

Remembering N8M: 1971

85 Teams played 8-Man football in 1971

The Omaha World-Herald noted that not only did **Corky Charles** of Mead receive a ton of votes for all-state, but he received many votes at multiple positions. The 6-3, 195-pound Charles excelled all over the field for the Raiders, seeing action at RB, QB, TE, Guard, LB, and safety. In 8-Man football, that's every position but center.

In 1971, Charles was busy carrying the football to the tune of 771 yards on 77 carries. He also grabbed 16 passes for those 222 yds and 3 touchdowns, completed 16 of 32 passes for 216 yards and 4 TDs, while scoring 21 total touchdowns total. The Mead star also averaged 41.2 yards per punt, all-state numbers to this day and age.

Harv Wewel, the talented Stuart Bronco quarterback, was a passing machine who threw 55 touchdown passes during his four-year career. In 1971 alone, Wewel completed 99 of his 176 pass attempts for 1,498 yards and 28 scores. He also passed for 14 PATS and ran for an additional 9 TDs.

Joel Dunekacke from Elk Creek was a tireless workhorse for head coach Gene Finke, who called his number 265 times during the 9-game season. The 185-pound Dunekacke responded with 1,265 yards rushing. He was also a stalwart defensively, holding down the middle guard position, oftentimes being an uninvited guest in the opponent's backfield where he was credited for 20 tackles for losses.

Dale Young of Hampton was also very impressive, as he rambled for 1,121 yards rushing and was considered the top back in the prestigious Crossroads Conference by opposing coaches. Young ran for 14 touchdowns in 1971.

1971 Final 8-Man Top 10

1. **Giltner (9-0)** {476-56}
 2. **Culbertson (9-0)** {513-124}
 3. **Shelby (9-0)** {446-164}
 4. **Madrid Wheatland (9-0)** {332-60}
 5. **Cody (8-0)** {NA-NA}
 6. **Mead (8-1)** {416-128}
 7. **Stapleton (8-1)** {422-168}
 8. **Cedar Rapids (9-1)** {248-110}
 9. **Stuart (7-1-1)** {353-126}
 10. **Elk Creek (7-1-1)** {238-104}
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1971 8-Man All-State Football Team

End---Corky Charles-Mead, 6-3, 190, Senior

End---Alan Bauer-Culbertson, 5-9, 135 Senior

Guard-Ben Kastl-Brainard East Buter, 6-0, 200, Senior

Guard-Earl Bieck-Giltner, 5-10, 165, Senior

Center-Larry Schledewitz-Maxwell, 5-11, 187, Senior

Back--Dale Young-Hampton, 6-2, 185, Senior (1,121 rushing/14 TDs)

Back--Harv Wewel-Stuart, 6-1, 167, Senior (99-176 pass/1,498 yds/28 TDs)

Back--Joel Dunekacke-Elk Creek, 5-8, 178, Senior (1,265 rushing-265 carries)