

In 1979, Class D 11-man football was dropped and 8-man split into two classes

Class D-1 (Eight-Man 1)---Quarterfinals:

DENOTES: 8-Man Hall of Fame Inductee

(9-0) Spalding Academy 42-14 Harrisburg (8-1) (@ Spalding)

(9-0) Shelby 44-22 Shickley (9-0) (@ Shickley)

(8-0) Beemer 48-24 Adams (9-0) (@ Beemer, 1:30)

(9-0) Dawson-Verdon 32-14 Stapleton (9-0) (@Stapleton)

Semifinals:

(10-0) Spalding Academy 38-0 Shelby (10-0)

(9-0) Beemer 55-12 Dawson-Verdon (10-0)

Final: (@ Beemer) (10-0) Beemer 40-20 Spalding Academy (11-0)

Champion: Beemer (11-0), Head Coach - Ron Peck

Beemer extended its winning streak to 24 with a 40-20 victory over Spalding Academy. SA coaching legend Ed Colleran was coaching the final game of his 46 year career at the school, in a contest that may have been decided during the opening two possessions. When Spalding Academy's John Berndt recovered a Beemer fumble on the 2nd play of scrimmage, it looked like the gods were going to be kind to Coach Colleran. But the Beemer defense stiffened and a goal line stand gave the ball back to the 'Cats offense at their own one yard line.

Beemer then proceeded to go 79 yards for a score on the ensuing possession. Both coaches agreed it was *THE* turning point in the game. Beemer led 24-0 at halftime and built the lead to 26 in the early stages of the 4th quarter on its way to their 40-20 win.

Beemer unleashed a brutal 411 yard rushing attack that the Irish just could not handle. Three-time 1000 yard rusher **Craig Hass** ran for 163 yards on 23 tries with a 53 yard TD run while finishing his Hall of Fame prep career with 4,835 yards rushing. Beemer QB Randy Ehrisman, who took over for Robert Paulsen after the latter suffered a broken leg in the season opener, reeled of scoring runs of 11 and 26 yards to give his team the halftime cushion it needed. Spalding Academy's terrific RB Nick Nordhues rushed for 137 yards on 15 carries, which included a 56 yard 4th quarter TD dash.

1979 Class D-1 (Eight Man 1) All-State Offense

End----Dan Ott-Trumbull, 6-1, 180, Senior

End----Lane Walker-Eustis, 6-2, 195, Senior

Guard-Doug Zach-Humphrey, 6-2, 225, Senior

Guard-Terry Heithoff-Elgin, 6-2, 200, Senior

Center-Kim Asmus-Beemer, 5-11, 220, Senior -

QB-----Gary Bender-Humphrey, 6-0, 165, Senior

Back----**Craig Hass****-Beemer, 5-8, 160, Senior.....(1,240 yards)

Back----Todd Harring-Dawson-Verdon, 6-0,160, Sr. (1,943 yards) (State Champ)

Kicker--Craig Tietjen-Chester-Hubbell, 6-0, 145, Senior

1979 Class D-1 (Eight Man 1) All-State Defense

End----Bruce Crooks-Rising City, 5-10, 190, Senior

End----Tim Koozer-Fairmont, 6-3, 210, Junior

NG-----John Kleffner-Spalding Academy, 6-0, 215, Senior

LB-----Tim McNamara Beemer, 6-0, 175, Senior (1,128 yards)

LB-----Jon Lichti-Shickley, 5-11, 190, Senior.....(1,232 yards)

DB-----Pat Zach-Humphrey, 5-9, 160, Senior

DB-----Nick Nordhues-Spalding Academy, 6-1, 175, Senior (1,227 yards)

Punter-John Bruns-Elwood, 6-1, 185, Senior

***Honorable Mention:**

Russ Gronewold-Adams; Terry Martin, Dale Martin, Brian Shantz-Beemer; Dave Buettner-Cedar Rapids; Bill Lydiatt, Stan Wright-Chappell; Brett Brown, Bert Felker-Culbertson; Bob Clancy- Dawson-Verdon; Jim Grupe-Deshler; Matt Fieldgrove, John Wroblewski-Elba; Bill Armstrong, Kenny Meis-Elgin; Mike Wenzel (1,341 yards)-Elmwood; Kevin Koozer-Fairmont; Mike Sjuts- Humphrey; Jeff Brady-Johnson; Doug Pettinger-Lewiston; Larry Gaspers-Lindsay Holy Family; Wayne Dykman-Leyton; Brian Paulsen-Murdock; Terry Meyer-North Loup/Scotia; Terry Topil- Rising City; Eugene Konan-Roseland; Pat Bierbower, Tim Hopwood-Shelby; Dave Rankin- Spalding Academy; Donovan Schuster, Russ Fischer (1,200 yards), Troy Wentz-Sterling; Bill O'Neill, Bill Purdy-Wauneta; Willie Hixson, Gary McLain-Wheeler Central.

Class D-2 (Eight-Man-2) Quarterfinals:

(8-0-1) Wheatland 34-0 Elk Creek (5-4) (@ Madrid)

(8-1) Hildreth 55-28 Snyder (8-1) (@ Snyder)

(7-1) Dix 32-6 Bartley (6-1) (@ Dix, 1:30)

(8-1) Arthur 26-20 Trumbull (8-1) (@ Ogallala, 1:30)

Semifinals:

(9-1) Hildreth 34-14 Wheatland (9-0-1)

(9-1) Arthur 30-22 Dix (8-1)

Final: (in Arthur) (9-1) Arthur 32-20 Hildreth (10-1)

Champion: Arthur (10-1), Head Coach- Robert Gerten

**A nicely balanced running/passing attack lifted Arthur to Class D-2's first championship with a 32-20 win over Hildreth. The Wolves turned state sprint champ Martin Phillips loose for 152 yards and a 54 yard touchdown dash, while Wolves quarterback Terry Trenary hooked up with wide receiver Eric Storer for three scoring passes, the clincher coming on an 8 yard TD strike with 1:17 left in the game. Ironically, it was Hildreth that came into the contest with an All-State quarterback in Terry Welsch and the senior flash did not disappoint with his 2 TD tosses and a 15 yard scoring scamper while Kevin Robertson added two more scores. But it was Arthur's balance that prevailed in the end.

The Wolves reeled off 11 straight wins after falling to Thedford in the season opener. Arthur RB Kevin Robertson was also a sparkler in this one, reeling off a pair of touchdown gallops, one a 63 yarder. Hildreth stayed within a touchdown striking distance throughout the game as Welsh rushed for a 15 yard TD and connected on scoring passes with Kerry Warnlin and Chad Coch. The scoring strike to Coch cut Arthur's lead to 26-20 late in the game but the pass from Trenary to Storer sealed the game and championship for Arthur.

1979 Class D-2 (Eight Man 2) All-State Offense

End----Steve Schardt-Elk Creek, 6-3, 185, Senior

End----Jerry Schulze-Hordville, 5-7, 150, Senior

Guard-Martin Meyer-Wheatland, 6-4, 240, Senior

Guard-Craig Schultz-Trumbull, 5-9, 150, Senior

Center-Brendan Moore-Lebanon Beaver Valley, 5-10, 165, Senior

QB-----Jeff Weich-Hildreth, 6-0, 180, Senior

Back----Martin Phillips-Arthur, 6-0, 160, Senior.....(1,040 yards)

Back----Mark Daum-Dix, 6-3, 210, Senior.....(1,485 yards)

Kicker--John Bunger-Hildreth, 6-2, 205, Senior

1979 Class D-2 (Eight Man 2) All-State Defense

End----Darrell Steele-Dix, 5-9, 170, Senior

End----Mark Salmen-Trumbull, 5-10, 170, Senior

NG----Cliff Macomber-Arthur, 5-11, 185, Senior

LB-----Kyle McCormack Wheatland, 6-8, 180, Senior

LB-----Scott Gottsch-Monroe, 5-11, 215, Senior

DB-----Monte Vance-Bladen, 5-8, 165, Senior (1,757 yards)

DB-----Kelly Loschen-Hildreth, 6-1, 170, Senior

Punter-Dale Kreikemeier-Snyder, 5-8, 160, Senior

***Honorable Mention:**

Gerald Stritt, Tom Hart-Bartley; Dave Rasmussen, Boyd Stuhr-Bradshaw; Barry Rich-Brady; Levi Engelman, Don Breedon-Diller; Kurt Ingstrom-Dix; Harlan Beethe, Rich Heidman-Elk Creek; Dan Eastman, John Schroeder-Giltner; Todd Roblier, Doug DeOss-Holbrook; Scott Hanchera, Bill Nicholson-Lebanon Beaver Valley; Gordon Edmison-Monroe; Ed Capp, Nick Ross (1,419 yards)-Madrid Wheatland; Mark Monheiser-Potter; Ken Dirkschneider, Dave Jelinek, Jeff Schoeneck-Snyder; Kelly Egge, Jim Hardy-Stratton;