

Remembering N8M: 1961

154 Teams played 8-Man football in 1961

DENOTES: 8-Man Hall of Fame Inductee

The number of schools playing 8-Man football actually decreased for the first time since making its debut in 1951 when seven teams gave the game a go. The decrease was mostly due to the teams playing 11-Man increased by 16.

Once again, the Omaha World-Herald had 8-Man ratings in two classes because of the huge number of teams playing the 8-Man game. The same formula will be followed for 8-Man All-State selections.

1961 Eight-Man Football Final OVERALL Top 10

- 1. Winnebago (8-0)** Coach- Keith Richey
- 2. Coleridge (9-0)** Coach- Don Thompson
- 3. Sutherland (8-0)** Coach- Dick O'Neill
- 4. Lexington St. Anns (8-1)** Coach- Mike Heaton
- 5. Dorchester (9-0)** Coach- Keith Drake
- 6. Bennington (7-0)** Coach- Don Moreland
- 7. Elkhorn (8-1)** Coach- Gene Kruger
- 8. Verdigre (7-1)** Coach- William J. Harder
- 9. Loomis (8-0)** Coach- Bud Extrom
- 10 (Tie) Farnam (8-0)** Coach- Jerry Martin
- 10. (Tie) Brule (9-0)** Coach- Marvin Schleeman

Final 8-Man Class A Top 10

1 Winnebago

2 Coleridge

3 Lexington St. Ann

4 Bennington

5 Elkhorn

6 Verdigre

7 Stapleton

8 Johnson

9 Wausa

10 Fairmont

Final 8-Man Class B Top 10

1 Sutherland

2 Dorchester

3 Loomis

4 Brule

5 Farnum

6 Elmwood

7 Beatrice St. Joseph

8 Maywood

9 Amherst

10 Talmage

1961 8-Man OVERALL All-State Football Team

End---John Adams-Brule, 5-9, 155, Senior

End---Roland Bellamy-Farnam, 6-2, 170, Senior

Guard-Richard Hall-Fairmont, 5-11, 188, Senior

Guard-James Copeland-Sutherland, 5-8, 170, Senior

Center-James Jones-Amherst, 5-10, 185, Senior

Back---Dennis Thorell-Loomis, 5-11, 159, Junior

Back---Charles Sharpback-Winnebago, 5-9, 170, Senior

Back---Tom Morrison-Coleridge, 6-0, 165, Senior

1961 8-Man Class "A" All-State Football Team

End---Gary Settles-Cedar Bluffs

End---Kenneth Liska-Niobrara

Guard-Richard Hall-Fairmont

Guard-Jerry Hoffart-Coleridge

Center-Joel Pospisil-Friend

Back---Dennis Dau-Elkhorn

Back---Charles Sharpback-Winnebago

Back---Tom Morrison-Coleridge

1961 8-Man Class "B" All-State Football Team

End---John Adams-Brule

End---Roland Bellamy-Farnam

Guard-Sam Smith-Brock

Guard-James Copeland-Sutherland

Center-James Jones-Amherst

Back---Dennis Thorell-Loomis

Back---Gerald Fisher-Beatrice St. Joseph

Back---Dan Tesar-Dorchester

Both the Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal-Star mentioned the fact that 1961 produced a ton of fine running backs from the 8-Man football ranks. Here is a list of those talented ball carriers that just missed being named to "All-State" status:

Dennis Keller-Talmage, Wayne Gierhan-Gresham, Lanny Lanman-Lynch, Wayne Smith-Stapleton, Jim Stewert-Western, Richard Bridgeman-Palisade, Bill Dunlap-Goehner, Clifford Welsh-Brule, Terry Cunningham-Lexington St. Ann, Allen Boelter-Verdigre, Gary McConnell-Wallace, Richard Vogt-Elmwood, Alan Cleland-Kenesaw, Doug Martin-Farnam, Ronnie Vlasin-Madrid, Ken Burr-Eddyville, Borman Bristol-Exeter, Gary Himmelberg-Lawrence, Merlyn Carlson-Wausa, Ted Kroese-Cook, Charles O'Gorman-Winnebago, Jon Brewer-Decatur, Rollie Fickenscher-Gurley, Mark Kneifl-Newcastle, William Nelson-Bennington, Stuart Geis-York St. Joseph, Clark Norblade-Axtell, Galen Corlett-Maywood, Rod Meyen-Sutherland and Robert McIntyre-Wolbach.