

90 schools played 8-Man football in 1975

DENOTES: 8-Man Hall of Fame Inductee

1975 was a very special year for high school football in the state of Nebraska, It marked the first year the NSAA used a playoff system to determine a true champion in each Class. In the beginning, there were only FOUR teams that qualified.

The Adams Hornets were the first ever NSAA Eight-Man Playoff Champion. An interesting fact about Adams' double 1,000 yard backfield of Tony Boeve and Steve Buss- Many of the smaller 8-Man schools only had so many uniforms to go around- so the smaller players wore the lower numbers and the bigger players took the higher numbers.

It just so happened that Boeve (190 pounds) and Buss (180 pounds) were two of the biggest players for Hall of Fame Coach **Ken Cook's** 1975 Hornet squad. So- Boeve wore number #54 and Buss wore #52 as RUNNING BACKS- a unique practice allowed by the NSAA for 8-Man football.

1975 Final 8-Man Top 10

1. Adams (11-0)
 2. Elgin (10-1)
 3. Sidney St. Pats (9-1)
 4. Odell (8-1)
 5. Wilsonville (8-1-1)
 6. Thedford (7-0-1)
 7. Shelby (8-1)
 8. Trumbull (8-1)
 9. Chambers (7-1-1)
 - 10t. Decatur (8-0)
 - 10t. Ruskin (8-1)
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Eight-Man---Semifinals

Adams 46, Sidney St. Patrick 28
Elgin 30, Wilsonville 14

Final (at Elgin) Adams 44, Elgin 30

Hall of Fame coach **Ken Cook's** team took an 800-mile round trip to Sidney for the semi-finals and then faced a 350-mile round trip to Elgin. In the end, Steve Buss and Tony Boeve eventually wore down #1 Elgin. Boeve carried the ball 41 times for 167 yards and 2 TD's, while Buss added 104 yards (30 carries) and 2 more scores. The Hornet's defense held state rushing champion Kent Beckman to 78 yards on 21 carries.

STARTING LINEUPS for the 1st ever NSAA 8-Man Championship game

.....**Offense**.....

ADAMS.....Position.....ELGIN

Rapp (160).....E.....Mickelson (185)

Buhr (175).....G.....Thunker (155)

Gronewald (160).....G.....Kuester (185)

Busboom (155).....E.....Anderson (150)

Veerhusen (140).....QB.....Sutton (140)

S. Buss (180).....B.....Beckman (175)

Boeve (190).....B.....Heithoff (170)

.....**Defense**.....

ADAMS.....Position.....ELGIN

Boeve (190).....E.....Mickelson (185)

Thomas (175).....G.....Legate (170)

Adams (164).....G.....Durre (168)

Buhr (175).....E.....Heithoff (170)

Gillette (200).....LB.....Cr. Meis (148)

S. Buss (180).....LB.....Dozier (148)

Miller (155).....LB.....Cl. Meis (153)

Veerhusen (140).....S.....L. Meis (140)

1975 Eight Man All-State Offense

End----Randy Fahey-Sidney St. Pats, 6-3, 160, Senior

End/K----**Greg Bellamy-Farnam**, 5-11, 175, Senior

Guard-Jim Balke-Dawson-Verdon, 5-10, 220, Senior

Guard-Danny Leisinger-Trumbull, 5-10, 175, Senior

Center-Rod Baker-Decatur, 6-2, 215, Junior

QB-----Randy Pressler-Wilsonville, 5-11, 170, Senior

Back----Steve Buss-Adams, 6-0,180, Senior (1,370 rushing)

Back----Kent Beckman-Elgin, 5-11,178, Sr. (1,748/State Rushing Leader)

Back----Bill Bruhn-Dawson, 6-1, 200, Senior (1,743 rushing)

1975 Eight Man All-State Defense

End-Brad Nutter-Thedford, 6-2, 175, Senior

End--Mark Tegtmeier-Lewiston, 6-3, 195 Senior

End----Randy Fahey-Sidney St. Pats, 6-3, 160, Senior

Tackle-Rod Crook-Rising City, 5-11, 200, Senior

Tackle-Howard Brown-Farnam, 5-10, 220, Senior

LB----Kelly Ficken-Davenport, 5-10, 175, Senior (1,200 rushing)

LB-----Terry Vitosh-Odell, 6-0, 180, Junior

DB----Ron Gross-Wheeler, 6-0,180, Senior

DB----Mike Morgan-Shelby, 5-11,170, Senior

Honorable Mention:

Mark Sholtz-Guide Rock; Mark Glatter-Shelby; Pat Kostal-Odell; Rod Gartner-Chambers; Ron Gross, Dennis Sturek-Bartlett; Pat Lierly-Lodgepole; Kevin Gonnerman-Gresham; Mark Tegtmeier-Lewiston; Jeff Veerhusen, Tony Boeve-Adams; John Wieser-Sidney St. Pats; Steve Heithoff-Elgin; Brad Gottula;Table Rock; Brad Nutter-Thedford; Mike Rowan-Gurley; Steve Burson-Giltner; Randy Meier, Brad Meier-Ruskin; Rod Thayer-Wallace; Chuck Sukovaty-Hayes Center; Joel Bedore-Culbertson; Mike Lee-Wheatland; Jim Hagen-Trenton; Doug Osborn-Rising City; Pat Coffman-Sandhills; Rod Sheffield-Murdock; Joe Theiler-Paxton; Charles Beckman-Rosalie and Tom McDonald-Arthur.
