



Andrew Shaw Livonia Clarenceville Jason Lyngkilp Farmington Harrison Dan Bannister Farmington Harrison Brad Jarzembowski Red. Catholic Central Chris Cox Wayne Memorial Agim Shabab Farmington Harrison Andrew Peiffer Westland John Glenn Ryan Wroblewski Red. Catholic Central Drew Stanton Farmington Harrison

Blakely leads Borgess football to best year

BY PAUL BEAUDRY, DAN O'MEARA, C.J. RUSAK, RICH SHOOK AND BRAD EMONS STAFF WRITERS

It wasn't Werner Blakely's most talented football team at Redford Bishop Borgess. At least he didn't think so. He's had a bigger senior class, too. But the senior leadership that this year's class displayed helped the Spartans to a season of firsts.

It also helped Blakely earn Observer-Land Coach of the Year honors.

"I think the biggest difference we had this year to past years was senior leadership," said Blakely, who has a 27-21 record in five seasons at the school. "And our other coaches did a very good job with our kids."

Blakely, a graduate of Detroit Henry Ford High School and a defensive back for Eastern Michigan University from 1987-91, led the Spartans to a 10-2 record, the school's first playoff spot since its inception in 1997, and an offense that set a school record 320 points.

Ironically, the school's best season of football might be its last, since a cooperative program with Redford St. Agatha is in the works.

"I'm going to coach, that's a given," said Blakely. "It's in my blood. I just don't know when. But if you're going to leave, you might as well leave on a good note. You're only remembered for what you did last. Hopefully, it doesn't have to end."

While Blakely is making his first appearance as coach on the team, eight players on the area's first team are repeat performers: Harrison's Drew Stanton, Agim Shabab, Dave Condeni, Terrill Mayberry and Marcus Woods, Clarenceville's Tim Shaw and Steve Meadows along with St. Agatha's Dan Boulter.

Here's who's joining them as the best of the bunch this year:

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

Andrew Shaw, OL, Clarenceville: Shaw played guard on offense and strong safety on defense to help Clarenceville to a 13-1 season that was by any measure the best in the school's history.

His blocking was a big reason his brother, Tim, and Steve Meadows were able to gain all those yards. He recorded 95 tackles, had two sacks and one interception; he caused three fumbles and recovered three.

"Andrew was our emotional leader," coach Greg Hudkins said. "We call him the pup; he's young. Pete (Shaw) and Andrew should only be sophomores. I'd venture to say he's the most competitive person in the school—other than me."

Jason Lyngkilp, OL, Harrison: The all-Western Lakes lineman was a three-year varsity player and two-year starter at left guard. Lyngkilp was one of the unsung athletes who made an important contribution to a superb offensive unit.

"He's an outstanding full blocker," coach John Harrington said. "He can pull on the year pitch and block in the open field. He's a very steady, intelligent player. He came to Harrison as a quarterback and switched to guard."

Dan Bannister, OL, Harrison: Bannister started for three years at left tackle and, in concert with Lyngkilp, made it possible for the Hawks to accumulate so many rushing and passing yards. He earned all-WLAA honors, too.

"He and Lyngkilp are best friends and solid blockers," Harrington said. "He provided excellent protection for Drew (Stanton) on the backside. He just did a very, very good job."

Brad Jarzembowski, OL, Redford CC: Jarzembowski was a solid two-way starter for the Shamrocks. Defensively, he had 62 tackles and two interceptions at linebacker. Offensively, he was a driving force on the line from the guard position.

"He is a very tough two-way player that delivers a great hit every chance he gets," said Mach of his all-league captain. "His toughness and work ethic have been a great inspiration to our team this year."

Chris Cox, OL, Wayne: The offensive guard and inside linebacker made All-Mega White Division for the 4-5 Spartans. The captain also made 90 tackles, took defensive calls from the sideline and played long snapper on special teams and in Wayne's shotgun set.

As a junior starter, he made 105 tackles and 21 as a sophomore, piling him third on Wayne's all-time list.

"Chris is almost irreplaceable," Wayne coach Floyd Carter said. "He's been starting since his sophomore year. He led our team on defense. He has tremendous work ethic and gets everything out of his ability."

Agim Shabab, WR, Harrison: Shabab caught 60 passes for 1,407 yards and a school-record 18 touchdowns. In the last two seasons, he made 102 receptions for 2,133 yards and 29 TDs.

Shabab has a 4.37 speed in the 40-yard dash and committed to Michigan State. He also started on defense and liked to hit. He tied for the team lead in interceptions with six.

"He's one of the best athletes, if not the best, to ever play at Harrison," Harrington said. "He has great hands and quickness. He just loves to play the game. He has big, soft hands and he catches everything."

Andrew Peiffer, WR, Glenn: The 6-2, 190-pound senior did it all for the 9-3 Rockets.

The all-WLAA pick set school records for catches (42) and yards (783), while scoring seven touchdowns. He also kicked eight points (28-of-34) and field goals (game-winner in overtime versus Walled Lake Central), and he returned punts and kickoffs. Defensively, Peiffer played linebacker; he had 58 first hits and 44

ALL-OBSERVER

assistate with one interception.

"He seldom left the field because he did so much on both sides of the ball," Glenn coach Chuck Gordon said. "He was such a valuable guy. I'm not sure we've ever had a guy do more things for the team."

Ryan Wroblewski, WR, Redford CC: Even if Wroblewski didn't catch the winning touchdown in CC's state championship game, he established some pretty solid credentials during the year. In all, the senior caught 44 passes for 811 yards—an 18.4 average—and four touchdowns. Defensively, he had 58 tackles and seven interceptions and he returned 35 punts for 405 yards. He was also an all-Catholic selection.

"He has simply been tremendous this season," said Mach. "He had a hand in or set up more touchdowns than any player I can remember. He was our one constant in every single game. He's definitely one of the top players in Michigan."

Drew Stanton, QB, Harrison: Considered one of the best quarterbacks in the country, Stanton passed for 2,818 yards and 31 touchdowns while completing 132 of 195 passes (67 percent). He had just five passes intercepted.

In two years at Harrison, Stanton was 230-of-338 passing for 4,729 yards and 56 touchdowns with nine interceptions.

He also ran for a number of touchdowns, was the punter and started at safety on defense where he had some big hits. Stanton is headed to Michigan State, too.

"He has great energy and is a great leader," Harrington said. "He's the prototype quarterback and a future pro. He'll challenge within a year or so and be right there for the starting job at Michigan State."

Tim Shaw, RB, Clarenceville: Shaw set state and school records for career yards (7,523) and touchdowns (131) during four stellar years. He's being recruited by Boston College, Stanford, Michigan State, Penn State and Michigan.

He holds state records for points in a season (290) and touchdowns (48). Rushed for 2,520 yards (12.8 average) this season and scored 40 times. He caught 16 passes for 566 yards and eight touchdowns, and he went past 1,000 receiving yards for his career.

"Besides being gifted, his work ethic exceeded his talent," coach Greg Hudkins said. "What he did for this program was set the standard for hard work and expectations. I'm hoping he's not the only guy you get to know in your career. I'm too young to have already had my best. I haven't seen anybody like him."

Marcus Woods, RB, Harrison: Woods rushed for 1,857 yards and scored 33 touchdowns while averaging almost nine yards a carry.

In two seasons as a starter, he has 3,197 yards and 41 touchdowns on 379 attempts. Woods also is a threat as a pass receiver, and he played defensive end this year, too.

"He'll probably be the No. 1 returning tailback in the state next year," Harrington said. "He has great speed, strength and moves, and he makes yards easy contact."

Darryl Anglin, RB, Bishop Borgess: Anglin was

one of the two biggest offensive threats for the Spartans during the season for good reason—if he didn't pick the ball off every time, he only had one interception, but "the other teams threw away from him because they knew they couldn't outrun him," said Blakely.

"He's a very consistent and obviously very fast," said Blakely. "You can't coach speed, you can only guide it. He's a very talented player."

Dane Kobus, RB, Canton: Kobus "was our only two-way starter," Canton coach Tim Baechler said. "He was in on everything."

Kobus, a 6-foot, 210-pound senior, wasn't just a powerful runner. He was fast—in the 40-yard dash, he gained 1.150 yards and scored 12 touchdowns and was a major contributor as an outside linebacker. He was an all-WLAA selection and the team's MVP.

"He works so hard in the off-season," said Baechler. "He always practiced well during the week. And he was so consistent. He never took reps off. He was a great athlete and one of our strongest players."

Mike Banaszak, RB, Redford CC: Banaszak wasn't the leading rusher on the state champs. But he was the guy who got the tough yards—something that he did consistently.

"Mike gives us a quiet toughness on offense," said CC coach Tom Mach. "He has the speed of a tailback and the strength and toughness of a fullback. It's his job to make sure the 'wham' (play) never loses yardage—and he accomplished that task with great authority."

Banaszak had 977 yards in the Shamrocks' 14 games in 181 carries. He also rushed for 17 touchdowns in the year and was an all-league selection.

Andrew Seifert, K-P, Franklin: After three years playing soccer, Seifert shifted to football where he enjoyed a banner senior year, hitting six of eight field goals and 12 of 12 extra points.

He made field goals of 44, 42, 40, 36, 32 and 30 yards. He also averaged 33.5 yards per punt (with a long of 60) and 47.7 yards per kickoff.

Seifert, an honor student who plans to major in chemical engineering, is being looked at by Central Michigan University.

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

Aaron Kennedy, DL, Harrison: Kennedy was a future at right tackle and an effective force on the defensive line for three seasons.

One of the team's leading tacklers, he was good against the run but also was able to get into the backfield to pressure the quarterback.

"He was very aggressive and excellent at slanting down and taking out the offensive line," Harrington said. "He was very disruptive to the other team's offense. Running away from him wasn't a good idea, because he came down so hard from the backside."

Pete Deike, DL, Garden City: If Garden City didn't play in the Mega Red, Deike might have gotten more attention from fans. The 6-5, 270-pound lineman is getting plenty of attention from Division I colleges, though.

Deike has been a three-year varsity member and a two-year, two-way starter on the offense and defensive lines. This year, he moved to defensive end and made 36 solo tackles, had 14 assists, a sack, four forced fumbles and recovered two others.

"He's very flexible and his size alone makes him a Division I prospect," said Garden City coach Mike Salter. "He doesn't have a ton of sacks, but the big number for him is forcing four fumbles."

Allen Feigel, DL, Stevenson: 6-4, 330-pound tackle came into his own during his senior year with a team-leading 59 tackles.

"Allen is pretty mobile, he's smart and he's savvy," Stevenson coach Tim Gabel said. "He clogged the middle. He was our run stopper. Teams would double-team him and they still couldn't run inside."

"Normally the weakside linebacker or monster would make plays on his side, but he was pretty much untouchable because he would collapse the whole side of the line."

Mike Tolhurst, DL, Canton: A team with a defense that allowed just 10.7 points a game is impressive. And, as coach Tim Baechler said, "if you want to have a great defense, you have to have a good defensive line."

Canton did, and Tolhurst was the anchor. A 5-10, 230-pound senior, Tolhurst started at linebacker for two years before switching to defensive tackle—a move he at first resisted.

"We convinced him to try it," said Baechler. "Once he saw what an impact he was having, he really liked it."

Tolhurst went from being a linebacker with average speed to a lineman with great speed. He had a team-high 11 sacks, earning all-WLAA honors. "He had a very aggressive attitude," said Baechler. "He was very tough. (His strengths were) his quickness off the ball and off blocks."

Ryan Rogowski, LB, Redford CC: Rogowski is perhaps the best player who typified the Shamrocks during their eight-game winning streak to the season—gutsy, gritty and as one opposing coach described him during the playoffs, "just an absolute monster."

The 6-1, 185-pound senior led the team in tackles with 125 during the season, had four interceptions and 21 sacks. On offense, the all-Catholic selection rushed for 460 yards in 44 attempts and caught 17 passes for 324 yards and had 10 touchdowns in all.

"He is an outstanding athlete and football player," said Mach. "He is very versatile and plays equally well on offense and defense."

Steve Meadows, LB, Clarenceville: Meadows was in the shadow of Tim Shaw, yet he stood out in his own right, enough so that schools such as Central Michigan and Toledo are interested.

Meadows ran for 1,126 yards on 114 carries (9.9 average) and scored 18 touchdowns. He also caught 13 passes for 227 yards and four TDs.

ALL-OBSERVER FOOTBALL

ALL-AREA FOOTBALL

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

Offensive Linebackers

Jr. Andrew Shaw (5-11, 187) Clarenceville

Sr. Jason Lyngkilp (6-1, 200) Harrison

Sr. Dan Bannister (6-0, 217) Harrison

Sr. Brad Jarzembowski (6-1, 215) Red. CC

Sr. Chris Cox (6-1, 215) Wayne Memorial

Wide Receivers

Sr. Agim Shabab (6-0, 182) Harrison

Sr. Andrew Peiffer (6-2, 190) John Glenn

Sr. Ryan Wroblewski (6-1, 185) Redford CC

Quarterbacks

Sr. Drew Stanton (6-4, 212) Harrison

Sr. Tim Shaw (6-2, 213) Clarenceville

Sr. Marcus Woods (6-0, 180) Harrison

Sr. Darryl Anglin (5-10, 180) Red. Borgess

Sr. Dane Kobus (6-0, 215) Plymouth

Sr. Mike Banaszak (5-11, 210) Red. CC

Running Backs

Sr. Tim Shaw (6-2, 213) Clarenceville

Sr. Marcus Woods (6-0, 180) Harrison

Sr. Darryl Anglin (5-10, 180) Red. Borgess

Sr. Dane Kobus (6-0, 215) Plymouth

Sr. Mike Banaszak (5-11, 210) Red. CC

Defensive Backs

Sr. Ryan Rogowski (6-0, 180) Redford CC

Sr. Steve Meadows (6-0, 205) Liv. Cville

Sr. Aaron Kennedy (6-2, 210) Harrison

Sr. Pete Deike (6-5, 270) Garden City

Sr. Allen Feigel (6-4, 330) Stevenson

Linebackers

Sr. Ryan Rogowski (6-0, 180) Redford CC

Sr. Steve Meadows (6-0, 205) Liv. Cville

Sr. Aaron Kennedy (6-2, 210) Harrison

Sr. Pete Deike (6-5, 270) Garden City

Sr. Allen Feigel (6-4, 330) Stevenson

Defensive Linebackers

Sr. Ryan Rogowski (6-0, 180) Redford CC

Sr. Steve Meadows (6-0, 205) Liv. Cville

Sr. Aaron Kennedy (6-2, 210) Harrison

Sr. Pete Deike (6-5, 270) Garden City

Sr. Allen Feigel (6-4, 330) Stevenson

Linebackers

Sr. Ryan Rogowski (6-0, 180) Redford CC

Sr. Steve Meadows (6-0, 205) Liv. Cville

Sr. Aaron Kennedy (6-2, 210) Harrison

Sr. Pete Deike (6-5, 270) Garden City

Sr. Allen Feigel (6-4, 330) Stevenson

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

Defensive Linebackers

Sr. Jeremy Senter (6-0, 205) Thurston

Sr. Travis Heard (6-3, 200) Red. Borgess

Sr. Chris Kudo (6-0, 165) Harrison

Sr. Jake Cronshaw (5-10, 200) Redford CC

Linebackers

Sr. Justin Kasper (6-0, 190) N. Farm.

Sr. Doug Davidson (5-11, 215) Plymouth

Sr. DeJuan Kae (6-0, 200) Bishop Borgess

Sr. Chad Deen (5-10, 180) Liv. Cville

Sr. Adam Styrpe (5-10, 190) Garden City

Defensive Backs

Sr. Ryan Lley (6-0, 175) Garden City

Sr. Anthony Davis (5-10, 175) John Glenn

Sr. Seth Baldwin (6-1, 192) Franklin

Sr. Josh Smith (6-0, 155) Clarenceville

COACH OF THE YEAR

Werner Blakely, Redford Bishop Borgess

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Clarenceville: Bill Nesbitt, Justin Loman, Jeff Fennell, Glen Schmitt, Frank Pointer, Sean Duke, Charles Andrew Ribar, Hassan Jaafar, Alex Murray, Ian McKay, Thomas Weasler, Franklin Jon Kelle, Robert Lusk, Ryan Hayes

Stevenson: Anthony Phelps, Marshall Sled, Jeff Vermillion, Matt Radley, John Glenn, Tom Cosgrove, Maurice Warren, Carl Rodgers, Benjie Gilchrist, Craig Lewis, Warren, Michael Rashad, Darrin Mitchell, David Colakine, Larco Bassett, Andrew Parks, Luthera Westland: Milt Exkin, Mike Cane, Steve Jankewicz, Dan Haller, Andrew MacKenzie: Therese: Arnel White, Ted Clark, Rayford Rice, Travis Farnes: Chaboo Ostrath: Blac Haywood, Jeff Goshub, Tom Michael, Brian Hanley, Kevin McKee, Pat Clark: St. Agatha: Jeff Selman, Jeff Smith, Kenny Smith, Michael Knight: Bishop Borgess: Jamal Adams: Redford Union: Steve Beaver, Jason Leitch: Garden City: Scott Carr, Matt Penn, Kris Brownlee: Farmington: Aaron Abdon, Brad Wells, Jon Thibault, Preston Picard, Troy Spoor, Harrison: Bill Richardson, Mike Kiebertman, Charles Pickett, Dan Derocher, Austin Armour, Joe Graham: N. Farmington: Justin Cook, Eugene Franklin, Zach Agosta, Brian Swaz, Salem: Scott Hewitt, Beau Tomlinson, Wes Boyd, David Holt, Myron Conington, Zach Jensen, Mike Carney, Matt Trublowitz, Grierland: Dan Farnas, Matt Bennett, Mike Tompkins, Bill Garza, Reggie Joyner, Brandon Wilcox, Derek Johnson, Todd Schmitt.



Mike Tolhurst Plymouth Canton Ryan Rogowski Red. Catholic Central Steve Meadows Livonia Clarenceville



Jason Smith Red. Bishop Borgess Terrill Mayberry Farmington Harrison Dan Boulter Redford St. Agatha



Dave Condeni Farmington Harrison Brandon Aljouny Westland John Glenn Kyle Lasko Plymouth Canton



Tim Shaw Livonia Clarenceville Marcus Woods Farmington Harrison Darryl Anglin Red. Bishop Borgess



Dane Kobus Plymouth Canton Mike Banaszak Red. Catholic Central Andrew Seifert Livonia Franklin



Aaron Kennedy Farmington Harrison Pete Deike Garden City Allen Feigel Livonia Stevenson