

Remembering N8M: 1965

136 Teams played 8-Man football in 1965

Down 16 teams from the previous year, this would mark a steady decline in the number of teams playing 8-Man football in Nebraska until 1977, when the numbers would slowly rise back up again.

Once again, the Eight-Man football All-State team boasts of the most talented backfields if statistics are your bag. The 1965 backfield chosen by the World-Herald's Gregg McBride was one of the most versatile units in 8-Man history (to that point).

The spectacular backfield of Sutherland's Class D sprint champion **Ken Beatty**, Prague's powerful 6-3, 185 pound **Terry Petrzelka** and Johnson standout **Lee Rohrs** combined to score 554 points and rush for 3,865 yards.

Beatty, although keyed on by every opponent, escaped for 1,694 yards, while averaging 11.6 yards per carry. He also reeled in 14 passes for 356 yards and five more touchdowns.

Petrzelka, Prague's four-year starter at quarterback, threw for 813 yards, rushed for 1,232 yards, and logged 45 unassisted tackles (adding 14 interceptions on defense).

Rohrs, the Johnson junior, ran for 939 yards and 23 TDs, added 321 more yards in pass receptions, booted 26 PATs, made 104 stops from his linebacker slot on defense, had three Pick 6's and averaged 39.2 yards per punt.

1965 Eight-Man Football Final Top 10

- 1. Sutherland, (9-0)** Coach- Daryl Broberg
 - 2. Western (8-0)**
 - 3. Cedar Bluffs (9-0)**
 - 4. Overton (8-0)** Coach- Allyn Chambers
 - 5. Maywood (9-0)** Coach-Jerry Meyer
 - 6. Paxton (7-1)**
 - 7. Dawson-Verdon (7-1)**
 - 8. Johnson (7-1)**
 - 9. Bartlett (8-0)** Coach-Jerry Maurer
 - 10. Doniphan (9-0)**
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1965 8-Man All-State Football Team

End---Robert Gergen-Dawson-Verdon, 6-2, 195, Senior

End---Dennis Bartels-Western, 6-2, 200, Senior

Guard-Bob Larson-Overton, 6-0, 175, Senior

Guard-Al Childers-Bartlett, 5-10, 185, Junior

Center-Clifford Underwood-Doniphan, 5-10, 176, Senior

Back---Lee Rohrs-Johnson, 5-11, 163, Junior

Back--Ken Beatty-Sutherland, 6-1, 180, Senior

Back--Terry Petrzeka-Prague, 6-3, 185, Senior