Eric Curl
Stevenson

Brad Donahue
Harrison

James McFarlane
Redford CC

Mike Sosnowski
John Glenn

Jeff Monnette
Redford CC

Eric Gilbo
Redford CC

Ron Hunter
Canton

Richard Rashad
Wayne

Lorenzo Guess
Wayne

Rob Johnson
Canton

John Spolsky
Redford CC

Jason Granger
Harrison

All-Area

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rocks had such a fine rushing game. His best performance might have been his last when he took on Holt all-stater Steve Robedeau in the Class AA final. Monnette is an A student who can name his school for academic purposes.

"Jeff many times went against a big tackle, but he seemed to handle everybody this year," coach Tom Mach said. "Some guys outweighed him by 30-40 pounds, and he did a tremendous job. In the last game, I thought he did an excellent job on their best defensive lineman."

Mike Sosnowski, Glenn: The senior tackle was a three-year varsity player and two-way starter the last two seasons. Sosnowski anchored another solid Glenn offensive line and also starred at linebacker. He had 47 first hits and 71 assists.

"Mike was one of the hardest workers on our team and one of the best leaders we've ever had in the program," coach Chuck Gordon said. "He has a tremendous work habit and was a real pleasure to coach. He's really smart; he knew what he was doing and rarely made a mistake."

Eric Gilbo, Redford CC: The senior tight end was an excellent blocker, making a big contribution to CC's running game, and he was the top receiver with 24 receptions for 303 yards and three TDs. Indiana has shown interest, as well as Ball State, Bowling Green and Toledo.

"Nobody had more than three (catches), so he was the go-to guy," coach Tom Mach said. "Eric was a great blocker; we ran a lot of times to his side. Any time we wanted to get outside he did an excellent job, giving us that opportunity by blocking the defensive end. He caught some real big passes to keep drives going; he gave us that third-down ability."

Ron Hunter, Canton: This was only the second year Hunter has played football, but college scouts have seen enough to know he can play. Hunter caught 47 passes for 875 yards and 10 TDs.

He is an All-Area basketball player but might opt to play football at the next level. He also returned two punts for TDs and one kickoff for a TD. He had three interceptions. CMU is recruiting him; MSU and NMU are interested, too.

"The kid has made so much improvement in one year, it's unbelievable," coach Bob Khoenle said. "He has great hands and great speed (4.5 in the 40). He's a threat running with the ball after he catches it, and he can jump like a kangaroo; he jumps over people and grabs the football. He's a threat every time he touches the ball."

Richard Rashad, Wayne: Rashad switched from tight end to wide receiver at the end of the '94 season, and it was a good move for all concerned. He caught 30 passes for 387 yards and seven TDs this year. A two-year, two-way starter, he had 43 tackles and three interceptions.

"He's one of those kids who can make the great catch or create a big play to get your team playing at another level," coach Chuck Howton said. "When we were playing John Glenn and the score was tied, he had a great block, and our kids played at a higher level for the rest of the game. He's a good basketball player, but I think his sport will end up being football."

Lorenzo Guess, Wayne: The junior quarterback has started since he was a freshman and holds Wayne career passing records for yards (3,200), completions (200) and TDs (31). He completed 77 of 180 passes for 1,162 yards and 10 touchdowns this year. He also rushed 89 times for 245 yards and three TDs. He played monsterback on defense and was Wayne's MVP.

"I had to agree with (Glenn coach) Chuck Gordon when he said Lorenzo is one of those kids who could probably play on Sunday," coach Chuck Howton said. "He's a terrific basketball player, but I think somewhere down the road he's going to make a commitment to football.

"He can play anywhere on defense. We could put him at noseguard and he would do well."

Rob Johnson, Canton: Johnson can do it all, according to coach Bob Khoenle, and he nearly did for the Chiefs. He completed 82 of 157 passes for nearly 1,500 yards and 11 touchdowns; he rushed 78 times for 628 yards and eight TDs. Johnson still has another year of high school ball, but Khoenle said he will make an excellent college quarterback. He also had three interceptions.

"Rob can run; he can throw well; he makes good decisions and he's a very good kid," Khoenle said. "This kid is top-grade in all areas. As much as he wants to accomplish, he has the ability to do it. He returns punts and he could return kickoffs, too, if we wanted."

John Spolsky, Redford CC: The three-year starter at fullback got the tough yards between the tackles and was the leading rusher with 1,313 yards and 16 touchdowns on 231 carries. He scored a team-high 100 points. Spolsky was one of the top defenders, too. From his noseguard position, he had 54 tackles, which included four sacks and 12 solos. He bench presses 400 pounds.

His first college choice is the Air Force Academy, but he has visited Bowling Green and has had calls from Wake Forest and other MAC schools.

"He was the heart of our football team," coach Tom Mach said. "John is an old-fashioned, Bronko Nagurski type runner. He's fast, very powerful and has tremendous determination. Even after getting hit, he doesn't stop. He drags guys for more yards and does whatever it takes to get that first down or touchdown.

"He was exactly what we needed at that noseman position. He tied up their offensive lineman and the fact they had to double team him freed up other people. He disrupted a lot of offenses."

Jason Granger, Harrison: The senior tailback had the ability to score from anywhere on the field. He rushed for 1,670 yards and 20 touchdowns on 207 attempts. He is second in career rushing with 4,056 yards. Only John Miller has more yards (4,493), but he played an extra year on the varsity and had 218 more carries.

Granger broke his brother Roy's single-game rushing record with 317 yards and is third in career scoring with 290 points. He also returned a punt, kickoff and fumble for TDs.

"He's probably the greatest big-play threat we've ever had," coach John Herrington said. "That he averaged eight yards per carry is unbelievable. This year he had to carry the offensive load and, though people were keying on him, still rushed for more than 1,600 yards."

Jake Siskosky, Farmington: The senior tailback set a new standard for future running backs at Farmington in his three-year varsity career. He holds school records for single-season (1,298 yards this year) and career (3,002) rushing and career points (213). Siskosky was the workhorse, carrying 245 times this year and 555 in his career; he had 18 rushing touchdowns this year, 34 overall. He also played outside linebacker and had one interception and three fumble recoveries, one of which he returned for a TD. He was Farmington's MVP the last two years.

"He's one of the most dedicated players I've had," coach Lauri Niskanen said. "He ran every play as if it was the most important play of the game; he practiced the same way. I think most coaches would agree he was the best two-way player in our league.

"He has the potential to play at the next level. It's a matter of picking the right place. I think he can play in the MAC. If not there, Division II for sure."

Kyle Vessell, Harrison: The senior kicker was 29-of-30 on extra points and 3-of-7 on field goals, with his longest being a 50-yarder, this year. A third of his kickoffs were touchbacks, and 75 percent landed inside the 10-yard line. He was 85-of-87 on extra points and 7-of-11 on field goals in his career. He also became a punter last year when injuries took a toll and averaged 36.4 yards on 24 punts in the regular season this year. Ohio State, Purdue, MSU and the MAC schools like his skill. He is a two-time All-WLAA kicker and team captain.

"He had great range as a kickor, and his accuracy on extra points over two years was tremendous," coach John Herrington said. "He developed into a punter out of necessity and did an excellent job, especially on corner kicks. He didn't have as many chances on field goals, because we were pretty effective at scoring in the red zone the last two years. But he ranks right up there with our other great kickers."

ALL-AREA DEFENSE

Francis Gojcaj, Harrison: The junior tackle was a big reason the Hawks were so tough against the run again. His physical presence made it difficult for opponents to run to his side. Gojcaj was third in tackles (92) with 47 first hits and 45 assists.

"He's a dominating force on defense," coach John Herrington said. "He's almost unblockable, very aggressive and extremely mean. He's a major-college prospect."

Ryan Cullotty, Stevenson: The senior defensive end was one of the great success stories of 1995. He worked at becoming a better player and was one of the undisputed leaders on the Stevenson team. Cullotty had 66 tackles, including five sacks. Other coaches were impressed by his toughness and hard hits.

"He gave the maximum effort on every play, in every game and every practice," coach Tim Gabel said. "His teammates almost came to hate him, because he didn't take any plays off in practice, either.

"As a junior, he was undersized, a little slow and didn't have much upper body strength, but he rectified all of that in the nine months between seasons. He wanted to start on a football team, and he went after it. There was never any question he had the heart or toughness to play. It was a matter of him working out the other parts."

Jeff Cook, Glenn: The two-year starter at defensive tackle was a fierce competitor, according to coach Chuck Gordon. He had 48 first hits, four sacks and 45 assists. Cook earned All-WLAA honors on offense at center this year. He also averaged 36.5 yards on 11 punts.

"He always practiced all out, and he went full tilt in the games," Gordon said. "He's a guy who really loves to play the game. You knew he would play well every time; you didn't worry about him."

Mike Smiley, Redford CC: The senior defensive end helped to make the Shamrocks a solid defensive team. His 70 tackles included five sacks and 18 solos. He also started at guard and played a key role in CC's dominating offense.

"Mike is a tremendous hitter and excellent leader," coach Tom Mach said. "After teams ran at him a couple times, they tried to go the other way, because he was so tough on the corner. He did a great job as captain, too; he was great in the huddle, leading by example and encouraging the other kids to play harder."

Tom Bish, Salem: The senior lineman overcame injuries to have a good year. He was often double teamed but had 20 solo tackles, 49 assists and three sacks. Bish was an offensive tackle and two-year, two-way starter. Southern Methodist, CMU, WMU and the Great Lakes schools are looking at him as a defensive player.

"He played hurt a lot this year, but he never begged off from anything," coach Tom Moshimer said. "He never asked once to be out of practice.

"He's a very intelligent player and reads keys real well. He's not extremely fast, but he's quick and reacts well. He knows when to come off a block and when to stay on it. He was good at sliding off and picking up somebody else down field."

Nick Shaleb, Harrison: The junior linebacker played bigger than his size and was rated the top linebacker in the area by one opposing coach. Everyone who was asked spoke highly of Shaleb's ability and tenacity. The two-year starter had 55 first hits and 29 assists in nine games. A broken arm kept him out of the playoffs.

He also played fullback and mostly blocked for Granger, but he did rush 44 times for 239 yards and five TDs. He caught eight passes, one for a touchdown.

"He was the heart and soul of our defense," coach John Herrington said. "He has a great nose for the ball and is an excellent hitter."

Matt Griglio, Glenn: The junior linebacker started every game the last two seasons for the Rockets and was the leading tackler each year. Griglio had 62 first hits; 53 assists and two interceptions. He also played fullback, rushing for 214 yards and one TD on 35 attempts.

"Matt has excellent knowledge of the game," coach Chuck Gordon said. "He's one of the guys we'd build our team around next year. He's a physical player and knows what he's supposed do. He always seems to be in the right place at the right time."

Mike Wilson, St. Agatha: The senior linebacker was the leading tackler for the Aggies with 57 first hits and 43 assists. He also was the quarterback for two years. Wilson completed 51 percent of his passes for 750 yards and seven TDs, and he was the leading rusher with 525 yards and four TDs.

He could play quarterback or linebacker in college, depending on what a team needs, and one school has talked to him about playing tight end.

"We made the playoffs the last two years, and he was obviously pretty instrumental," coach Gary Tuz said. "He has all the tools; he has the size and a rifle for an arm.

"He plays quarterback like a linebacker; he's really intense and very physical. He can take a hit, and he can give a hit."

George Shanklian, Churchill: The senior linebacker was the leading tackler with 84 solos and 43 assists despite missing two games because of injury. A three-year varsity player, he also started at fullback. Shanklian can bench press 400 pounds and was No. 1 in the state at the Reebok scouting combine with 30 reps at 195. He wants to study medicine in college, but coach Steve Naumcheff thinks he should consider football, too.

"George typified hard work," Naumcheff said. "Other coaches were certainly aware of his presence and are kind to mention his name as recruiters come through the area.

"Churchill has been through tough times, but George has been a tower of power. He's been real consistent and a real good role model. He needs to play at the next level; he's going to help somebody somewhere."

John Lessway, N. Farmington: He had a good senior year and caught the attention of opposing coaches and college scouts. Lessway was North's leading tackler with 43 first hits, 50 assists and eight tackles for loss. He returned an interception 64 yards for a TD.

Lessway will probably be a running back in college. He averaged seven yards per carry, rushing for 863 yards and seven TDs. EMU is very interested as well as Toledo, Miami (Ohio), Bowling Green, Southern Methodist and Ball State.

"He came out of nowhere, honestly," coach Jim O'Leary said. "We knew he was a decent player, but we didn't expect him to have the kind of year he had offensively.

"He'll run over people and get the hard yards. That's the thing everyone likes about him, and he has better speed than people think. The fact he only carried the ball 124 times, we probably misused him; we should have given him the ball more."

Jeff Backus, Stevenson: Like teammate Ryan Cullotty, Backus made big strides as a senior. He played football as a freshman and sophomore but ran cross country a year ago. Coach Tim Gabel knew Backus could help his team last winter when he watched him "run the basketball court with relentless intensity."

Backus was second in tackles with 74 from his cornerback position. He also had three interceptions and three knockdowns. As a wide receiver, he caught the winning TD pass against John Glenn and had some key catches in the playoffs.

"Jeff was spectacular beyond our wildest expectations," Gabel said. "I told (defensive coordinator Conrad Newman last winter), 'He can be our Deion Sanders; he can cover anybody.' I don't recall anyone beating him deep. We really hit the jackpot with Jeff."

Greg Call, Redford CC: The junior safety was another leader for CC. His competitive attitude at quarterback and defensive safety helped to define the Shamrocks as a tough team. Call had 28 tackles, including eight solos, and two interceptions. On offense, he rushed 103 times for 387 yards and eight TDs, and he completed 34 of 74 passes (48 percent) for 514 yards and five TDs.

"Greg's overall quality is that he's a winner," coach Tom Mach said. "He's the type of young man who finds a way to win, whatever way he can. He also makes plays out of plays that aren't really there. He has a great feel for the game when he's on field; he's like having a coach on the field."

Jay Jackson, Glenn: The senior back was a good coverage man because of his quickness, according to coach Chuck Gordon, and was also strong against the run despite his size. Jackson had 33 first hits, 12 assists and one interception.

He rushed for 1,054 yards, averaging 5.4 yards per carry, and 10 touchdowns. He also caught a touchdown pass. Jackson started at wide receiver last year but also played tailback when Brent Washington was hurt. He returned kicks and punts, too.

"Pound for pound, he's one of the toughest guys that has ever played for us," Gordon said. "Teams stacked their defenses to stop him, and he still got over 1,000 yards. He was heckuva player for us; we're going to miss him."

ALL-AREA FOOTBALL

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

OFFENSIVE LINE
Sr. Eric Curl (6-3, 246), Lv. Stevenson
Sr. Brad Donahue (6-0, 210), Harrison
Sr. Jim McFarlane (6-2, 215), Redford CC
Sr. Mike Sosnowski (6-1, 235), John Glenn
Sr. Jeff Monnette (6-2, 215), Redford CC
TIGHT END
Sr. Eric Gilbo (6-7, 250), Catholic Central
WIDE RECEIVER
Sr. Ron Hunter (6-3, 195), Plymouth Canton
Jr. Richard Rashad (6-4, 195), Wayne Mem.
QUARTERBACK
Jr. Lorenzo Guess (6-3, 185), Wayne Mem.
Jr. Rob Johnson (6-4, 195), Plym. Canton
RUNNING BACK
Sr. John Spolsky (5-11, 235), Redford CC
Sr. Jason Granger (5-8, 155), Harrison
Sr. Jake Siskosky (5-1, 190), Farmington
SPECIALIST
Sr. Kyle Vessell (6-0, 170), Farm. Harrison

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DEFENSIVE LINE
Jr. Francis Gojcaj (6-3, 268), Farm. Harrison
Sr. Ryan Cullotty (6-3, 190), Lv. Stevenson
Sr. Jeff Cook (5-10, 220), Westland Glenn
Sr. Mike Smiley (6-0, 210), Catholic Central
Sr. Tom Bish (6-5, 225), Plymouth Salem
LINEBACKER
Jr. Nick Shaleb (5-9, 185), Farm. Harrison
Jr. Matt Griglio (5-11, 200), Westland Glenn
Sr. Mike Wilson (6-3, 220), Red. St. Agatha
Sr. George Shanklian (6-0, 242), Churchill
Sr. John Lessway (6-2, 225), N. Farmington
DEFENSIVE BACK
Sr. Jeff Backus (5-11, 164), Lv. Stevenson
Jr. Greg Call (6-1, 185), Catholic Central
Sr. Jay Jackson (5-8, 150), Westland Glenn

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

OFFENSIVE LINE
Sr. Adam Tenleiten (6-3, 273), Farmington
Sr. Mike Connolly (6-0, 240), Redford Union
Sr. Nick Lachapelle (6-1, 270), Redford CC
Sr. Mike Foreman (6-4, 258), Farmington
TIGHT END
Jr. Matt Kukasa (6-4, 205), Red. Thurston
Sr. John Rose (6-3, 210), Clarenceville
Sr. Marcus Carter (6-1, 210), Harrison
WIDE RECEIVER
Jr. Paul Terck (6-1, 165), Lv. Franklin
Sr. Rich Beal (6-1, 190), N. Farmington
QUARTERBACK
Sr. Dean Bocheller (6-2, 180), Stevenson
RUNNING BACK
Sr. Gade Clark (5-8, 193), Lv. Stevenson
Sr. Randy Mack (6-1, 155), Plymouth Salem
Jr. Albert Cook (5-10, 170), Luth. Westland
SPECIALIST
Sr. Eron Kosmowski (5-7, 235), Redford CC

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DEFENSIVE LINE
Sr. Alex Stolnicki (6-4, 180), Farm. Harrison
Sr. Kris Hornick (6-3, 240), Plym. Canton
Sr. Shaun Dyer (5-7, 165), Plym. Canton
LINEBACKER
Sr. Adam Kulinski (6-1, 200), Lv. Franklin
Jr. Milani Brooks (5-11, 205), Redford CC
Jr. Mike Allison (5-9, 170), Lv. Stevenson
Jr. Ed Hight (6-0, 195), Farm. Harrison
Sr. Tom Smeley (6-0, 203), Catholic Central
DEFENSIVE BACK
Jr. Todd Wilson (5-8, 145), Lv. Churchill
Sr. Bernie Toby (5-9, 140), Westland Glenn
Sr. Kevin Finnegan (6-1, 170), Garden City
Sr. Tom DuMont (6-0, 175), Lv. Stevenson
Sr. Jeff Aschoff (5-11, 170), Farm. Harrison

COACH OF THE YEAR
Tom Mach . . . . Redford Catholic Central

HONORABLE MENTION

Redford CC: Judey May, Rich Depolis, Kevin Quay, Bryan Jeffords, Matt Byl, Greg Akala, Chuck O Connor; Redford Union: Mike Hanze, Matt Dom inguez, Bill Hewitt, Jason Ward; Thurston: Mike Davis; St. Agatha: Mike Miller, Kris Forneish, Tito an Maddox; Garden City: George Palmer, Dan Farchick, Kurtis Workman, Mark Longhi, Aaron Justice, Aaron Smith; Lutheran Westland: LaRoy Turner, Mat Batz, Joe Puchnik, Kevin Wade, Jeff Morris; Clarenceville: Jason Detsha, Bryan DeCare, Jim Valamont, Donovan Falcon, Bryant Brent Tyler, Nick Nyschuck, Tim Collins, Richard Buford; John Glenn: Ira Bergon, Keith King, Ian Wade, John Becker, Justin Barrett; Farmington: Adam Weber, Justin Fisher, Nick Latza, Pat Sammet, Tim Street, Wes Cornwell, Dan McLaughlin, Jon Hood; Harrison: Kevin Bamborek, Scott Donovan, Marcel Highsower, Sean Barskind, Adam Smerecki; N. Farmington: Pat Muir, Eric Jones, Brad Rivers, Tim Dolan; Stevenson: Matt Bartlett, George Murphy, Kevin Roenski, Chris Anastasiu, Franklin Jay Myrand, Brett Kanowski, Steve Ashley, Dave McMullen; Jeremy Dailey, Mike Klatz; Churchill: Nathan Jerome, Jason Kotchek, Gene Barbu; Catholic Central: Jason Mazur, Jason Pennebaker; Salem: Kirk Craggs, Mike Meckel, Kevin Grim, Brett Burleson, Frank Lewick.

Ryan Cullotty
Stevenson

Jeff Cook
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Mike Smiley
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Nick Shaleb
Harrison

Tom Bish
Salem

Matt Griglio
John Glenn

Mike Wilson
St. Agatha

George Shanklian
Churchill

John Lessway
N. Farmington

Jeff Backus
Stevenson

Greg Call
Redford CC

Jay Jackson
John Glenn

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