

Unbeaten Hamlin Puts Five On Class 9B All-State Team

Football: Avon's Tolsma, Mudder Honored

BY ROGER MERRIAM

Watertown Public Opinion

WATERTOWN — Hamlin High School's football team continues to reap the rewards of a perfect 12-0 season that culminated with the state Class 9B football championship.

Five Chargers, including senior repeat selections Brody Grantham and Tristen Leiseth, have been named today to the Class 9B All-State football team as selected by the South Dakota Football Coaches Association.

Grantham, who was named as a linebacker in 2013, is the team's quarterback. Leiseth repeated as the All-State tight end. They are

joined by teammates — senior defensive tackle Logan Peckenpaugh, junior linebacker Ryder Grantham and sophomore defensive end Kale Stieg — on the honor squad.

Hamlin went 11-1 in 2013, falling to Avon in the state championship game. The Chargers didn't miss a beat in 2014, outscoring their foes 552-74 including Faulkton Area 34-8 in the state championship.

The 23-player All-State squad includes a number of players from teams that also had great seasons.

State runner-up Faulkton Area and semifinalist Harding County each had four players named — seniors Darin Wieseler, Lane Myer, Cole Baloun and Brady Hyatt from Faulkton Area and seniors Harley

Mollman, Zion Powell and Windom Hewson and junior Clayton Koch from Harding County.

Seniors Dominick Weber and Jacob Buseman and junior Jared Nielsen made the squad from Canistota, another semifinal team.

Rounding out the squad are Devin Tolsma and Logan Mudder of Avon, Brandon Beutler of Eureka-Bowdle, Jordan Carson and Bo Fries of Langford Area, Eli Hofer of Hitchcock-Tulare and Tyson Serr of Burke-South Central. Carson and Serr are juniors, the rest are seniors.

Hofer, Meyer and Mollman are also repeat selections from last year. Mudder, Fries and Wieseler received honorable mention as juniors.

Offense

• QB — B. Grantham: A three-year starter on teams that went a combined 31-2. Grantham rushed for 1,833 yards and 34 touchdowns and also passed for 810 yards and 13 touchdowns.

"The best all-around player I have every coached," said Hamlin head coach Jeff Sheehan. "He will go on and play college football somewhere."

• FB — Beutler: Rushed for 1,087 yards and 14 touchdowns as a senior. Finished his career with 2,779 yards rushing and 29 touchdowns.

"Brandon is an excellent player who carried our team in a number of games," said Eureka-Bowdle coach Bob Billotto.

• RB — Tolsma: Averaged 11.7 yards-per-carry during a season in which he produced 1,924 yards and 25 touchdowns. Also made 17 catches for 348 yards and four scores. Ran for 4,260 yards in his career.

"I believe Devin is one of the best players to come through our program," said Avon coach Tom Culver. "He was without a doubt our best player and also the hardest worker."

• RB — Wieseler: Ran for 1,900 yards and scored 31 touchdowns this fall, pushing his career totals to 4,296 yards and 59 touchdowns.

"Darin is a hard-working player. He is a good leader who always gives you everything he has," said Faulkton Area coach Shayne Geditz.

• WR — Baloun: Hauled in 33 passes for 646 yards and nine touchdowns. His career totals include 47 receptions for 1,073 yards and 14 touchdowns.

"Cole has great speed on the football field that makes him very explosive," said Geditz. "He made a lot of big plays for us."

• WR — Mollman: An All-State safety as a junior, Mollman had a solid senior season on offense, catching 47 passes for 893 yards and 15 touchdowns.

"Harley was the key component to our offense this season. His combination of size and speed made him very difficult to defend," said Harding County coach Jay Wammen.

• TE — Leiseth: A good blocker who also turned

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Coyotes Ice Irvine

Depth Powers
USD To 96-52
Rout Of 'Eaters

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — There was a new weapon on display Monday night by the University of South Dakota women's basketball team.

Depth.

And not just in bodies, but production.

Keyed by 33 points from the reserves, the Coyote women opened their home schedule with a 96-52 rout of UC Irvine at the DakotaDome.

In every significant statistical category, the defending Summit League champions had a major edge: Three-pointers (9-to-0), rebounds (51-30), assists (28-12), points in the paint (36-14) and bench scoring (33-10).

The common theme?

"When we're aggressive, we've got so many players that can do different things that it opens up different things," said senior Nicole Seekamp, who had 22 points and seven assists.

Though the reserve production wasn't coming in high-pressure situations, the Coyotes (3-2) still raved about the play of their six bench players.

Freshman Kate Liveringhouse had 15 points and five rebounds, while junior Heidi Hoff added 10 points and four rebounds. Three other reserves scored for a team that had 10 of 11 players see at least 14 minutes of action.

"When you have a bench that can come and contribute almost everything the first five can do, that's special," said senior Raeshel Contreras, who scored a game-high 24 points.

"They've been putting in a lot of work in our games, and it makes things so much easier."



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

South Dakota's Nicole Seekamp goes past UC-Irvine's Methlyn Onogomuho, 00, under the basket for a reverse layup during the first half of their women's basketball game on Monday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion.

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Chiefs Place Berry On Non-Football Illness List

Mass Found In Chest Of All-Pro Safety

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Chiefs safety Eric Berry was placed on the non-football injury list Monday after a mass was found in his chest following last week's game in Oakland. Team trainer Rick Burkholder said Berry may have lymphoma.

Burkholder said that doctors are "75 percent" of the way toward a definitive diagnosis, and that Berry was on his way to Atlanta to be examined by specialists at Emory University.

"They may do further scans. In all likelihood, they'll do a biopsy of one of the lymph nodes or the mass," Burkholder said. "We'll be able to give you more information in the next couple days."

Burkholder spoke during a news conference attended by Chiefs coach Andy Reid, general manager John Dorsey, team president Mark Donovan and chairman Clark Hunt. Berry issued a statement in which he said he was "in shock" but vowed to battle the illness.

"I understand that right now I have to concentrate on a new opponent," Berry said. "I have great confidence in the doctors and the plan they are going to put in place for me to win this fight. I believe that I am in God's hands and I have great peace in that."

The 25-year-old Berry, an All-Pro in 2013, began feeling discomfort in his chest late in Thursday night's loss to the Raiders. He was examined by team physicians Cris Barnthouse and Michael Monaco, and they recommended further tests. The mass on the right side of his

chest was discovered on Friday night.

Berry underwent more tests, including a CT scan and blood work, over the weekend. He met with the team on Monday morning, shortly before flying to Atlanta for a consultation with Dr. Christopher Flowers, an associate professor at Emory and a leading expert in lymphoma.

Berry, who grew up near Atlanta, is expected to be evaluated over the next few days.

"He had an opportunity to address the team and feel their love and support, which I think is crucial," Reid said. "When you get in these situations, you hunker down and battle for your life, which is what you do. You have to be in a certain frame of mind, have certain support to back you up, and Eric has that with his family and also the Chiefs."

Reid said Berry insisted that he be the one to address the team. He met first with the player's committee before addressing the rest of the players on Monday.

"There were some guys who were obviously shocked by the information," Reid said. "We're really just a microcosm of life, is what we are in this building. And a small family — maybe a big family, you could say. So you have the support, people standing up, and they work through the emotional part of it, support each other and most of all support Eric."

Berry was the fifth overall pick in the 2010 draft, and made an impact almost from the start, earning

Pro Bowl honors his rookie season. He missed nearly all of his second year after tearing a ligament in his knee, but returned to start every game the following season. He was voted All-Pro last season after tallying 3 1/2 sacks, recording three interceptions and scoring two touchdowns. He also recovered two fumbles while making 81 tackles.

This year had been a disappointment so far, though. Berry sustained a high ankle sprain in Week 2 against Denver, sidelining him for the next six weeks. And since returning to the field, his play has dropped off.

Hunt, whose family owns the Chiefs, spoke with the safety on Monday. The two have grown close over the years, and Hunt said that "it probably does pull at the heart strings more."

"Putting that aside," Hunt said, "whether it's an employee in the front office or someone on the field, when they're going through a tough time like this, we want to be there to support them."

Several players on rival teams, including the Titans' Jason McCourty and Patriots' Devin McCourty, tweeted their support for Berry after learning the news.

His agent, Chad Speck, said he had seen Berry on Thursday night in Oakland. He received the news of the illness on Saturday and "as the news sunk in, I immediately began praying for Eric."

"Eric is as strong and courageous as anyone I know," Speck said. "When I spoke to him that night, I felt his strength and his faith through the phone."

Vikings LT Kalil: 'It Wasn't My Best Day'

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — A rough day on the field for Minnesota Vikings left tackle Matt Kalil against Green Bay was only compounded once he left the stadium that night.

Video surfaced on Monday of Kalil knocking the hat off of a fan that was heckling him as he walked to his vehicle after Sunday's game, a relatively benign interaction that was more embarrassing than worrisome. But it only added fuel to the growing number of critics who say the embattled offensive lineman has been one of the struggling offense's biggest problems.

"I usually shrug that stuff off," Kalil said Monday. "Fans like to talk and say some things. But it's just something I could've been the bigger man and walked away. But it wasn't really that big of a deal."

The former No. 4 overall draft pick is getting used to dealing with disgruntled fans. After a Pro Bowl season as a rookie in 2012, Kalil took a step back last year while dealing with an injured left knee. He had surgery in the offseason and reported to training camp hopeful that it would help him return to form as one of the promising young tackles in the game.

But Kalil has struggled mightily this season, routinely being overwhelmed by the pass rushers he is facing and committing penalties that have made it difficult for rookie quarterback Teddy Bridgewater and the rest of the offense to establish a rhythm.

In the 24-21 loss to the Packers, Kalil was flagged for two holding penalties and a 15-yard facemask. After the game he declined to address reporters before walking to his vehicle, where a fan caught him "when I had a short fuse."

Hemingford Crushes BDS For D1 Title

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Ethan Skinner ran for 233 yards and four touchdowns, Brady Turek rushed for 190 yards and two TDs and top-ranked Hemingford limited No. 7 Bruning-Davenport/Shickley to 122 yards in a 52-8 victory in the Class D1 championship game Monday.

The Bobcats (13-0) bounced back from squandering an 18-point lead in a loss to Exeter-Milligan in last year's title game and became the first football champion from the state's Panhandle since 1986.

Turek's 76-yard run and 22-yard pass to Colt Foster got Hemingford out to a 14-0 lead. Skinner scored the first of his four TDs on a 5-yard run to make it 20-0 at half. Skinner finished the season with 2,685 yards rushing and 50 touchdowns.

The Bobcats amassed 426 yards and averaged almost 8 yards a play against the Eagles (11-2). Grant Norder rushed for 44 yards to lead BDS.

Class D2

Exeter-Milligan 40, Anselmo-Merna 26

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Kyle Jensen ran for 187 yards and scored three touchdowns, including two in the fourth quarter as top-ranked Exeter-Milligan came from behind and pulled away for a 40-26 victory over No. 4 Anselmo-Merna in the Class D2 title game Monday.

The Timberwolves (13-0) are state champions a second straight year. They won Class D1 in 2013.

Troy Gilligan's 30-yard pass to Shaun Christen gave the Coyotes (12-1) an 18-14 lead in the third quarter. But Sam Zeleny and Derek Luzum hooked up for 7 yards for their second touchdown of the game to give Exeter-Milligan the lead, and Jensen scored on runs of 49 and 8 yards to put the Timberwolves up 34-18.

Jensen averaged 5.1 yards on his 37 carries.

Anselmo-Merna had two 100-yard rushers, with Gilligan going for 118 on 30 carries and Trent Geisler for 112 on 22 runs.

Class A

Omaha North 41, Creighton Prep 0

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — All-time state rushing leader Calvin Strong ran for 286 yards and three touchdowns, and No. 1 Omaha North limited No. 3 Omaha Creighton Prep to 128 total yards while winning its second straight Class A championship with a 41-0 victory Monday night.

It was the first shutout in a Class A final since 1992.

Strong, running behind a line featuring Nebraska recruit Michael Decker, carried 23 times and had touchdowns of 10, 3 and 55 yards for the Vikings (13-0).

Markell Vaughn returned a punt 49 yards for a TD, and quarterback Payton Nelson ran and passed for short touchdowns.

Prep's Micah Rensch ran 16 times for 81 yards against a defense that went into the game allowing an average of 11 points.

Prep (11-2) was in the state final for the first time since 2004. Andy Yost served as the Junior Jays' coach after the resignation of Chris Nizzi last week.