

Remembering N8M: 1959

163 Teams played 8-Man football in 1959

For the 6th straight season, Nebraska 8-Man football saw more schools playing the game. Twenty-one more schools hopped 6-Man to 8-Man while the teams playing 11-Man football in Nebraska remained the same.

Once again, the final 8-Man ratings (Omaha World-Herald) followed the TWO class format. 8-Man schools were divided into Class A (schools with 35 or more boys) and Class B (schools with less than 35 boys).

1959 Eight-Man Football Final OVERALL Top 10

- 1. Fremont St. Patricks, (8-0-1) Coach- Lew Wewel**
- 2. Cedar Bluffs (8-0-1) Coach- Charles Sukovaty**
- 3. Lawrence (8-0) Coach- Don Janda**
- 4. Fairfield (8-0) Coach- Howard Zook**
- 5. York St. Joseph (8-0) Coach- John Siegel**
- 6. Hershey (9-0) Coach- Al Wiegand**
- 7. Dakota City (9-0) Coach- Garlie Sailors**
- 8. Amherst (8-0) Coach- Cecil Stutzman**
- 9. Venango (8-0) Coach- Glen Houtz**
- 10. Farnam (9-0) Coach- Herman H. Hinkle**

1959 Eight-Man Football CLASS "A" Final Top 10

1 Fremont St. Patrick (8-0-1)

2. Cedar Bluffs (8-0-1)

3. Lawrence (8-0)

4. Hershey (9-0)

5. Dakota City (9-0)

6. Amherst (8-0)

7. Doniphan (7-1)

8. Dorchester (9-0)

9. Eagle (8-0)

10T Axtell

10T Mullen

1959 Eight-Man Football CLASS "B" Final Top 10

1 Fairfield (8-0)

2. York St. Joseph (8-0)

3. Venango (8-0)

4. Farnam (9-0)

5. Mason City (8-0)

6. Brady

7. Indianola

8. Maywood

9. Greeley Sacred Heart (7-0-1)

10. Shelby

All-State Teams, as chosen by Gregg McBride

DENOTES: 8-Man Hall of Fame Inductee

1959 8-Man OVERALL All-State Football Team

End---Cliff Rice-Fremont St. Patrick, 6-2, 180, Junior

End----John Beyke-Lawrence, 6-0, 170, Senior

Guard-Richard Heinzman-Winnebago, 5-9, 165, Senior

Guard-Ken Adkisson-Farnum, 5-11, 190, Senior

Center-Gene Johnson-Hershey, 5-9, 200, Senior

Back---Joe Heckenlively-Fairfield, 6-1, 160, Junior

Back---Dick Wray-Cedar Bluffs, 5-10, 160, Senior

Back---LaVane Johnson-Eagle, 5-10, 204, Senior

1959 8-Man CLASS "A" All-State Football Team

End---Cliff Rice-Fremont St. Patrick

End---John Beyke-Lawrence

Guard-Richard Heinzman-Winnebago

Guard-Vernon Schnieder-Axtell

Center-Gene Johnson-Hershey

Back---Pat Worthing-Axtell

Back---Dick Wray-Cedar Bluffs

Back---LaVane Johnson-Eagle

1959 8-Man CLASS "B" All-State Football Team

End---Robert Haley-York St. Joseph

End---Dave Deden-Venango

Guard-Gary Workmeister-Maywood

Guard-Ken Adkisson-Farnum

Center-Richard Hotze-Indianola

Back---Joe Heckenlively-Fairfield

Back---Miles Outoupal-York St. Joseph

Back---Larry Laird-Dakota City

*One uncovered treasure from this season was the discovery of **LaVane Johnson** of Eagle. LaVane was a man among boys that season, 5-10, 204 running back, highly unusual for that day. Most linemen were not 200 pounds in the late 1950s.

Johnson rambled for a massive 1,848 yards rushing, racked another 303 yards passing, scored 218 points on 33 touchdowns and 20 one-point PAT conversions, averaged 13 tackles a game and averaged 35 yards a punt.

He received a full ride scholarship to play football at Nebraska (rare for an 8-Man player in that day) and was a 2018 inductee into the NEMFCA 8-Man Football Hall of Fame.