

Remembering N8M: 1970

* 85 Teams played 8-Man, down 14 schools from 1969* **DENOTES: 8-Man Hall of Fame Inductee**

However, Nebraska continued to be the national trailblazer for 8-Man football and the number of schools playing this magnificent game would level off during the early to mid 70s, then continued to rise and remain rock steady around the 110 mark in current times, a number that still leads the entire nation in the number of schools participation in 8-Man football.

Two juniors graced the All-State team in 1970, the amazing **Corky Charles** from Mead and tough as nails **Earl Bieck** of Giltner. Bieck was a stick of dynamite who struck fear into the hearts of any offensive player. The aggressive 160-pounder averaged nearly 20 tackles a game, according to coach Larry Sheehan.

Mead standout **Corky Charles** did it all. He caught 28 passes for 371 yards, rushed for 122 more, completed 1 of 27 passes for 265 yards and scored 106 points. But it was defense where Charles really sparkled, making numerous tackles, shutting down the opponent's best receiver while intercepting ELEVEN passes.

Wheatland's **Bill Kraus** was probably the most noteworthy of this mythical dream team, having been asked to play quarterback when Coach **Jack Sunderland**'s starter went down for the season. All Kraus did was step in and complete 65 of 86 passes for 1,260 yards. He had a hand in 40 Wheatland TD's running, passing, or receiving.

The late and so great **John O'Brien**, Shelby's Hall of Fame head coach, stated that lightweight (5-7,161) **Blake Matousek** was one of the best offensive line blockers he ever coached. He was a vicious linebacker as well.

1970 Final 8-Man Top 10

1. Madrid Wheatland (9-0) {505-107}
 2. Odell (8-0) {4100-91}
 3. Mead (9-0) {479-98} 4. Shelby (9-0) {464-108}
 5. Stapleton (10-0) {502-62}
 6. Republican Valley (10-0) {443-116}
 7. Milligan (8-0) {364-108}
 8. Bartlett (8-1) {414-126}
 9. Giltner (7-1) {346-82}
 10. Trenton (8-2) {432-130}
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1970 8-Man All-State Football Team

End---Corky Charles-Mead, 6-3, 185, Junior

End---Mark Bowman-Bradshaw, 6-1, 175 Senior

Guard-Blake Matousek-Shelby, 5-7, 161, Senior

Guard-Warren Mommsen-Waterloo, 6-3, 215, Senior

Center-Earl Bieck-Giltner, 5-10, 160, Junior

Back--John Olson-Wheeler Central (Bartlett), 5-8, 150, Senior

Back--Gary Jurgens-Odell, 5-10, 165, Senior

Back--Bill Kraus-Madrid Wheatland, 6-1, 175, Senior
