



Brett Foster Farmington Harrison Brock Naysmith Catholic Central Jake Tharp Westland John Glenn Josh Fritch Lovonia Clarenceville Mike Nicosomi Farmington



Mike Morris Catholic Central Nick Brzezinski Catholic Central Ricky Bryant Farmington Harrison Eric Jones Westland John Glenn



Matt Rigley Redford Union Dave Pasol Farmington Harrison Reggie Spearman Westland John Glenn

# Observer honors top gridders, RU's Scala

## FOOTBALL

### ALL-OBSERVER FOOTBALL

#### FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

**Quarterbacks**  
 Sr. Brett Foster (6-1, 220), Farm, Harrison  
 Sr. Brock Naysmith (6-0, 220), Redford CC  
 Sr. Jake Tharp (6-2, 225), Westland John Glenn  
 Sr. Josh Fritch (6-0, 190), Clarenceville  
 Sr. Mike Nicosomi (5-11, 188), Farmington  
 Sr. Mike Morris (6-2, 205), Redford CC

#### Wide Receivers

Sr. Nick Brzezinski (6-5, 255), Redford CC  
 Sr. Ricky Bryant (6-1, 168), Farm, Harrison  
 Sr. Eric Jones (5-11, 190), Westland John Glenn  
 Sr. Matt Rigley (5-10, 155), Redford Union  
 Sr. Dave Pasol (5-11, 170), Farm, Harrison

#### Running Backs

Sr. Reggie Spearman (5-9, 195), Clarenceville  
 Sr. Walter Ragland (6-1, 195), Clarenceville  
 Sr. Mike Maccek (5-10, 200), Redford Union  
 Sr. Joe Channam (6-1, 170), Farm, Harrison

#### Kicking Specialists

Sr. Joe Channam (6-1, 170), Farm, Harrison

#### FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

##### Defensive Linebackers

Sr. Bryan McGhee (6-1, 278), Harrison  
 Sr. Lou Willoughby (6-0, 240), Redford CC  
 Sr. John Ahrhede (6-0, 240), Redford CC  
 Sr. Teon Price (6-1, 210), John Glenn  
 Sr. Terry Turner (6-2, 190), Wayne Mem.

##### Linebackers

Sr. Mike Maccek (5-10, 200), Farm, Harrison  
 Sr. Adrian Beaver (5-10, 185), Redford Union  
 Sr. Bryant Lawrence (6-0, 210), Thurston  
 Sr. Eric Peterson (6-2, 230), Plymouth Salem

##### Defensive Backs

Sr. Justin Cassante (6-1, 205), Redford CC  
 Sr. Andre Davis (6-1, 185), Farm, Harrison  
 Sr. Dave Lusk (6-2, 205), Redford CC

#### COACH OF THE YEAR

Glenn Scala, Redford Union

#### SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

##### Quarterbacks

Sr. Cliff Bell (6-0, 240), Westland John Glenn  
 Sr. Rob Fatt (6-0, 230), Westland John Glenn  
 Sr. Steve Dominguez (6-2, 250), Redford CC  
 Sr. Jared Chapman (6-1, 230), Plymouth Salem  
 Sr. Steve Mignone (6-1, 220), Harrison

##### Running Backs

Sr. Scott Wilson (6-1, 215), Clarenceville  
 Sr. Adam Sexton (6-0, 155), Liv. Franklin  
 Sr. Jeremy Ooston (6-2, 230), Wayne Mem.

##### Wide Receivers

Sr. John Wallace (6-0, 160), Clarenceville  
 Sr. Michael Murphy (6-0, 195), Redford CC  
 Sr. John Kava (6-0, 220), Redford CC  
 Sr. Wesley Shaw (5-11, 185), St. Agatha

#### SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

##### Defensive Linebackers

Sr. Charlie Hanson (5-10, 200), Plymouth Salem  
 Sr. Rob Fatt (6-0, 230), Westland John Glenn  
 Sr. Jeremiah Hines (6-1, 225), Redford CC  
 Sr. Zach Burton (6-1, 215), Farm, Harrison  
 Sr. Matt Tunney (6-2, 240), Farm, Harrison

##### Linebackers

Sr. Brian Brizzen (6-2, 240), Farmington  
 Sr. Pat Holland (6-0, 180), Plymouth Salem  
 Sr. John Van Buren (6-0, 200), Stevenson  
 Sr. Arman Gowan (5-9, 175), Farm, Harrison  
 Sr. Jason Graham (5-9, 184), Garden City

##### Defensive Backs

Sr. Jason Sogge (5-7, 170), Liv. Stevenson  
 Sr. John Pettit (5-10, 160), Westland John Glenn  
 Sr. Scott Gordon (6-2, 215), Red. Thurston  
 Sr. Ryan Kearney (6-2, 175), Liv. Churchill  
 Sr. Blake Wasyly (5-7, 155), Farm, Harrison

#### HONORABLE MENTIONS

Clarenceville: Tony Ruchow, Tim Rindt, Tim Shaw, Brian Page, Josh Ross, Stevenson: Brandon Hine, Phil Szymanski, Brad Azevedo, Matt Mays, Dan West, Larry Gault, Ryan Tobin, Brian Cunniff, Franklin: Jason Berry, John Fumanski, Bryan Moore, Joe Huggins, Churchill: Gabe Dinkov, Mike Gowan, Brian Demos, Mike Lusk, Jeff Palazolo, Kris Perry, John Schwartz, Glenn David Lewandowski, Bobby Houghton, Harrison: Bryan Gagliardi, Jim Walter, Nick Fadd, Nick Hudson, Wayne Kwame Hampton, Matt Wenzel, Scott McArthur, Mike Cunningham, Ryan Cyprian, Lethan Westland: Gordie Engel, Scott Archer, Charlie Houtt, Josh Moldenhauer, Andy Moldenhauer, Kevin Pacheco, Brian Neff, Nick Stonerock, Jerry Ganes, Geoff Perlick, Salome Rob Welch, Jason Lukaski, Andy Nicolosi, Thomas Fox, Jason Fum, Gabe Coble, Robert Drabicki, Matt Fair, Charles Fisher, Conny Helchowski, Chris Jones, Don Jones, Archie Kinney, Farmington: Jon Kim, Dustin Grass, Stephen Gony, Mike Arzuffi, Dario Oliver, Blake Ahlert, Matt Reed, Kevin Wadsworth, Brian Neff, Nick Houtt, N. Farmington: Brian Lavelle, Tim Muir, Gary Peters, Eric Newton, Eric Carmichael, Clint Ercolite, Jeff Stewart, Dave Brown, Doug Chisholm, Thurston: Chris Gores, Mike Davis, Brian Ried, Garden City: Jerry Misch, Robby Hudson, Saffron, Mark Henry, CC: Casey Rogowski, Matt Lory, Brian Parent, Jason Wertheim, Kyle Entenstinger, Mac Frohm, Nick Kark, Derek Anderson, St. Agatha: Dan Bodder, Greg Russell, Pat Wood, Borgeast: Justin McClain, Brandon Tugler, Curtis Allen, Sean Lewis.

## ALL-AREA

### BY STEVE KOWALSKI

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The Redford Union football team looked good on paper in preseason, and coach Glenn Scala, a printer for a living, was glad the Panthers could produce a virtual carbon copy each week.

RU made the biggest one-year improvement in Observerland this year, reaching the state playoffs for the first time with a 9-0 record after finishing 3-6 last year. The fair-tye season ended with a 34-27 loss to Dearborn in a Class A regional semifinal.

For his efforts, Scala was named Observerland Coach of the Year.

Scala, 47, graduated from Dearborn High in 1959. After a year at Ferris State, he spent four years in the Air Force.

Scala's fourth year as RU head coach after spending the last seven seasons as an assistant coach there. His first team finished 3-6 in 1995, followed by a winless season in 1996.

Before going to RU, Scala had assistant coaching stints (1981-87) at Dearborn Heights Annapolis, Greenwood and Riverside and Redford Bishop Borgeast.

"The last 10 years have really flown by," Scala said. "I don't think the game has changed much. The kids have. It's hard to keep their interest, with all the outside things going on."

"We had a great year because of my kids. This group just made it one of my more enjoyable years. I had other ones in the past but none as rewarding."

Scala calls the offensive plays with assistance from coach Pete Mazziotti. He also credits the other varsity assistants, Miles Tomassitis and Keith Holder, as well as the JV staff of Andy Christopherson, Larry Narkiewicz and Jim Carlin, for the team's success.

"Those guys help put it together," Scala said.

#### FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

Brett Foster, lineman, Harrison: Foster was a three-year starter at guard and is one of the best linemen ever to play for the Hawks. He also was a two-year standout as a two-way player early on, starting at linebacker in place of injured all-state candidate Casey Rogowski, the first four games.

He started the entire year at offensive guard where he was a model of consistency for the run-oriented Shamrocks. This was his second year as a starter.

"When I think of Brett, I think of his toughness," Mach said. "His hitting ability is excellent. We do a lot of trapping, leading with guards, and he did an excellent job of leading the line. He's a ferocious blocker. We always ran play him on the goal line. When he pulled out on the very pitch, it was a joy to watch him knock down cornerbacks."

Brock Naysmith, lineman, Redford CC: Naysmith proved valuable to the Shamrocks as a two-way player early on, starting at linebacker in place of injured all-state candidate Casey Rogowski, the first four games.

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Jake Tharp, lineman, Redford CC: A two-year, two-way starter, Tharp played offensive tackle and line. He was credited with 46 tackles and 41 assists. He missed the play of game against Brighton due to a knee injury and will have surgery Dec. 15.

"He's just an excellent blocker on offense with excellent toughness," coach Chuck Gordon said. "He's one of the guys we're going to build around next year. His best football is in front of him."

Josh Fritch, lineman, Clarenceville: Fritch played center on offense and linebacker on defense.

"Josh is very smart, very intelligent," coach Chuck Donaldson said. "He loves to hit. He likes to put the biggest and best lineman on the other team to see if he can pound him for good. He's one of the toughest kids on our team."

Mike Nicosomi, lineman, Farmington: Nicosomi started at center for two years

## ALL-AREA

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made all the line calls as far as blocking assignments. He was a two-way player this year, starting at inside linebacker. He also was responsible for making defensive adjustments and led the Falcons with 98 tackles. His teammates voted him Farmington's most valuable player.

"He was involved in everything that went on with Farmington football on the field," coach John Bectel said. "He was always on the field. He was on all the special teams and didn't get much of a break."

"At times he played hurt and it didn't seem to bother him. He just kept going and he played at an incredibly high level."

Mike Morris, lineman, Redford CC: Morris is an on-track to leave CC as one of the all-time best linemen. He opened huge holes for CC backs in his first full season as a starter. He would have started his entire sophomore season, but an illness kept him out of the regular season.

"He is one of the great blockers we've had here. He's destined to be a future all-star," Mach said. "He's doing nothing but improve. He's a very hard worker with the weight room, throws the shot put in track and bench near 400 pounds already. He started in the state playoffs as a sophomore and from that point out did a tremendous job."

Nick Brzezinski, tight end, Redford CC: Brzezinski is high on several Division I recruiting lists. He caught 29 passes for 616 yards and four touchdowns, including one in the state final. Mach calls Brzezinski his best overall tight end "as a blocker and catcher" in his 23 years as head coach.

Brzezinski, who bench presses 360 pounds, made an official visit this weekend with teammate Casey Rogowski to Duke University.

"Nick is a guy who made tremendous improvement since last year," Mach said. "He worked hard in the weight room, lifted before and after school during the season, and that put him in the category of best as far as we go. He can go up for it, take it down, and he blocks like a tackle and catches like a receiver."

Ricky Bryant, receiver, Harrison: Coach John Harrington puts Bryant, a four-year starter who played in 49 consecutive games during which time the Hawks were 45-4, in the same class with former Harrison greats John Miller and Bill Coleman.

Bryant finished his career as Harrison's all-time leading receiver with school records for receptions (126), yards (2,605) and touchdowns (33). His yardage and 10 totals are also state high school records. He caught 48 passes for 950 yards and 15 touchdowns.

Bryant started in the secondary for three years. He had 46 tackles and four interceptions. He also averaged 16.3 yards on punt returns and 46.6 on kickoffs, two of which went for touchdowns.

"Ricky is one of the greatest competitors and athletes we've ever had," Harrington said. "He always made the big play. Whenever somebody scored on us, he answered with a kickoff return or pass return that mixes the excitement and thrills he brought to the team."

Eric Jones, end, John Glenn: He caught 37 passes for 489 yards and four TDs. Jones also carried the ball 29 times, gaining 300 yards and scoring three touchdowns.

"He's a guy who keeps getting better and better," Gordon said. "He's one of the top athletes to play at John Glenn. He has excellent speed and is explosive. He hasn't come close to reaching his full potential."

Matt Rigley, quarterback, Redford Union: Rigley was a threat to run and throw for the Panthers in his second year as the full-time starting quarterback. He completed 60 of 131 passes for 932 yards and 14 touchdowns. He rushed for 347 yards in 57 carries, scoring three touchdowns.

"The Highland Dow coach said he was the difference in the state final last year. He dominated the line of scrimmage against a good running team."

Lou Willoughby, senior, Redford CC: The play that defined Willoughby's season was against Troy in the playoffs. Troy had a first

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horses to get him out of the game." Dave Pasol, quarterback, Harrison: Pasol dedicated himself to being the starting quarterback this year and had an outstanding season. He completed better than 61 percent of his passes (112 of 183) for 2,040 yards and 27 touchdowns with only six interceptions. He also rushed for four touchdowns.

Pasol broke Matt Coleman's regular season record of 20 TD passes, and his 60-percent career completion rate is another school record. His 2,212 career passing yards is fourth best at Harrison, and his 29 career touchdown passes is second best.

"He's one of the smartest quarterbacks we've ever had," Harrington said, adding Pasol has great savvy. "He worked hard, but then he's worked hard in every aspect of his life."

Reggie Spearman, back, Glen: Glen's all-time leading rusher had 257 carries for 1,664 yards, scoring 24 times. In his four-year career, he gained 4,953 yards on 684 carries with 45 touchdowns. He also excelled at defensive back.

"Reggie is an elite player," Gordon said. "He's one of the best to ever play at Glen. He's a force competitor who loves to win. He wants to be the guy who has a say in the game."

Walter Ragland, back, Clarenceville: Ragland carried 199 times for 1,697 yards and 17 touchdowns. He caught 10 passes for 212 yards and two scores. He finished his career with 4,280 yards and 45 touchdowns on 472 carries. Ragland also excelled at linebacker with 74 tackles and eight sacks.

"Walter was everything you ask for in a football player," Donaldson said. "He has all the gifts — speed, power, strength, cutting ability and intelligence. He's just a class act. I wish I could recapture him."

Mike Maccek, back, Redford Union: Maccek carried most of the RU offensive record book and has a year left.

A starter since his sophomore year, Maccek this season gained 1,389 yards in 147 carries with a school record 18 touchdowns. He holds the career record for touchdowns with 32.

He also caught eight passes for 132 yards and also played one game at quarterback in place of injured Matt Rigley, completing five of 10 attempts for 104 yards and two touchdowns.

As an inside linebacker, Maccek was in on 50 tackles and caused four fumbles. He did the punting job.

"His numbers speak for themselves," Scala said. "He's always willing to do whatever it takes, play quarterback, running back or return punts. He's a very important part of the team, and I'll put him against anyone."

Joe Channam, specialist, Harrison: Channam handled the punting duties for three years and averaged 42.3 yards this year on 23 punts. Five went for touchdowns and eight more were downed inside the opponent's 20. Channam also made 55 of 62 extra points and one field goal.

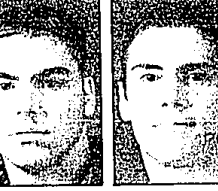
Scala's one of the best punters in the state," Harrington said. "He made himself into a good placekicker, because we needed one. He had a key punt when we were in trouble against John Glenn, and he punted it over their safety's head. He came through when we needed him."

#### FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

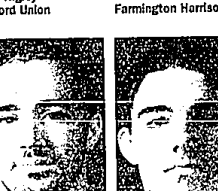
Bryan McGhee, lineman, Harrison: McGhee started for three years on the defensive line, the last two at noseguard. He was a major reason opposing teams had little success running the middle on Harrison, and opponents eventually tried to stay away from him. McGhee still managed to finish fourth on the team with 78 tackles. He also started at tackle on offense.

"He was a dominating force inside; he was unblockable one-on-one," Harrington said. "The Highland Dow coach said he was the difference in the state final last year. He dominated the line of scrimmage against a good running team."

Lou Willoughby, senior, Redford CC: The play that defined Willoughby's season was against Troy in the playoffs. Troy had a first



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down of its 1 and tried to run behind all-state tackle Brian Oltrey, but Willoughby, with help from Mac Frohm, tackled the runner in the end zone for a safety.

Willoughby led the Shamrocks with 80 tackles, including 24 solos. It's the first time Maccek can remember a defensive tackle leading the Shamrocks in tackles.

"He's just a tenacious defensive tackle who never gives up," Mach said. "He led us through great examples by going to the whistle and never stopping. The fact that a tackle led our team in tackles shows you how important he was for us."

John Abshire, lineman, Redford CC: A two-year starter, Abshire fought off double teams to record 45 tackles, including 24 solos. Size of size will likely keep Abshire a college player, but "he played like he was going to be highly recruited," Mach said.

"John is, defensively, one of the better linemen we've had. He's a great noseguard who had to be double teamed. Even when teams did, he still caused them tremendous problems."

"He has a great sense of getting to the football, hitting when he gets there. He has the speed of a linebacker and great savvy."

Teon Price, lineman, Glen: Price transferred from Inlet and became an immediate hit with the Rockets, recording nine sacks, 35 solo tackles and 36 assists from the outside linebacker spot.

"We could see he was a good athlete early on," Gordon said. "It was a matter of learning what to do and getting confident in his assignments. Once he learned, he became a force for us. He's a great kid, very coachable and was one of our key guys."

Terry Turner, lineman, Wayne: Turner made 59 tackles and had 44 first hits. He intercepted three passes, made two sacks and had four tackles for loss. He also played at quarterback, running for 251 yards and throwing for 536.

"Terry was our best player on defense," coach Floyd Barker said. "He was a tough, hard-nosed competitor. Not many players can start at quarterback and outside linebacker."

Mike Road, linebacker, Harrison: Road, a three-year starter on offense and defense, will be remembered as one of the finest defensive players in Harrison history. He finished second in career tackles with 295, just four shy of Blazo Barcevec's school record. He led the Hawks with 152.

Road was a solid blocker and pass receiver at tight end. He was second in receptions with 21 for 406 yards and five touchdowns. He is tied for seventh with 54 career catches for 1,116 yards and 10 touchdowns.

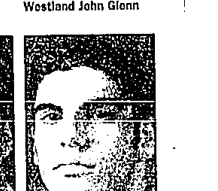
"He led the defense and was a great hit," Harrington said. "He's one of the best linemen we've ever had. He's probably somewhat underrated as a tight end. He's an excellent pass catcher and blocker."

Andre Davis, linebacker, Red. Union: Another two-way standout for the Panthers, Davis was involved in 88 tackles. He gained 172 yards in 45 carries as a running back, scoring two touchdowns.

"He's a great leader and all-around good football player," Scala said. "He's one of the better linemen we've ever had, always on the run made him an outstanding linebacker. He has speed and quickness and



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is a real strong person."

Bryant Lawrence, linebacker, Thurston: Lawrence gained big yardage as a short-yardage back, finishing the year with 701 yards in 101 carries and seven touchdowns as a fullback. He also had 86 tackles, including 25 solos.

For his three-year varsity career, Lawrence finished with 1,035 yards and 16 touchdowns. He had 181 career tackles, including 42 solos and five sacks.

"I think he's the kind of young man who shows what hard work and commitment can do for somebody," coach Bob Snell said. "He improved his body strength tremendously in the off season. He's as tough an inside linebacker as you'll ever run into. College coaches say he has really great feet for his size."

Eric Peterson, linebacker, Salem: He was a three-year starter who led the Rockets in tackles. Peterson saved his best for last: Against arch-rival Plymouth Canton in the last game, he had an astounding 27 tackles in a 20-25 loss.

"He was by far our best player on the field defensively that night," Salem assistant coach Mark Greger said. "For what we asked him to do, he did a pretty solid job for us all year."

Peterson had 29 solo tackles and 107 assists. He also played football, rushing for three touchdowns.

Justin Cassante, back, Redford CC: He started at safety and wingback, and he also played on special teams. A two-year starter, he carried 43 times, mostly on center plays, for 293 yards (averaging nearly seven yards per carry) with one touchdown. On defense, he had 63 tackles, including 19 solos, with two interceptions.

"He's probably one of the most underrated guys we have," Mach said. "Here's a guy that hardly comes off the field, who leads blocks on almost every power play, who worked out before school started every day to get stronger. Plus, he was a great leader as a captain."

Andre Davis, back, Harrison: Davis became a key two-way player after transferring a year ago from Southfield-Lathrup. He was an important member of the secondary and always a receiving threat on offense.

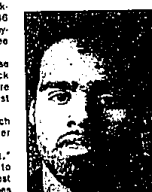
Davis had 40 tackles and two interceptions. As an end, he caught 13 passes for 233 yards and two touchdowns.

"He's still just learning his vast potential," Harrington said. "He's an outstanding athlete, a good pass catcher and an excellent one-on-one cover man. A big-time prospect."

Dave Lusk, back, Redford CC: Lusk holed up off the field, starting at quarterback and safety and handling most of the punting and placekicking.

He completed 59 of 130 passes for 1,211 yards and eight touchdowns. He had 21 tackles and 21 assists with three interceptions and a fumble recovery. Lusk also punted for a 36-yard average.

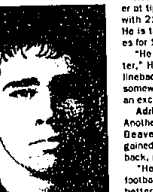
"Dave did everything humbly possible to help a football team win," Mach said. "I call him 'Mr. Versatility.' He's able to do so many things. His durability is exceptional, which was so important in everything he did. He has a terrific arm and a quick release. He can throw the ball 65 or 70 yards without any problem."



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