

# Remembering N8M: 1969

**\*93 Teams played 8-Man football in 19689, down 6 from previous year\***

Eight-Man Champion Sutherland, a Class C school playing the 8-Man game, had a boy enrollment of 69 while Class D/11-Man Champions Wolbach had just 51 boys.

Both Trenton and Sutherland were rolling along unbeaten and headed for a huge meeting in the final game of the regular season, but a critical injury to Trenton junior center **Dave Brown** during a Monday game with Hayes Center changed that. The Sutherland/Trenton game was scheduled for Friday of that same week.

After suffering a head injury, Brown was transported to Omaha- where he underwent surgery at Methodist Hospital. The young man was still listed in critical condition that Thursday, prompting Trenton head football coach Gordon Benson and the school administration, to choose to forfeit the scheduled game because of community concern for the young Brown.

As the season rolled on, Sutherland boasted the fastest 8-Man team in the state with All-State RB **Rick Anderson** covering the 100 yard dash in :10.1 – while his running mate, **Steve Pederson** was right behind with a :10.2 mark.

Both Bradshaw & Milligan featured big backfields- with Bradshaw's **John Appuhn** weighing in at 195, All-Stater **Milt McLain** checking in at 185 and **Dan Dye** running at 175 lbs. Not so heavy by today's standards, but big for the time.

Sutherland's Anderson averaged 9.9 yards a pop, while rushing for 1,124 yards and 26 touchdowns. He caught 11 passes for 180 yards and three touchdowns- while also averaging 27.6 per punt return and 46.6 per kick return.

Bradshaw's McLain (clocking a :10.4 in the hundred yards), was a terror running the ball for 1,518 yards and 25 touchdowns. He was labeled Crossroads Conference athlete of the year, a prestigious honor.

Cloverleaf Conference Player-of-the Year- Milligan's **Gary Filipi** rambled for 1,080 yards and 26 touchdowns. In a 40-8 victory over Shickley alone, he rushed for 192 yards prompting then Milligan head **coach Dan Tesar** to claim that Filipi “could have played for any high school team in the state, including Class A.”

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### **Final 8-Man Top 10 1969**

- 1. Sutherland (9-0)** Coach- Darly Broberg \***Outscored opponents 397-16\***
  - 2. Bradshaw (10-0)** \***Outscored opponents 483-50\***
  - 3. Milligan (8-0)** Coach- Dan Tesar \***Outscored opponents 482-46\***
  - 4. Shickley (8-1)**
  - 5. Trenton (7-1)** Coach- Gordon Benson
  - 6. Cody (7-0)**
  - 7. Shelby (8-1)**
  - 8. Doniphan (9-1)**
  - 9. Bartlett (6-1-2)**
  - 10. Elgin (7-1-1)**
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### **1969 8-Man All-State Football Team**

**End---***Ryan Hawley-Republican City, 6-0, 180, Senior (23 rec/486 yds/12 TDs)*

**End---***Gerry Reinsch-Shickley, 6-2, 180 Senior*

**Guard-***Roger Stein-Odell, 6-5, 305, Senior*

**Guard-***Don Hohlen-Trumbull, 6-4, 200, Senior*

**Center-***Danny Harbert-Madrid Wheatland, 5-8, 185, Senior*

**Back--***Gary Filipi-Milligan, 6-1, 195, Senior (1,080 rushing/26 TDs)*

**Back--***Milt McLain-Bradshaw, 6-2, 185, Senior (1,518 rushing/25 TDs)*

**Back--***Rick Anderson-Sutherland, 5-8, 178, Senior (1,124 rushing, 23 TDs)*

\*The 1969 All-State Team averaged 201 pounds per player, the biggest average weight since the 8-Man rating began in 1954\*

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**A few outstanding single game performances by 8-Man stars in 1969:**

**Gary Filipi-Milligan** - Ran for 179 yards with TD runs covering 2, 26 and 46 yards in a 54-6 win over a good Hardy team.

**Monte Nicholson-Tryon** - The 5-8, 141 pound sophomore ran for 217 yards and 4 TDs in a 52-13 victory over Brady. Nicholson had 396 total yards after 3 games.

**Randy Wilson-Orchard** - Ran for 311 yards, scored 3 touchdowns and intercepted two passes during a win over Ewing.

**Dan McKinney-Dix** – In a win over Dalton, the 205 pounder rushed for 157 yards and a pair of touchdowns on 15 carries- but then turned Quarterback and attempted FOUR passes. ALL went for scores totaling 185 yards.

**Gerald Wengler-Holstein** - Carried a staggering 47 times for 357 yards and 4 TDs as the team's 3rd win ties a school record for most wins in a season.

**Rick Nekl-Shelby** – The Huskies quarterback had a game for the ages, tossing 6 TD passes, running for another, and collecting 4 PATs in a win over Hordville.

**Mick Strand-Venango** - Scored 4 TDs in a 25-6 conquest of Big Springs, rushing for 100 yards and adding 62 more on pass receptions.

**Dave Black-Trumbull** – The 180 pound halfback lifted his team to a 14-14 season ending tie with rival Giltner, while scoring all of his team's points and rushing for 170 yards on 25 touches