

There were 69 schools in D1 and 61 schools in D2

1988 Class D-1 (Eight-Man 1)

DENOTES: 8-Man Hall of Fame Inductee

1st Round:

(8-0) Potter-Dix 40-14 Culbertson (8-1) (@ Potter)
(7-2) Anselmo-Merna 22-12 Elwood (7-1) (@ Elwood)
(6-2) Ansley 46-7 North Loup-Scotia (9-0) (@ Scotia)
(5-4) Axtell 26-21 Kenesaw (8-1) (@ Kenesaw)
(8-0) Spencer-Naper 34-26 St. Edward (8-1) (@ Spencer)
(7-1) Wakefield 32-3 Clarkson (6-3) (@ Wakefield)
(9-0) Nelson 42-35 Polk-Hordville (9-0) (@ Hordville)
(8-1) Omaha Brownell-Talbot 47-16 East Butler (8-1) (@ Boys Town)

Quarterfinals:

(8-2) Anselmo-Merna 36-14 Potter-Dix (9-0) (@ Anselmo-Merna)
(8-2) Ansley 38-20 Spencer (6-4) (@ Ansley)
(9-0) Spencer-Naper 12-0 Wakefield (10-0) (@ Spencer)
(9-1) Omaha Brownell-Talbot 41-21 Nelson (10-0) (@ Nelson)

Semifinals:

(9-2) Ansley 22-10 Anselmo-Merna (9-2) (@ Merna)
(10-0) Spencer-Naper 18-12 Omaha Brownell-Talbot (10-1) (@ Omaha)

Final: (11-0) Spencer-Naper 50-14 Ansley (10-2) (@ Ansley, Friday, Nov. 18th)

Champion: Spencer-Naper (12-0), Head Coach – Bill Mimick

Spencer-Naper quarterback Brad Adams ran for three touchdowns and passed for two more to lead the Pirates to a 50-14 victory over Ansley in the Class D-1 State Championship. Running back Lon Kopecky ran for 213 yards and scored two other touchdowns for top rated Spencer-Naper, who finished a perfect 12-0.

Ansley took an early 6-0 lead when All-Stater Lance Rhode capped a short 5 play, 23-yard drive with a 2-yard touchdown run, but S-N responded.

Adams got the second quarter started with a 2-yard TD run, giving the Pirates an 8-6 lead at the 9:30 mark of the second stanza. After holding Ansley on the ensuing possession, S-N scored again when Adams hit Willie Kerwin for a 36-yd scoring pass. Adams added another score on a 17-yard gallop at the 1:43 mark, and then completed a second touchdown pass to Kirwan (35 yards) with 30 seconds left before halftime, giving Hall of Fame Coach **Bill Mimick**'s forces a commanding 30-6 lead.

Midway through the 3rd quarter, the Pirates drove 65 yards in 11 plays to score on a Kopecky TD run of 13 yards, and widened the lead to 36-6. Kopecky then scored again on a 38-yard run, extending that lead to 42-6.

It took just one play for Ansley to strike back- as Halfback Shawn Haines connected with Mike Bailey for a 47-yard touchdown strike, but it was too little, too late for the defending D-1 runner-ups.

1988 Class D-1 (Eight Man 1) Offense

QB-----Alan Schutte-Nelson, 6-2, 185, Senior

Back---Dale Van Housen-Polk-Hordville, 5-11, 195, Junior...(1,614 yards)

Back---Chad Micek-St. Edward, 6-2, 185, Senior...(2,093 yards)

Back---Eric Schepers-Fairmont, 6-2, 170, Senior..(1,028 yards)

End----Jason Drudik-Nelson, 5-11, 145, Junior

OL-----John Wriedt-Wakefield, 6-1, 245, Senior

OL-----Larry Wright-Humphrey, 5-11, 210, Senior

Center-Dan Fox-North Loup-Scotia, 6-1, 230, Senior

Kicker-Roger Coffey-North Loup-Scotia, 6-0, 180, Senior

1988 Class D-1 (Eight Man 1) Defense

DL-----Lon Kopecky-Spencer-Naper, 5-9, 170, Senior

DL-----Jerry Charles-Mead, 6-2, 240, Senior

LB-----Lance Rhode-Ansley, 6-2, 205, Senior...(1,393 yards)

LB-----Jeff Weatherwax-Anselmo-Merna, 6-0, 200, Senior

LB-----Palmer Barton-Omaha Brownell-Talbot, 5-10, 175, Senior

LB-----Willy-Kirwan-Spencer-Naper, 6-1, 175, Senior...(1,343 yards)

DB-----Brad Adams-Spencer-Naper, 6-1, 180, Senior

DB-----Kenton Duncan-Omaha Brownell-Talbot, 6-1, 180, Senior...(1,084 yards)

Punter-Jerry Griego-Adams, 6-2, 170, Senior...(1,109 yards)

Class D-2 (Eight-Man-2)

1st Round:

(8-0) Hayes Center 34-16 Hyannis (8-1) (@ Hayes Center)

(6-2) Amherst 46-20 Wilcox (8-1) (@ Wilcox)

(9-0) Clearwater 22-18 Butte (7-2) (@ Clearwater)

(9-0) Humphrey St. Francis 41-6 Coleridge (7-2) (@ Humphrey)

(7-2) McCool Junction 48-42 Hampton (7-2) (@ McCool Junction)

(9-0) Diller 62-23 Bruning (7-2) (@ Diller)

(7-2) Falls City Sacred Heart 42-26 Nebraska City Lourdes (6-3) (@ Falls City)

(9-0) Humboldt 44-20 Dawson-Verdon (8-1) (@ Humboldt)

Quarterfinals:

(9-0) Hayes Center 34-14 Amherst (7-2) (@ Amherst)

(10-0) Humphrey St. Francis 38-14 Clearwater (10-0) (@ Humphrey)

(10-0) Diller 50-0 McCool Junction (8-2) (@ Diller)

(10-0) Humboldt 44-8 Falls City Sacred Heart (8-2) (@ Humboldt)

Semifinals:

(11-0) Humphrey St. Francis 34-6 Hayes Center (10-0) (@ Hayes Center)

(11-0) Humboldt 32-18 Diller (11-0) (@ Humboldt)

Final: (12-0) Humboldt 20-14 Humphrey SF (12-0) (2 OTs) (@ Humboldt)

Champion: Humboldt (13-0), Head Coach – John James

Humboldt, NE.- Just as it had done all season, the Cardinals relied on a strong defense and the gamesmanship of quarterback Jamie Weyers, to take a nail-biting 20-14 double overtime win over perennial powerhouse Humphrey St. Francis in the Class D-2 championship at Power Field.

Things did not look good for 12-0 Humboldt in the opening half. The Cardinals spotted St. Francis a 14-0 lead ten minutes, thirty seconds deep into the second quarter before roaring back to score on a sizzling 54-yard touchdown run by Weyers 1:30 before halftime.

The Humboldt All-State quarterback picked up a key downfield block from Matt Bacon, a player he would eventually hook up with for a 53-yard touchdown pass to square things up at 14 apiece with 1:28 left in regulation. Humboldt had to find other means to score after relying on their bread & butter QB option play all season long. Humphrey St. Francis defensive ends Ken Sander (6-4) and (6-0) Kurt Brockhaus consistently turned the Cardinals option plays back to the inside, preventing any chance of breaking a long gainer outside.

After Flyers RB Tom Olmer scored on runs of 1 and 2 yards in the opening half, Humboldt head coach Jon James switched to a blitzing defense behind Hall of Famer **Ken Mehlin**, holding the mighty St. Francis to 83 yards in the 2nd half. The Cardinals stopped St. Francis twice on their 2-yard line and once on the 17 during the course of the contest.

St. Francis, who had an excellent kicker in Gene Kosch, were turned away twice on field goal attempts during the contest, both coming on St. Francis mistakes. The first blunder came on a 4th and 11 play at the Humboldt 12-yard line midway through the 3rd quarter. Flyers coach Glen Koski wanted to send Kosch into the game to attempt a field goal, but nobody could find the kicking tee. They called a time out, but still no tee. It forced St. Francis to go for it and Humboldt came up with the big stop, turning the ball over to the Cardinals on downs. It was later discovered one of the kids had left the tee in the locker room at halftime. The 2nd field goal attempt was foiled by a high snap from center, resulting in a Gene Kosch pass completion to Mike Werner for a 9-yard loss.

The game went into overtime knotted at 14, but neither team was able to score in the initial extra period. Humboldt I-Back Clay Nolte then scored from a yard out in the 2nd overtime to give the Cardinals a 20-14 lead. Weyers then proved to be the defensive hero of the game when he spilled St. Francis quarterback Kevin Sander on an option play on a 4th and goal from the one.

Weyers was indeed the defensive MVP in the contest, logging 14 unassisted tackles, 6 assists and a pair of interceptions. Humboldt won the game despite gaining only 194 yards of total offense. St. Francis had 196.

1988 Class D-2 (Eight Man 2) Offense

QB-----Dan Jilg-Silver Creek, Senior
Back---Jay Herman-Hyannis, Junior
Back---Steve Simon, Falls City SH, Sophomore
End----Kevin Rittscher, Senior
End----Gerald Koza-Silver Creek, Senior
OL-----Ken Mehlin-Humboldt, Senior
OL-----Jon Morgan-Diller, 5-11, 210, Junior
Center-Scott Ogle-Dawson-Verdon, Senior
Kicker-Lupe Dimas-Bruning, Senior

1988 Class D-2 (Eight Man 2) Defense

DL-----Kurt Brockhaus-Humphrey St. Francis, Senior
DL-----Ken Sander, Humphrey St. Francis, Junior
DL-----Lance Lundberg-Wausa, Junior
LB-----Shannon Messersmith-Hayes Center, Senior
LB-----Corey Gallaway-McCool Junction, Senior
LB-----Brad Fuerst-Hildreth, Senior
DB-----Jamie Weyers-Humboldt, Senior
DB-----Jason Morris-Nebraska City Lourdes, Senior
Punter-Russell Largent-Hildreth, Senior
