

# Remembering N8M: 1959

**\*163 Teams played 8-Man football in 1959\***

For the 6th straight season, Nebraska 8-Man football saw more schools playing the game. Twenty-one more schools hopped 6-Man to 8-Man while the teams playing 11-Man football in Nebraska remained the same.

Once again, the final 8-Man ratings (Omaha World-Herald) followed the TWO class format. 8-Man schools were divided into Class A (schools with 35 or more boys) and Class B (schools with less than 35 boys).

## **1959 Eight-Man Football Final OVERALL Top 10**

- 1. Fremont St. Patricks, (8-0-1) Coach- Lew Wewel**
  - 2. Cedar Bluffs (8-0-1) Coach- Charles Sukovaty**
  - 3. Lawrence (8-0) Coach- Don Janda**
  - 4. Fairfield (8-0) Coach- Howard Zook**
  - 5. York St. Joseph (8-0) Coach- John Siegel**
  - 6. Hershey (9-0) Coach- Al Wiegand**
  - 7. Dakota City (9-0) Coach- Garlie Sailors**
  - 8. Amherst (8-0) Coach- Cecil Stutzman**
  - 9. Venango (8-0) Coach- Glen Houtz**
  - 10. Farnam (9-0) Coach- Herman H. Hinkle**
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**1959 Eight-Man Football CLASS "A" Final Top 10**

**1 Fremont St. Patrick (8-0-1)**

**2. Cedar Bluffs (8-0-1)**

**3. Lawrence (8-0)**

**4. Hershey (9-0)**

**5. Dakota City (9-0)**

**6. Amherst (8-0)**

**7. Doniphan (7-1)**

**8. Dorchester (9-0)**

**9. Eagle (8-0)**

**10T Axtell**

**10T Mullen**

**1959 Eight-Man Football CLASS "B" Final Top 10**

**1 Fairfield (8-0)**

**2. York St. Joseph (8-0)**

**3. Venango (8-0)**

**4. Farnam (9-0)**

**5. Mason City (8-0)**

**6. Brady**

**7. Indianola**

**8. Maywood**

**9. Greeley Sacred Heart (7-0-1)**

**10. Shelby**

Here are your 8-Man All-State Teams for 1959, as chosen by Gregg McBride.

**1959 8-Man OVERALL All-State Football Team**

**End---Cliff Rice-Fremont St. Patrick, 6-2, 180, Junior**

**End----John Beyke-Lawrence, 6-0, 170, Senior**

**Guard-Richard Heinzman-Winnebago, 5-9, 165, Senior**

**Guard-Ken Adkisson-Farnum, 5-11, 190, Senior**

**Center-Gene Johnson-Hershey, 5-9, 200, Senior**

**Back---Joe Heckenlively-Fairfield, 6-1, 160, Junior**

**Back---Dick Wray-Cedar Bluffs, 5-10, 160, Senior**

**Back---LaVane Johnson-Eagle, 5-10, 204, Senior**

**1959 8-Man CLASS "A" All-State Football Team**

***End---Cliff Rice-Fremont St. Patrick***

***End---John Beyke-Lawrence***

***Guard-Richard Heinzman-Winnebago***

***Guard-Vernon Schnieder-Axtell***

***Center-Gene Johnson-Hershey***

***Back---Pat Worthing-Axtell***

***Back---Dick Wray-Cedar Bluffs***

***Back---LaVane Johnson-Eagle***

**1959 8-Man CLASS "B" All-State Football Team**

***End---Robert Haley-York St. Joseph***

***End---Dave Deden-Venango***

***Guard-Gary Workmeister-Maywood***

***Guard-Ken Adkisson-Farnum***

***Center-Richard Hotze-Indianola***

***Back---Joe Heckenlively-Fairfield***

***Back---Miles Outoupal-York St. Joseph***

***Back---Larry Laird-Dakota City***

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\*One uncovered treasure from this season was the discovery of ***LaVane Johnson*** of Eagle. LaVane was a man among boys that season, 5-10, 204 running back, highly unusual for that day. Most linemen were not 200 pounds in the late 1950s.

Johnson rambled for a massive 1,848 yards rushing, racked another 303 yards passing, scored 218 points on 33 touchdowns and 20 one-point PAT conversions, averaged 13 tackles a game and averaged 35 yards a punt.

He received a full ride scholarship to play football at Nebraska (rare for an 8-Man player in that day) and was a 2018 inductee into our NEMFCA Hall of Fame.