

The 8-Man playoffs expanded from four to eight teams in 1977

Eight-Man---Quarterfinals:

DENOTES: 8-Man Hall of Fame Inductee

(9-0) Wheatland 30-24 Elgin (6-2)
(9-0) Hampton 22-16 Trumbull (9-0)
(9-0) Adams 30-6 Eustis (8-0)
(8-0) Beemer 28-24 Potter (8-0)

Semifinals:

(10-0) Hampton 30-14 Wheatland (10-0)
(10-0) Adams 40-20 Beemer (9-0)

Final: (at Hampton) (11-0) Adams 22-0 Hampton (11-0)

Champion: Adams (12-0), Head Coach- **Ken Cook**

The legendary Ken Cook and his Adams Hornets won for the second time in three years and stretched their win streak to an incredible 43 games (66-1 since 1971) with their 22-0 win over Hampton. One year after a Cookie's unbeaten Adams team was jilted from advancing to the playoffs by the wild card point system, the Hornets came prepared to meet Hampton and the Hall of Fame twin brother combination of **Mike and Brian Hahn**.

Adams defensive end Dan Buss looked like an All-American that afternoon, helping his forces in limiting Hampton to a paltry four first downs the entire game. On offense, Adams 5-10, 160 pound QB Dan Harms scored all three Hornet touchdowns and threw for both two point conversions.

Buss and his defensive partners in crime, **Eugene Busboom**, Larry Hibbert, Jerry Holdsworth, Gary Adams and Kevin Parde, made life miserable for Hampton QB Mark Klute, causing the Hawks star to throw three interceptions in the opening stanza. All in all, Adams came up with 4 interceptions and 4 recovered fumbles on the wet, muddy, sand-filled Hampton football surface that afternoon.

1977 Eight Man All-State Offense

End----**Eugene Busboom-Adams**, 6-3, 170, Senior

End----John Riese-Bladen, 5-8, 146, Senior

Guard-Larry Hibbert-Adams, 6-2, 200, Senior

Guard-Greg Clancy-Dawson-Verdon, 6-3, 195, Senior

Center-Randy Sabata-Hampton, 6-2, 195, Senior -

QB-----Bryan McCormick-Wheatland, 6-5,200, Senior

Back----**Craig Hass-Beemer**, 5-8, 160, Sophomore.....(1,569 yards)

Back----Larry Wieser-Potter, 5-11,165, Junior.....(1,178 yards)

Kicker---Robin Meter-Melbeta, 6-1,210, Senior

1977 Eight Man All-State Defense

End----Mike Hahn-Hampton, 5-11, 170, Senior

End----Lane Walker-Eustis, 6-1, 190, Junior

Guard-Larry Adams-Adams, 5-10, 200, Senior

Guard-Howard Dondlinger-Shickley, 6-2, 200, Senior

LB-----Rod Smallfoot-Farnum, 5-11, 185, Senior

LB-----Dennis Peters-Dalton, 6-2, 185, Senior

DB-----Sterling Walker-Decatur, 6-2, 160, Senior

DB-----Brian Van Diest-Sandhills, 6-2, 185, Senior

Honorable Mention:

Al Grossnicklaus-Shelby; John Alves, Mark Fry-Potter; Brian Hahn-Hampton (1,269); Jerald Buss, Dan Harms, Kevin Parde-Adams; David Burton-Bartley; Bill Erb-Shickley; Barry Perlinger, Doug Babbitt-Paxton; Tom Perlinger, Doug Glunz-Wheatland; Mark Zogg-Eustis; Mark Johnson-Decatur; Mic Coffman-Sandhills (1,004); Randy Kaufman-Bladen; Bill Anderson-Hordville (1,035); Brad Burke, Tim Callahan-Brady; Matt Gaunt-Trenton; Kirk Wilson-Maywood (1,276); Jeff TePoel-Prague; Jeff Ross, Kent Schlager -Culbertson; Randy Rabstajnek-Table Rock; Jeff Rouse-Nebraska Christian; Mike Danhauer-Marquette; Jim Swett, Doug Nichols (1,004)-Wheeler Central; Jeff Liberty-Dawson-Verdon; Rick McDowell, Dan Ott-Trumbull (1,119); Dave Seybold-Wilsonville; Doug Schenk-Mullen; Ken Shaw-Bradshaw; Mark Phillips-Arthur; Mark Fletcher-Maxwell; Perry Phelan-Big Springs; Mark Schoenholz-Bruning and Gary Novak-Rising City.