



25 FOOTBALL PLAYERS TO WATCH IN NORTH CENTRAL/NORTHEAST KANSAS



Landon Boss

LONDON BOSS, OSAGE CITY

After starting seven games at quarterback for Osage City as a freshman when the Indians lost expected starter Gunnar Fort to an injury, Boss not only locked down the position last year as a sophomore, but enjoyed a huge season in helping the Indians to a program-best 9-2 season. Boss threw for more than 100 yards in eight of the Indians 10 games (one win via COVID forfeit) and finished the season with 1,517 yards passing and 24 touchdowns. He was equally as dangerous carrying the ball, adding 1,001 yards and 11 touchdowns on the ground.



Zavier Brandt

ZAVIER BRANDT, FRANKFORT

A four-year starter at center for Frankfort, Brandt (6-1, 240) was a first-team All-Eight-Player Division II selection last year in helping the Wildcats to their best season since dropping to eight-player football as they reached the state semifinals before falling to Twin Valley League rival Hanover. Brandt has anchored an offensive line that has cleared the way for Frankfort to rush for 2,300, 2,900 and 2,300 yards the past three seasons. Defensively, he made 55 tackles from his nose guard position, including six sacks and eight tackles for loss. He was a two-way first-team All-Twin Valley League selection last year.

MITCH BUDKE, CHASE COUNTY

The younger brother of former Chase County standout Cael Budke, Mitch made a name for himself last year, enjoying a breakout sophomore season in helping the Bulldogs to an 8-3 record with the losses coming to one-loss Madison, one-loss Lebo and Division I state champion Little River. Budke was a workhorse on both sides of the ball, spearheading the Bulldog offense as he ran for 1,029 yards and 21 TDs and threw for 1,008 yards and 16 scores. He was even better at his linebacker position as he led Chase County with 133 tackles and had five interceptions, earning first-team All-Eight-Player Division I honors.



Mitch Budke



Drew Caudle

DREW CAUDLE, MAUR HILL

A wide receiver to start his career at Maur Hill while older brother Jack manned the quarterback position, Caudle stepped in to replace him under center last year. The Ravens didn't miss a beat as Caudle, a 6-2, 165-pound senior this year, completed 64.5% of his passes for 1,383 yards and 14 touchdowns while getting picked off just five times. He also added 342 yards rushing and five more scores in leading the Ravens to an undefeated regular season and 8-1 mark overall. Caudle earned first-team All-Northeast Kansas League honors and was an honorable mention All-Class 2A pick.

CADE CRAWFORD, LANSING

One of the state's top defensive recruits, Crawford has already committed to the University of Iowa and is a three-star recruit overall. The 6-foot-4, 240-pound linebacker moves from outside to the inside after recording 64 tackles and making three sacks a year ago on his way to earning first-team All-United Kansas Conference honors and being a finalist for the Bobby Bell Award, given annually to the top small-school defensive player in the KC Metro area. Crawford also doubles as Lansing's quarterback and threw for 1,089 yards and 12 TDs last year, adding eight rushing scores as well.



Caden Crawford



Isaac Detweiler

ISAAC DETWEILER, AXTELL

Detweiler burst onto the scene as a freshman wide receiver/defensive back for Axtell during its run to the Eight-Player Division II championship game in 2019. But he gave Eagle fans a hint of what was to come when he stepped in for injured All-State quarterback Quinn Buessing to engineer an upset of Hanover that ended the Wildcats' 44-game winning streak. With Buessing graduated, Detweiler took over as full-time quarterback last year and had a huge sophomore season. Detweiler threw for 1970 yards and 31 touchdowns and was picked off just five times. He also added 484 yards and 16 touchdowns on the ground in leading Axtell to a 7-3 record. He also ranked third on the team with 75 tackles and tied for the team lead with three interceptions.

PHILIP DOEBELE, HANOVER

After seeing its run of state titles end in 2019, Hanover returned to the pinnacle in Eight-Player Division II last season and Doebele had a big hand in the Wildcats' 11-0 championship season. The senior was a rock on an offensive line that helped the Wildcats to better than 320 yards and 55.2 points per game. From his defensive line position, Doebele ranked second on the team in tackles with 69 and shared the team lead in tackles for loss with 15 and fumble recoveries with four. One of only a few starters back for the Wildcats, Doebele will be counted on heavily to get Hanover in position to defend its state crown.



Philip Doebele

KADEN FIELDS, OSAWATOMIE

At 6-foot-4, 270 pounds, Fields is an imposing figure when he steps off the bus and it translates when he steps on the field as well. The senior linemen led Osawatomie in tackles last year as a junior, recording 64 stops from his defensive line position to earn first-team All-Pioneer League honors. He was a first-team pick on the offensive side of the ball as well and earned honorable mention All-Class 3A honors.



Kaden Fields

CASEY HELM, MADISON

One of the state's top throwers in track and field – he swept Class 1A state titles last spring in the shot put and discus, finishing with top-five marks in the state in both events overall – Helm is drawing Division I interest in that sport. He's received plenty of attention on the gridiron as well after stepping in at quarterback for Madison last year and leading the Bulldogs to an 11-1 record and Eight-Player Division I state semifinals. A hulking quarterback at 6-4, 230 pounds, Helm's strong arm showed as he threw for 1,268 yards and 23 touchdowns with just three interceptions and a 71% completion rate. He earned honorable mention All-State honors.



Casey Helm

TORREY HORAK, ROSSVILLE

Having the last name of Horak in Rossville brings high expectations and Torrey delivered on them in a big way last year as a junior in leading the Bulldawgs to a 13-0 season and their fourth state title in the past seven years. After a breakout sophomore campaign in 2019 when he ran for 1,214 yards and 16 touchdowns and threw for 1,007 yards and 17 scores, Horak took it to another level in 2020. The southpaw ran for 1,628 yards and 30 touchdowns and threw for 1,447 yards and 25 scores, earning Top 11 All-State honors to follow in the footsteps of older brother and two-time Top 11 pick Tucker Horak. Horak will miss his outstanding complementary weapons lost to graduation, but has shown he can carry the load as Rossville goes for a championship repeat in Class 2A.



Torrey Horak

ZAC KRAMER, NEMAHA CENTRAL

The leading returning tackler of Nemaha Centrals 2019 Class 2A state championship team, Kramer was one of the Thunder's top defensive players again in 2020. But it was on the offensive side of the ball where he became a driving force in the Thunder's run to the Class 2A state semifinals, the season ending with a loss to eventual state champion Rossville. Taking over as a first-year starter at quarterback, Kramer filled the void more than capably as a dual-threat weapon. He threw for 1,649 yards and 11 touchdowns while also running for 1,035 yards and 21 scores, earning first-team All-Big Seven League and All-Class 2A honors.



Zac Kramer

COLTON MCCAMMON, PRAIRIE VIEW

McCammon was a central figure in Prairie View's 8-2 2020 season, starring on both sides of the ball for the Buffaloes. He was a first-team All-Pioneer League selection at linebacker after racking up 116 tackles, including 12 tackles for loss. He also picked off three passes. On offense, he was a second-team all-league selection on the offensive line, clearing the way for an offense that averaged 30.3 points per game.

JOE OTTING, HAYDEN

On a team loaded with seniors, Otting still emerged as one of the Wildcats' top players last year as a sophomore. Otting, 6-3, 275 pounds, started both ways on the line for Hayden and earned All-City and All-Centennial League honors in helping the Wildcats to a 7-2 season. He also was one of Hayden's top basketball players last year as a sophomore.



Joe Otting



Hayden Oviatt

HAYDEN OVIATT, WAMEGO

Oviatt missed Wamego's season opener last year due to COVID-19 protocols, but it was merely a blip in the road of what turned out to be a breakout sophomore season. Taking over as the Red Raiders' starting quarterback, Oviatt was a 1,000-1,000 guy, rushing for 1,539 yards and 14 touchdowns and throwing for 1,152 yards and 10 touchdowns in just 10 games. He led Wamego to a 6-5 season and the Class 4A state quarterfinals, the season ending with a one-point loss to 4A runner-up Arkansas City. A standout wrestler as well, Oviatt will once again be a workhorse for the Red Raiders this season.

DAMON REDEKER, OLPE

Redeker burst onto the scene as a sophomore when he earned first-team All-Class 1A honors at defensive back after picking off seven passes. He repeated those honors last season, helping key an Olpe defense that allowed just 35 points all season in going 12-0 and capturing the Class 1A state championship. Redeker took on an even bigger role in Olpe's offense last year, moving from receiver to quarterback where he threw for 1,114 yards and 24 touchdowns and ran for 766 yards and 10 scores.



Damon Redeker

KYLE REESE, LEBO

While Devan McEwen was the focal point of Lebo's offense for the past four years, Reese somewhat quietly became arguably the Wolves' most versatile weapon last season, helping Lebo to a 10-1 season and the Eight-Player Division II state quarterfinals. The 5-foot-10, 170-pound senior Swiss Army knife ran for 587 yards and 13 touchdowns, caught 27 passes for 428 yards and 10 scores and completed all five of his pass attempts for 110 yards and two touchdowns. Reese was at his best in the big games, scoring six touchdowns against both Chase County and Thunder Ridge. He'll take over at quarterback for the departed McEwen this season.



Gannon Remer

GANNON REMER, SILVER LAKE

Remer enjoyed a bounce-back season for Silver Lake last year as a junior after an injury wiped out a big portion of his sophomore season. A slot back, Remer was the Eagles' leading receiver last year, catching 20 passes for 437 yards and eight touchdowns. Remer also ran for 281 yards and five touchdowns after topping 300 yards on the ground as both a freshman and sophomore. During his junior season in 2020, Remer topped 1,000 total rushing, receiving and return yards and also had 21 tackles and two interceptions.

TRE RICHARDSON, HIGHLAND PARK

Richardson didn't have many opportunities to show off his talent last year as a sophomore with Highland Park only playing three games. But in that short time, he showed flashes of being a dynamic player. He had 475 yards receiving on 21 catches and four touchdowns. A track and field standout as well, he returned both a punt and a kickoff for a touchdown and amassed more than 100 yards in total offense in all three games.



Tre Richardson



Matt Rodriguez

MATT RODRIGUEZ, SOUTHEAST-SALINE

Rodriguez has been one of the top linebackers in the North Central Activities Association and Class 3A since his sophomore season when he broke into the Trojans' starting lineup and led the team in tackles with 94. He followed that up with 95 tackles last year as a junior. Rodriguez earned first-team All-NCAA honors both seasons, adding 20 tackles for loss each of the past two years. The 5-10, 195-pound linebacker is also a standout wrestler, placing second at 170 pounds in Class 3-2-1A last winter.

GRADY SEYFERT, BELOIT

Beloit's starting right tackle, the 6-2, 270-pound Seyfert was a road grader for the Trojans last year in helping them reach the Class 2A state semifinals before a season-ending loss to Hoisington. Seyfert was a first-team All-North Central Activities Association and first-team All-Class 2A selection after helping clear the way for Beloit to run for more than 2,500 yards as a team. He also had 21 tackles and five tackles for loss defensively.



Grady Seyfert



Zack Sisemore

ZACK SISEMORE, BASEHOR-LINWOOD

Sisemore has already left his mark on Basehor-Linwood's record book, enjoying a record-breaking season for the Bobcats last year. The 6-foot, 185-pound running back set school records for rushing yards in a season with 1,690 yards on 295 carries last year. His 21 rushing touchdowns also set a school record as he earned first-team All-United Kansas Conference honors. With Basehor losing starting quarterback Isaac Stanton and top receiver Jordan Brown, Sisemore will be leaned on even more as a senior until their replacements find their footing.

TED SKALSKY, OLPE

As a freshman in 2018, Skalsky stepped in at linebacker during the playoffs for Olpe after an injury to their leading tackler and he hasn't left the field since. After a big sophomore season as a two-way starter at linebacker and on the offensive line, Skalsky was a major factor in Olpe's 12-0 Class 1A state championship last year as a junior. His 127 tackles led a defense that allowed just 35 points all season and posted seven shutouts, earning him first-team All-Class 1A honors. He also was the top lineman for an offense that averaged 40 points per game.



Ted Skalsky



CASEN STALLBAUMER, SEAMAN

Stallbaumer was a versatile weapon for Seaman during last year's 7-2 campaign. Lining up just about everywhere on offense, Stallbaumer led the Vikings with 34 catches for 573 yards and five touchdowns. He added 133 yards and three touchdowns rushing and also threw for 106 yards and two touchdowns and defensively tied for the team lead with two interceptions. Stallbaumer earned first-team All-City and second-team All-Centennial League honors.

Casen Stallbaumer

TYSON STRUBER, CANTON-GALVA

Struber burst onto the scene as a freshman as one of the top two-way athletes not only in eight-player but the entire state and has only solidified that distinction the past two seasons. After helping Canton-Galva to the 2019 Eight-Player Division I state title, Struber led the Eagles to the state quarterfinals and a 10-1 mark last season. He caught 45 passes for 917 yards and 17 touchdowns and defensively had 70 tackles and five interceptions. The 6-foot-2, 205-pound receiver/cornerback has committed to Kansas State and is a two-time first-team All-Eight-Player Division I selection.



Tyson Struber



TREYDON TALLEY, CENTRALIA

Talley, a 6-foot, 255-pound offensive and defensive lineman, was a starter on Centralia's 2019 Class 1A state championship team as a sophomore and led the Panthers to the state quarterfinals last year. He made 35 tackles defensively and was a first-team All-Twin Valley League pick and earned second-team honors on offense in helping clear the way for a pair of 1,000-yard rushers.

Treydon Talley