

INSIDE: MSU BASKETBALL 2B ■ NFL 3B ■ LOCAL 5B

THE MONROE NEWS ■ TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2013

ALL-REGION FOOTBALL
DEFENSE

JEFF BANACHOWSKI
Mason
P, 6-5, 225, senior
Averaged 40.7 yards on punts and kicked a school-record 47-yard field goal. "He has a special leg," Summerfield coach Erik Johnson said.



JOSH BERNARD
Airport
LB, 5-10, 195, senior
Battled through a broken wrist and bad ankle to record 83 tackles. "He was walking wounded for the majority of the season," Airport coach Chad Baas said.



DUSTIN CLARK
Dundee
L, 5-9, 236, senior
The tackle racked up 48 tackles, including 10 for loss and 3.5 sacks. He forced three fumbles and recovered four. "He is a very good football player," Dundee coach Matt Garno said.



CONNOR CLEMENTS
Bedford
DB-KR, 6-0, 180, senior
Made 27 tackles, intercepted 4 passes and averaged 13.4 yards on punt returns and 24.3 on kickoffs. "He's made a lot of big plays and is our spiritual leader," Bedford coach Jeff Wood said.



JOSH COLVILLE
Milan
LB, 5-10, 175, junior
He spent a lot of time in the backfield with 18 tackles for loss among his 131 stops. "He's great at reading his keys," Milan coach Jesse Hoskins said. "He just has a nose for the ball."



STEVE DEYARMAN
Monroe
DB, 5-8, 140, senior
"He ended up being our best defensive player," Monroe coach Eric Redmond said. "Just a tough kid who plays hard." He had 3 interceptions, 27 solo tackles and 7 assists.



TROY DILLER
Whiteford
LB, 6-0, 225, senior
Was the top tackler for the Bobcats with 61 tackles, 8 for loss and 4 interceptions. "He's probably the best linebacker in the TCC," Whiteford coach Jason Mensing said.



C.J. DUFFINEY
Milan
DB, 5-10, 180, junior
Racked up 73 tackles out of the defensive backfield. "He is one of the best defensive backs the Huron League has seen in a while," Flat Rock coach Tom Oestrike said.



CHAD HALL
Milan
L, 6-1, 205, senior
Was a great run stopper for the Big Reds with 65 tackles, including 12 for loss. "He's excellent defensively and great offensively," Milan coach Jesse Hoskins said.



RYAN HEISERMAN
Dundee
L, 6-0, 190, senior
Recorded 74 tackles, 13 for loss, and 8 sacks. "He really set the edge for us," Dundee coach Matt Garno said. "He gets to the ball really well and lays some pretty good licks."



AUSTIN HOOVER
Milan
LB, 6-1, 205, senior
He led a stout Milan defense with 147 tackles, including 7 for loss. "He is the best linebacker in the (Huron) league," said Flat Rock coach Tom Oestrike.



COLIN LAKE
Whiteford
DB, 5-7, 135, senior
"He is the best cornerback I've coached in 11 years and I've coached every class of football," Mensing said. He had 42.5 tackles and 3 interceptions.



CY MARCHESE
Monroe
L, Monroe, 6-3, 205, senior
The defensive end recorded 36 tackles, 4.5 sacks and 5 tackles for loss. "He was pretty darn good," Bedford coach Jeff Wood said.



LUCAS MAYO
Bedford
DB, 5-8, 155, senior
A three-year starter who had 51 tackles. He recovered three fumbles and intercepted two passes. "Pound for pound, he's our best football player," Bedford coach Jeff Wood said.



SCOTT MCCORMICK
Airport
DB, 6-0, 180, senior
Intercepted 6 passes and notched 71 tackles. "He was our leader and go-to-guy. When we need something done, he is the guy to do it," Airport coach Chad Baas said.



COLT MCLAUGHLIN
Monroe
LB, 5-10, 195, senior
He led Monroe in tackles as a sophomore, then missed all of last season with an injury. A shoulder problem cost him three games this year, but he still had 43 solo tackles and 17 assists.



SAM O'LEARY
SMCC
DB, 5-9, 185, senior
He racked up 48 tackles before an injury ended his season. "He did a really great job for us defensively and settled everyone down," SMCC coach Jack Giarmo said.



IVAN ORAHA
Bedford
LB, 6-3, 215, senior
Was credited with 72 tackles and three sacks. "He has developed into an outside linebacker," Bedford coach Jeff Wood said. "He makes a lot of plays in the middle for us."



CHRIS SIMS
Whiteford
L, 6-3, 255, senior
Despite missing two full games and most of a third, he racked up 19 tackles for loss and 9 sacks. "Anytime you are as big and strong and quick as him and you play with passion, you are going to be successful," said Whiteford coach Jason Mensing.

ZACH UNDERWOOD
Carlson
L, 6-2, 215, senior
Racked up 16 sacks over the past two seasons. This year he had 79 tackles, including 9 for loss, from his defensive end position. "He's an excellent player," Carlson coach Kent Sikora said.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR:
JEREMIAH HARRIS, BEDFORD

BY NILES KRUGER
nkruger@monroenews.com

Call him Jeremiah.
Or call him Jeremy.
Even call him Jerry.
He doesn't care.

"It doesn't matter at all," he said.
Jeremiah/Jeremy/Jerry Harris is by nature a pretty easy-going guy.

But all that changes when he steps on the football field.

It is then that his inner fire comes out and he becomes a quarterback hunter and relentlessly pursues the football from his defensive end position.

"You really have to do your job (as a defensive end)," Harris said. "You have to read your keys, pressure the quarterback and make tackles. I am a little bit of a freelancer, but effort can make up for mistakes. Most of my tackles came from chasing the

See HARRIS, Page 4B



HONOR THE ALL-REGION TEAM

The Monroe News and the Southern Michigan Timberwolves will host a banquet to honor members of the All-Region football team on Dec. 1 at the Monroe Moose Hall.

The doors open at 6 p.m. with dinner at 6:30.

Members of the team will be admitted for free. Fam-

ily and friends can purchase tickets for \$12. To reserve a spot call 240-5780 or send an e-mail to sports@monroenews.com.

Also, poster-sized versions of this page are available for \$10. Use the number and e-mail address above to order your copy.

SPECIAL MENTION

Line: Ryan Carlson, Gibraltar Carlson; T.J. Cook, Jefferson; Nathan Halsey, Ida; Jeff Henderson, New Boston Huron; Carter Paddie, Jefferson.

Linebacker: Max Blackburn, Milan; Eric Bugg, Ida; A.J. Goretski, Airport; Troy Hilken, SMCC; Justin Woelber, New Boston Huron.

Backs: Devin Collins, New Boston Huron; Colton Durbin, Bedford; Logan Grantham, Dundee; Jared Henson, Gibraltar Carlson; Devin Miller, Milan; Zach Perry, Whiteford; Nick Scully, Milan; Caleb Yearly, Ida.

Punter: Josh Czarniowski, SMCC; Scott McCormick, Airport; Ivan Orah, Bedford; Jared Waltz, Monroe.

Harris (cont.)

play from behind.”

Harris caused far more mistakes by the opposing offenses than he made himself.

The 6-5, 230-pounder led an outstanding Bedford defense with 113.5 tackles. He racked up 14 tackles for loss and 8.5 sacks.

Those kind of numbers made Harris a repeat winner of the Monroe County Region Defensive Player of the Year award in voting by The Monroe News sports staff. He shared the honor with Levi Eddings of St. Mary Catholic Central last season.

Over the past two seasons Harris has amassed 203.5 tackles, including 25 for loss and 14.5 sacks. That's not bad for someone who never played a down at defensive end before last season.

Harris was a quarterback when he transferred to Bedford from Whiteford.

Harris remains good friends with many of his former classmates at Whiteford, including the Bobcats' outstanding defensive end Chris Sims.

He is happy to see Whiteford having an outstanding football season, but he said that moving to Bedford was the best thing for him.

“Whiteford is a great school,” he said. “But playing against really good competition helped me. Everyone at Bedford helped me. Jackson Lamb showed me the weight room and showed me how to really use it.”

The son of Phil and Karen Harris of Lambertville fit right in with a strong Mule defense.

“Our defense is absolutely amazing,” he said. “Coach (Jeff) Potter, our defensive coordinator, does a great job. Our defense comes out and plays hard every single play.”

The key to Bedford's defense was Harris and Austin Riedmaier creating havoc on the ends. Riedmaier ranked second on the team with 106.5 tackles, including 11 for loss and 7.5 sacks.

“Austin is great,” Harris said. “We're best friends. We're like brothers. We joke all the time about who will get more tackles.”

It has been a satisfying and painful season for the Mules.

They went undefeated through the regular season and won the Southeastern Conference Red championship, then won their first two playoff games.

Along the way they had to deal with the tragic death of starting defensive back Colton Durbin, who was killed in an automobile accident just days before the regular-season finale against Jefferson.

“Colton was a great friend, a great guy and a great student,” Harris said. “It was really hard.”

The team voted to play that game against Jefferson.

“To be honest, I didn't want to play,” Harris said. “I was really down. When they announced his name as a starter, I had goose bumps from head to toe. But now I am glad we played. It helped us get over the loss. We have to move on, but always remember. He will never be forgotten.”

Harris says he has been contacted by Eastern Michigan, Western Michigan, Central Michigan, Toledo, Bowling Green and even the University of Michigan about playing for them next season.

He is not sure where he will wind up, but wants to play college football.

“I am going to try my very hardest,” he said.