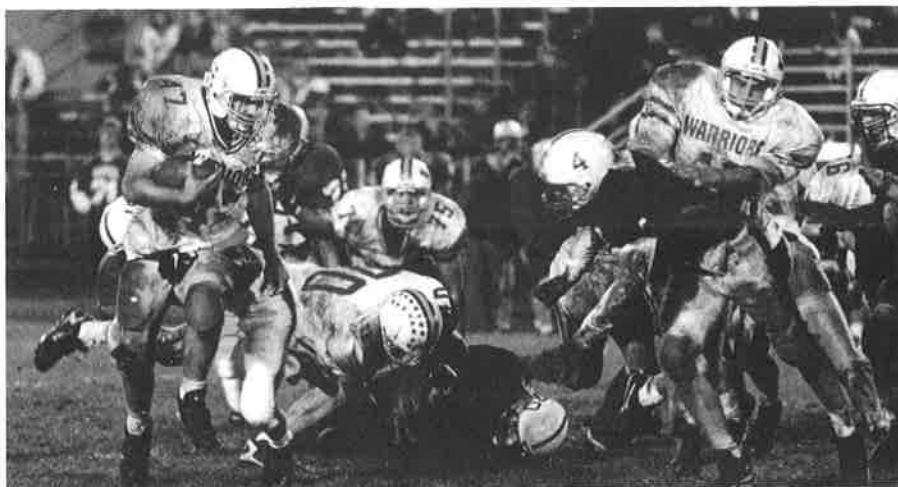
Class	Champions	Runners-Up	Score
AA	Anoka	Alexandria	34-7
A	Sartell	Northfield	24-21
B	Triton	Becker	40-21
C	Chatfield	Red Lake Falls	34-14
9-Man	Kittson Central	Verndale	36-16

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



Lineman Larry McCulley #75 and Nate Tholen #70 clear the path for #47 Brian Dey on his way to the winning score versus Sartell. Day was a consensus All State running back and chosen as A.P. Player of the Year. He rushed for 2,354 yards and 34 TD's this season. He set the single game rushing record with 461 yards in Brainerd's 76-51 win over St. Cloud Apollo on October 4.—Central Lakes Conference

1997 ALL-STAR FOOTBALL TEAMS

Outstate All-Star Team

Pos.	Name	School
RB	Jason Braaten	Perham
DB	Joel Howard	Badger/Greenbush/MR
DB	Jake Tietje	Fairmont
WR	Josh Salic	John Marshall
DE	Erik Myran	Zumbrotz/Mazeppa
RB	Mike O'Neil	Cambridge
QB	Justin Thielke	Hancock
QB	Keith Meyers	Cannon Falls
RB	Nate Sundberg	Red Wing
DB	Jacob Knox	Austin
DB	Clinton Westphal	Janesville-W-P
WR	Jeremy Forsell	St. Cloud Apollo
DB	Mark Mokoff	Northfield
RB	Jared Murray	Hermantown
FB	John Dekam	Pipestone/Jasper
WR	Nate Kirschner	Mora
LB	Jesse Rein	Lanesboro
LB	Chris Scrabeck	Chatfield
LB	Chris Studer	Brainerd
DB	Eric Wilttrout	Worthington
FB	Nathan Parpart	Glencoe/Silver Lake
LB	Jay Zabel	Blue Earth
DB	Aaron Krych	Holdingford
RB	Brian Day	Brainerd
OC	Joel Vettleson	Rocori
OT	Brian Zirbes	Melrose
OT	Doug Schultz	Alexandria
OG	Travis Guida	Park Rapids
DE	Ben Dixon	Grand Rapids
LB	Wes Ahlschlager	RTR
OG	Jason Welle	Albany
OC	Andy Hansen	Mankato East
DT	Jason Mathwig	McLeod West
DT	Mike Udem	Mora
DT	Eric Nephew	Proctor
OT	Kelly Nelson	Agassiz Valley
DT	Chris Bahr	Lester Prairie
DT	Eric Fredrickson	Northfield
OG	Jon Jazdzewski	Duluth Denfeld
TE	John Kyvig	Benson
DE	Kris Crown	Moose Lake/Willow Rvr
TE	Zach Vevea	Elk River
DT	Richard Jerome	Duluth Central
DE	Nate Vortherms	Windom Area
Mgr.	Travis Olson	

1997 Outstate Coaching Staff

Head Coach	- Mike Malmberg - Hawley
Assistants	- Gary Hanson - Chatfield
	Lyle Anderson - Cook County
	Del Elston - Filmore Central
	George Tuvey - Janesville-Waldorf-
	Pemberton
	Mike Holzer - Kingsland
Hon. Coach	- Rollie Bromberg - Cloquet

Metro All-Star Team

Pos.	Name	School
RB	Fred Harris	Mahtomedi
WR	Bereket Kiros	Blaine
DE	Jared Enger	Cretin/DH
QB	Davin Mikkonen	Anoka
DB	Adam Runk	Stillwater
QB	Ryan Johnson	Wayzata
RB	Jeff Olson	Cooper
RB	Nate Davis	Hopkins
RB	Chris Moore	St. Thomas
RB	Jarrett Ealey	Roosevelt
DB	Dedric Payne	Highland Park
RB	Josh Wilske	Lakeville
DB	Adam Roloff	Sp Lk Park
LB	Beau LaBore	South St. Paul
RB	Josh Savageau	Blaine
DB	Brian Katlack	Park Center
LB	Drew Dehnicke	Coon Rapids
LB	Jeremy Johnson	Patrick Henry
LB	Jason Hustad	Farmington
LB	Justin Hall	Jefferson
LB	Mike Dolezal	Mahtomedi
LB	Jason Huttner	Minnetonka
LB	Jared Bucks	Totino Grace
OL	Charles Commerford	Rosemount
LB	Travis O'Neel	Eden Prairie
OL	Chris Salvato	St. Thomas
OL	Ryan Patrek	St. Anthony
DL	Keith Weatherby	Eden Prairie
OL	Nate Scheuer	Blaine
OL	Jeremy Dox	Cretin/DH
OL	Ryan Thorman	Eagan
DL	Nate Dwyer	Stillwater
DL	Pat Quinn	Sp Lk Park
OL	Isaac Johnson	Edina
OL	Akeem Akinwale	Coon Rapids
DL	Eric Wirz	Anoka
OL	Derek Burns	Eden Prairie
WR	Brad Putnam	Stillwater
WR	LaNeal Land	Cretin/DH
DE	Jared Peck	Jefferson
TE	Matt Anderle	Mounds View
TE	Adam Houdeshell	Wayzata
DL	Nate Nunyakpe	White Bear Lake

1997 Metro Coaching Staff

Head Coach	- John Thiel - Breck
Assistants	- Clayton Copple - Coon Rapids
	John Olefke - Cooper
	Jim Knutson - Lakeville
	Mike Scanlan - Cretin-Derham Hall
	Rodney Lossow - Roosevelt
Hon. Coach	- Chuck Elias - Minneapolis Central

TOP 20 "WINNINGEST" MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS OVER THE PAST TEN SEASONS

<u>Rank</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Losses</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1	Triton	65	12	84.42%
2	Deer River	97	19	83.62%
3	Detroit Lakes	101	20	83.47%
4	BOLD	84	17	83.17%
5	Browerville	97	20	82.91%
6	Mahnomen	99	21	82.50%
7	Mora	91	20	81.98%
8	Cambridge	95	21	81.90%
9	Cretin-D.H.	85	19	81.73%
10	Minneota	94	22	81.03%
11	Burnsville	96	23	80.67%
12	Albany	90	22	80.36%
13	Stillwater	102	55	80.31%
14	Albrook	83	21	79.81%
15	Breckenridge	96	25	79.34%
16	Waterville-E.M.	80	21	79.21%
17	Becker	87	24	78.38%
18	Blaine	83	23	78.30%
19	Cromwell	85	24	77.98%
20	Wayzata	78	23	77.23%

As compiled by Terry Turek, LeSueur High School for the MHSFCA in the Minnesota High School Football Record Book.

Hawley's Aaron Anderson (#9) and Sean Spillum (#51) stop Jeremy Johnson from Lake Park-Audubon in Valley Plains Conference game.





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ALL ★ STAR FOOTBALL GAME

7:00 P.M. SATURDAY, JUNE 28
MACALESTER COLLEGE

**1997 METRO ALL STARS
HEAD COACH**

John Thiel, Breck

ASSISTANTS

Clayton Copple, Coon Rapids

John Olefke, Cooper

Jim Knutson, Lakeville

Mike Scanlan, Cretin-Derham Hall

Rodney Lossow, Roosevelt

vs.

**1997 OUTSTATE ALL STARS
HEAD COACH**

Mike Malmberg, Hawley

ASSISTANTS

Gary Hanson, Chatfield

Lyle Anderson, Cook County

Del Elston, Filmore Central

George Tuvey, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton

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Game Manager**

