

8-Man Playoff fields expanded from 8 to 16 teams

1983 Class D-1 (Eight-Man 1)

DENOTES: 8-Man Hall of Fame Inductee

1st Round Bracket:

- (8-0) Humphrey 20-4 Elm Creek (6-2) (@ Humphrey)
- (8-1) Beemer 52-6 Oshkosh (8-1) (@ Beemer)
- (7-2) Stuart 16-12 Leyton (7-2) (@ Stuart)
- (8-1) Leigh 28-8 Adams (7-2) (@ Adams)
- (8-1) Palmer 48-12 Mullen (7-2) (@ Palmer)
- (8-1) Nebraska Christian 40-14 Winside (7-2) (@ Nebraska Christian)
- (7-2) Winnebago 38-26 Ansley (9-0) (@ Winnebago)
- (8-1) Lawrence 32-21 North Loup/Scotia (7-2) (@ Lawrence)

Quarterfinals:

- (9-0) Humphrey 30-20 Beemer (9-1) (@ Humphrey)
- (9-1) Leigh 23-19 Stuart (8-2) (@ Stanton)
- (9-1) Palmer 28-22 (OT) Nebraska Christian (9-1) (@ Palmer)
- (9-1) Lawrence 55-32 Winnebago (8-2) (@ Lawrence)

Semifinals:

- (10-0) Humphrey 22-6 Leigh (10-1) (@ Humphrey)
- (10-1) Lawrence 38-6 Palmer (10-1) (@ Lawrence)

Final: (11-1) Lawrence 28-26 (OT) Humphrey (11-0)

Champion: Lawrence (12-1), Head Coach – Curt Johnson

This Golden Era for Lawrence was cemented with an overtime victory over Humphrey. Panther signal caller Jerry Hoelting powered his way over the goal line from just inches away and backfield buddy Dan Svoboda did the same on a 2 point conversion, giving Lawrence their second straight Class D-1 football title (28-26 in OT) over the same Humphrey squad it lost to in the 1980 D-1 championship game.

This victory stretched the Panthers win streak to 25 games, with the last loss coming to Shelby in the 1981 D-1 title game. It also gave Lawrence a record of 46-3 over the previous 4 years, having qualified for the football championship game each of those four seasons. After Hoelting and Svoboda combined for the touchdown and two point conversion in overtime, the Lawrence defense stopped Humphrey's Ron Zach, who came up just inches short on the 2-point conversion attempt which followed a 4 yard Todd Finkral scoring run.

Panther defenders Mike Reiman and Greg Kucera were credited with the game saving tackle on the talented Zach, who had rushed for 157 yards on 22 carries. Kucera scored a pair of TDs for Lawrence (4, 1), while Mike Reiman was responsible for a defensive score for the Panthers when he pounced on a blocked punt in the end zone. Finkral scored 3 times on runs of 4, 1 and 2 yards while totaling 56 yards on 18 totes for the Bulldogs in the loss.

1983 Class D-1 (Eight Man 1) Offense

End----Todd Bish-Giltner, 6-1, 180, Senior

End----Rick Ideus-Shickley, 6-1, 190, Senior

Guard-Ken Maguire-Humphrey, 5-10, 170, Senior

Guard-Paul Mundil-Leigh, 6-1, 217, Junior

Center-Jim Lozier-Omaha Brownell-Talbot, 6-7, 230, Senior

QB-----Jerry Hoelting-Lawrence, 5-10, 165, Senior

Back----Bill Kucera-Lawrence, 5-11, 170, Senior.....(1,129 yards)

Back----Ron Zach-Humphrey, 5-9, 146, Junior.....(1,393 yards)

Kicker--Steve Poppe-Oshkosh, 6-1, 160, Senior (Chosen @ two positions, K/P)

1983 Class D-1 (Eight Man 1) Defense

End----Dan Svoboda-Lawrence, 6-0, 185, Junior

End----John Pavelka-Verdigre, 6-2, 190, Senior

MG----Scott Christensen-Humphrey, 6-2, 200, Senior

LB-----Stan Heithoff-Elgin, 6-1, 200, Senior

LB-----Brian Kennedy-Winnebago, 5-10, 160, Senior....(1,168 yards)

LB-----Randall Jobman*-Oshkosh, 6-4, 210, Senior.....

DB-----Alan Smith-Elm Creek, 6-2, 182, Senior

DB-----Gregg Kremer-Nebraska Christian, 5-10, 170, Senior

Punter-Steve Poppe-Oshkosh, 6-1, 160, Senior

Class D-2 (Eight-Man-2)

1st Round Bracket:

(8-0) Filley 32-16 Trumbull (6-2) (@ Trumbull)
(8-1) Lodgepole 38-12 Sandhills (8-1) (@ Lodgepole)
(7-2) Marquette 57-16 Loomis (7-2) (@ Marquette)
(8-1) Davenport 74-34 Palisade (7-2) (@ Davenport)
(8-1) Odell 26-0 Falls City Sacred Heart (7-2) (@ Odell)
(8-1) Maxwell 8-6 Benedict (7-2) (@ Maxwell)
(7-2) Chester-Hubbell 20-18 Dawson-Verdon (9-0) (@ Dawson)
(8-1) Butte 28-8 Beaver Valley (7-2) (@ Lebanon)

Quarterfinals:

(9-0) Filley 54-26 Lodgepole (9-1) (@ Filley)
(8-2) Marquette 62-32 Davenport (9-1) (@ Davenport)
(9-1) Odell 26-12 Maxwell (9-1) (@ Odell)
(9-1) Butte 33-21 Chester-Hubbell (8-2) (@ Chester)

Semifinals:

(9-2) Marquette 36-0 Filley (10-0) (@ Marquette)
(10-1) Odell 16-6 Butte (10-1) (@ Butte)

Final: (10-2) Marquette 12-0 Odell (11-1)

Champion: Marquette (11-2), Head Coach – Carl Abele

On a rainy night in Marquette in front of an estimated 1,600 fans, The Cubs rode the legs of Hall of Fame back **Lynn Menke** and then called on their defense to make a critical 4th down stop of Odell QB Bruce Vitosh at the one yard line to seal the D-2 championship. The stop preserved a 6-0 Marquette lead with 6:50 left in the 3rd quarter and gave the Cubs another opportunity to grind it out with their ball control offense

Menke, one of three 1000 yard rushers in Marquette's three man backfield, gave his team an insurance touchdown in the 4th quarter when the track star broke loose on a 52 yard scoring sprint. The junior followed the crunching blocks of pulling guard Todd Danhauer and fullback Ken Russell on the 31 slant play to take the 12-0 lead. The Marquette defense would not allow the orange and black clad Tigers to cross their goal line on that night.

Odell's lone scoring threat of that rain-soaked evening came when the Tigers Natan Anton recovered a fumble on an errant pitch play. That set up the ill-fated drive that was eventually stuffed by Menke and Mike Larson.

Marquette also became the first known school in Nebraska prep football history to have three one-thousand yard rushers in the same season. That 1983 Trio consisted of Menke (1,791 yards), FB Ken Russell (1,048) and QB Kevin Hutsell (1,002), who had been injured early, but returned to finish the game and help the Cubs to their first and only State Football Championship.

1983 Class D-2 (Eight Man 2) Offense

End----Greg Buhr-Trumbull, 6-1, 170, Senior

End----Jim Burr-Sumner, 6-3, 180, Senior

Guard-Bob Harms-Filley, 5-10, 165, Senior

Guard-Todd Danhauer-Marquette, 6-1 , 185, Senior

Center-Charles Rader-Trumbull, 6-0, 200, Senior

QB-----Kevin Hutsell-Marquette, 5-9, 155, Senior

Back----Lynn Menke-Marquette, 5-11, 170, Junior.....(1,791 yards)

Back----Chad Bailey-Benedict, 5-6, 140, Senior.....(1,758 yards)

Kicker--Mylan Gehle-Chester, 5-10 157, Senior

1983 Class D-2 (Eight Man 2) Defense

End----Jeff Kallhoff-Clearwater, 6-3, 205, Senior

End----Jim Huettner-Dawson-Verdon, 6-2, 180, Senior

MG----Dennis Weyer-Odell, 6-1, 215, Senior

LB-----Charlie Loper-Paxton, 5-11, 190, Senior

LB-----Steve Daffer-Beaver Valley, 6-2, 185, Senior.....(1,227 yards)

LB-----Jim Sibbel-Butte, 5-11, 170, Senior....(1,093 yards)

DB----Wayne Janesky-Maxwell, 5-11, 170, Senior

DB----Ron Oltman-Odell, 5-10, 165, Senior

Punter-Ron Wieser-Monroe, 5-9 , 155, Junior
