

Remembering N8M: 1956

1956 was a banner year for 8-Man football growth in Nebraska, as the game swelled from 47 to 83 teams. The 44% increase prompted the ratings experts to split 8-Man football into two classes, 8-Man A and 8-Man B.

The Omaha World-Herald final ratings included both classes with 8M B placing three teams in that final mythical grouping.

1956 8-Man Final Top 10:

- 1. Big Springs (9-0) Coach-Lou Stueckrath**
 - 2. Exeter (9-0)**
 - 3. Crofton (8-0)**
 - 4. Mullen (9-0)**
 - 5. Stapleton (7-1)**
 - 6. Amherst (7-0-1)**
 - 7. Dakota City (8-0)**
 - 8. Elm Creek (7-0-1)**
 - 9. Potter (6-1) Coach-Dean Thieafeld**
 - 10. Sutherland (6-2)**
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1956 8-Man All-State Football Team *repeat selection*

End---Harry Stewart-Niobrara, 5-7, 170, Senior

End---*Vernon Thomsen-Exeter, 6-0, 180, Senior

Guard-Edward Weir-Sutherland, 5-9, 185, Senior

Guard-Leonard Moyer-Mullen, 5-11, 165, Senior

Center-Tom Harling-Fairmont, 6-0, 175, Senior

Back--*Jerry Steffen-Crofton, 5-11, 185, Senior

Back----Larry Mercer-Big Springs, 5-9, 150, Senior

Back---Ken Magnuson-Stapleton, 5-10, 155, Senior

Here is a listing of all Nebraska high school football teams playing 8-Man football in 1956 with their final records included:

Exeter (9-0), Big Springs (9-0), Mullen (9-0), Wallace (9-1), Crofton (8-0), Dakota City (8-0), Stapleton (8-1), Amherst (7-0-1), Elm Creek (7-0-1), Coleridge (7-1), Lyman (7-2), Madrid (7-2-1), Mitchell Sunflower (7-2), Potter (6-1). Fairmont (6-1), Ulysses (6-1-2), Sutherland (6-2), Arthur (6-1), Beemer (6-1), Rising City (6-1-2), Wausa (5-2), McCool Junction (4-2-1), Spencer (5-2), Cedar Bluffs (5-3), Maywood (5-3), Brady (5-3), Loomis (5-3), Orleans (5-3), Norfolk Sacred Heart (5-3-1), Paxton (5-3-1), O'Neill St. Marys (5-5-1), Harrisburg (4-2), Niobrara (4-2-1), Emerson (4-3), Utica (4-3-1), Rosalie (4-3-1), Mead (4-3-1), Shelby (4-3-2), Axtell (4-4), Overton (4-4), Wilcox (4-4), Elsie (4-5), Lodgepole (4-5), Hershey (4-5), Lewellen (4-6), Newcastle (4-3-1), York St. Joseph (3-3-1), Ceresco (3-4-2), McGrew (3-4), Bradshaw (3-5), Stratton (3-5), Palisade (3-6), Verdigre (3-6), Milford (3-4-2), Bancroft (3-6), Winnebago (2-3-1), Brule (2-5), Hayes Center (2-5), Winside (2-5), Gurley (2-5), Wayne Hahn (2-5)-1, Valparaiso (2-5-1), Leigh (2-6), Thedford (2-6), Beaver Crossing (2-6-1), Dalton (2-6-1), Sumner (2-7), Tryon (2-8-1), Dix (1-5), North Platte St. Pats (1-5-1), Randolph (1-6-1), Haigler (1-6), Elkhorn (1-6), Butte (1-6), Lynch (1-6), Broadwater (1-6), Gresham (0-5-1), Homer (0-5-1), Osmond (0-7-1), Maxwell (0-7-1), Hildreth (0-4), Melbeta (0-6), Venango (0-7).