

Remembering N8M: 1968

99 Teams played 8-Man football in 1968, down three schools from 1967

The Omaha World-Herald's Conde Sargent declared the Gresham Blackbirds Nebraska 8-Man Football Champions for the 1968 season. Gresham outscored opponents by a margin 442-31 (49 to 3 per game). The number one Blackbirds and #2 Sterling had a common opponent during the season, Malcolm. Gresham throttled the Clippers 48-0 while Sterling escaped with a 14-7 win.

1968 Final 8-Man Top 10

- 1. Gresham (9-0)**
 - 2. Sterling (8-0)**
 - 3. Paxton (8-0)**
 - 4. Hardy (11-0)**
 - 5. Orchard (10-0)**
 - 6. Platte Center (9-1)**
 - 7. Madrid Wheatland (7-1)**
 - 8. Elmwood (8-1)**
 - 9. Bartley (9-0-0)**
 - 10. Trenton (8-1)**
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1968 8-Man All-State Football Team

End---*Ray Kastanek-Dorchester, 6-4, 190, Senior*

End---*Tom Williams-Gresham, 6-0, 160 Senior*

Guard-*Bill Nealeigh-Trenton, 5-10, 185, Senior*

Guard-*Bill Covalciuc-Omaha Brownell-Talbot, 5-10, 175, Senior*

Center-*Jerry Meyer-Orchard, 6-3, 195, Senior*

Back--*Byron Harms-Venango, 6-0, 180, Senior*

Back--*Jerry Macken-Platte Center, 5-10, 175, Senior*

Back--*Lee Hansen-Hardy, 6-0, 185, Junior*

A few outstanding single game performances by 8-Man stars in 1968:

Richard Shain-Ewing - Caught 7 passes for 280 yards and 5 touchdowns in a win over Clearwater.

Jim Smidt-Trumbull – Ran for 297 yards and 3 TD's (16 carries) in a 74-11 win over Bladen, leaving him 49 yards short of 1,000 yards rushing in just five games.

Roy Sharp-Harrison - Ran for 224 yds/4 TDS (31 carries) in a win over Melbeta.

Ray Hoefler-Sutherland - 20 tackles/1 blocked punt/2 interceptions/2 fumble recoveries in a victory over Halsey-Dunning.

Byron Harms-Venango - Ran for 303 yards in a win over Big Springs.

Duane Katen-Chadron Assumption - 171 yards rushing and 19 tackles against Mitchell Sunflower.
