

1981 Class D-1 (Eight-Man 1)---Quarterfinals: **DENOTES: 8-Man Hall of Fame Inductee**

(9-0) Adams 28-24 Sidney St. Pats (8-1) (@ Adams)
(8-1) Shelby 54-0 Stapleton (9-0) (@ Stapleton)
(9-0) Greeley 40-6 Rising City (9-0) (@ Rising City)
(9-0) Lawrence 56-12 Anselmo-Merna (7-2) (@ Lawrence)

Semifinals:

(9-1) Shelby 70-18 Adams (10-0) (@ Adams)
(10-0) Lawrence 31-26 Greeley (9-1) (@ Lawrence)

Final: (at Shelby) (10-1) Shelby 36-31 Lawrence (11-0)

Champion: Shelby (12-0), Head Coach - John O'Brien

Shelby twice overcame Lawrence's double-digit leads, scoring on kickoff and interception returns in a 36-31 win at home. Hall of Fame coach John O'Brien's team won the Huskies one and only state football title after trailing 25-14 with 3:31 left in the 3rd stanza, Coach O'Brien's squad reeled off three straight touchdowns to post the come from behind 36-31 win in the Eight-Man 1 championship game over a great Lawrence team led by Hall of Fame Coach Curt Johnson.

Shelby's 3rd quarter scoring spree started with a 21 yard TD pass from QB Steve Alt to Randy Moon. Dave Myers added the conversion run, cutting the Lawrence lead to 25-22. Barely a minute later, the Huskies Bob White pirated an Ed Karmazin pass and returned it 26 yards for the game changing score. Another Myers double extra point run gave Shelby a 30-25 lead. Steve Alt then snuck into the end zone on a one yard plunge early in the 4th to give the Huskies a 36-25 advantage.

Illustrating how quick Karmazin can strike with his arm, the Lawrence rifleman guided his Panthers to a score in just two plays. Starting at their own 22 following a Shelby punt, Karmazin connected with All-State End Ron Ziggafos for a 35 yard gain, then followed it with a 23 yard TD pass to Mark Herz. That closed the gap to 36-31 but the clock read 1:57 left in the game. A pair of plays sealed the Lawrence comeback fate when Shelby's Bob White recovered the ensuing onside kick following the Panther's TD pass, then the Lawrence defense was flagged with a roughing the kicker penalty with 50 seconds left (allowing Shelby to then run-the-clock-out).

1981 Class D-1 (Eight Man 1) Offense

End----Ron Ziggafoos-Lawrence, 6-2, 175, Senior

End----Bob Cook-Adams, 5-8, 145, Senior

Guard-Todd Gerdes-Shelby, 6-7, 215, Senior

Guard-**Troy Kleffner-Spalding Academy**, 6-2, 215, Senior

Center-Todd Van Winkle-Chappell, 6-1, 205, Senior -

QB-----Todd Veerhusen-Adams, 6-0, 150, Senior

Back----Arnie Svoboda-Lawrence, 6-0, 175, Senior.....(1,477 yards)

Back----Richard Fischer-Sterling, 5-11, 180, Senior.....(1,131 yards)

Kicker--Jerry Karmazin-Lawrence, 6-2, 170, Senior

1981 Class D-1 (Eight Man 1) Defense

End----Greg Weidner-Humphrey, 6-3, 195, Senior

End----Mark Herz-Lawrence, 6-1, 185, Senior

NG-----Greg Barnes-Shickley, 5-11, 210, Senior

LB-----Steve Alt-Shelby, 5-9, 170, Junior

LB-----Jerry Mlinar-Greeley, 6-2, 200, Senior

LB-----Jeff Ashby-Giltner, 5-8, 180, Senior.....

DB-----Chris Voss-Shelby, 5-11, 185, Senior

DB-----Cliff Micek-St. Edward, 5-11, 170, Senior

Punter-Steve Schreiner-Elmwood, 6-0, 165, Senior

***Honorable Mention:**

Phil Finney, Tom McMillan-Anselmo-Merna; Greg Roan (1,500 yards), Doug Robinson-Cedar Rapids; Jim Wood-Chappell; Bryce Kelker, Shane Wright-Culbertson; Calvin Heithoff, Rod Mack, Ken Meis-Elgin; Doug Schell-Fairmont; Mike Stauffer-Ewing; Doug Beck, Donny Dugan, Shawn O'Connor-Greeley; Dale Madsen-Hampton; Jeff Zach-Humphrey High; Paul Kucera-Lawrence; Randy Malone (1,058 yards), Terry Pella-Lewiston; Scott Cape-Leyton; Jim Holscher (1,211 yards), Shan Folk, Stuart Roath-Mullen; Dave Kunze, Greg Sunde-Murdock; Ken Parde-Nemaha Valley; Darrin Cargle (1,325 yards)-Omaha Dominican; Kenny Loper, Russell Moss, Mark Perlinger-Paxton; Robert Duran, Dave Reznicek, Randy Ruth (1,009 yards)-Rising City; Dennis Trausch-Roseland; Todd Nordeen, Randy Wurdeman-St. Edward; Scott Gibbens (1,361 yards)-Sargent; Terry Rosenquist, Robert Stengel-Shickley; Jeff Tedesco, Jeff Wernsman-Sidney St. Pats; Joe Carraher (1,437 yards), Paul Kaiser-Spalding Academy; Devin Empfield (1,655 yards), Ted Godfrey-Stapleton; Ed Ehmen, Dan Van Groenigen-Sterling; Tony Provost-Winnebago.

Class D-2 (Eight-Man-2)---Quarterfinals:

(8-1) Madrid Wheatland 39-37 Hildreth (7-2) (@ Madrid)
(6-2) Niobrara 36-32 Bartley (8-1) (@ Niobrara)
(5-2) Decatur 54-14 Hordville (7-2) (@ Ogallala)
(6-3) Odell 46-42 Lodgepole (7-1) (@ Lodgepole, 8:30)

Semifinals:

(9-1) Madrid Wheatland 32-14 Niobrara (7-2) (@ Filley)
(6-2) Decatur 26-6 Odell (7-3) (@ Greeley)

Final: (@ Madrid) (10-1) Madrid Wheatland 42-14 Decatur (7-2)

Champion: Madrid Wheatland (11-1), Head Coach - Jack Sunderland

Wheatland's Nick Ross ran for a pair of touchdowns and passed for two more in the Spartan's 42-14 victory over Decatur. Ross, who was the state's 6th leading rusher with his 1,520 yards, accounted for 175 yards on 33 carries and broke open a tight game in the third quarter by tossing a pair of scoring passes to senior teammate Carey Cook. The TD strikes covered 66 and 18 yards, lifting Wheatland to a 24-14 lead at the time.

The Spartans amassed 394 yards of total offense in the game and won their 2nd state championship under Hall of Fame coach Jack Sunderland (their initial one coming in 1976). Decatur, who was just 5-2 entering the playoffs, reeled off postseason victories over Hordville (54-14) and Odell (26-6) leading up to the D-2 title matchup with Wheatland. The Bulldogs defense shut down two outstanding running backs during that run, Hordville's Todd Tyler (1,238 yards) and Odell's Kelly Haecker (1,119 big ones). Both were juniors.

1981 Class D-2 (Eight Man 2) Offense

End----Matt Colwell-Niobrara, 6-1, 150, Senior

End----Curtis Hawkinson-Stratton, 6-1, 170, Senior

Guard-Greg Robinson-Filley, 6-2, 210, Senior

Guard-Gary Shoup-Hordville, 6-4 , 180, Senior (Chosen @ two positions)

Center-Lance Storer-Arthur, 6-3, 210, Junior -

QB-----Joe Walter-Decatur, 6-4, 185, Senior

Back----Nick Ross-Wheatland, 5-10, 180, Senior.....(1,520 yards)

Back----Tom Hart-Bartley, 5-10, 170, Senior.....(1,390 yards)

Kicker--Rick Ceder-Monroe, 6-0 160, Senior

1981 Class D-2 (Eight Man 2) Defense

End----Lonnie Kosmicki-Wheatland, 6-2, 190, Junior

End----James Novak-Decatur, 6-4, 210, Senior

NG-----Jeff Wulf-Guide Rock, 6-3, 185, Junior

LB-----Jim Lewis-Hildreth, 5-11, 165, Senior

LB-----Tracy Warner-Lebanon Beaver Valley, 5-10, 165, Senior

LB-----Todd Tyler-Hordville, 6-4 , 180, Junior....(1,238 yards)

DB-----**Kelly Haecker-Odell**, 5-9, 140, Junior.....(1,119 yards)

DB-----Robert Hanzlik-Niobrara, 5-9, 150, Junior

Punter-Gary Shoup-Hordville, 6-4 , 180, Senior

Honorable Mention:

Fred Calabro-Arcadia; Warren Robertson, Troy Trenary-Arthur; Mike Werner-Bradshaw; Bob Baldrige, Jeff Mussmann-Chester-Hubbell; Darin Haacke-Clearwater; Larry Harvey, Dale Huffman, Junay Walker-Decatur; Marvin Ziola-Elba; Rick Giger (1,494 yards)-Guide Rock; Craig Quick-Hordville; Tom Cooney-Lexington St. Ann; Leon Cook, Ken Dragoo-Maxwell; Russ Melcher, Larry Strec-Monroe; Brad Koehn, Kerry Wilson-Niobrara; Cliff Reiner-Palisade; Gale Walker-Potter; Doug Prohaska-Prague; Al Kreikemeier-Snyder; Curtis Hawkinson-Stratton; Doug Brott; Cory Cook-Wheatland