

INSIDE: **TIGERS TRADE FIELDER 2B ■ PISTONS 3B ■ LOCAL SPORTS 3B**

THE MONROE NEWS ■ THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2013

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2013 OFFENSE ALL-REGION FOOTBALL



AUSTIN ANSON
Dundee
RB, 5-10, 190, senior
Carried 143 times for 971 yards (a 6.8 average) and scored 13 touchdowns. "He is a very tough kid," said Ida coach Tom Walentowski. "He gives his best every snap."



STEPHEN BLUNT
Monroe
RB, Monroe, 5-7, 150, junior
Ran for 937 yards and 11 TDs and averaged 10.2 yards per carry. "He runs very hard for a little guy and has the ability to make people miss," Monroe coach Eric Redmond said.



BRAD BOSS
Bedford
QB, 6-2, 190, senior
Averaged 7.4 yards per carry in running for 1,269 yards and 16 TDs. Also threw for 747 yards and 7 touchdowns. "He makes their offense," Monroe coach Eric Redmond said.



RYAN CARLSON
Carlson
L, 6-6, 308, senior
Recorded 11 pancake blocks as an offensive tackle. "He's getting extensive interest from Division II schools and some from MAC schools," Carlson coach Kent Sikora said.



COLLIN CARTER
Bedford
R, 6-3, 185, senior
"This kid is special," Bedford coach Jeff Wood said. "Great speed and hands." He caught 22 passes for 432 yards, a 19.6 average. He scored four TDs, including one in the Regional finals.



ANDREW CASTIGLIONE
SMCC
L, 5-9, 235, senior
Was the leader of an offensive line that allowed SMCC to average nearly 40 points per game. "He was a key blocker," Jack Giarmo said.



JOSH CZARNIOWSKI
SMCC
RB, 6-1, 200, senior
Finally got to play a season free of injuries and produced 1,295 yards and 19 TDs. "Not only is he a powerful runner, but he also has a lot of speed on the edge," SMCC coach Jack Giarmo said.



JAKE FRIESE
Milan
L, 5-11, 185, senior
Milan's only returning starter in the offensive line helped keep the Big Reds rolling. "He's played dominant football," Milan coach Jesse Hoskins said.



JOSH GOLKIEWICZ
Summerfield
RB, 5-10, 180, senior
Rushed for 1,805 yards this year and 4,302 for his career. Ran for more than 200 yards six times this season, including a school-record 286. He scored 21 touchdowns and 138 points.



ALEC HULLIBARGER
Bedford
RB, 6-3, 205, senior
"He's been our hammer," Bedford coach Jeff Wood said. "He has size, strength and vision." He ran for 1,368 yards, scored 31 touchdowns and 190 points and averaged 6.6 yards per carry.



ALEX JOHNSON
Bedford
L, 5-9, 225, senior
The center keyed Bedford's offensive success this season. "He's our best offensive lineman," coach Jeff Wood said. "He's like a little fire hydrant. You can't move him."



PAUL JUNG
Monroe
K, 6-4, 210, senior
The exchange student from Germany was 24-for-25 on extra points and 4-for-5 on field goals, all between 37 and 47 yards away. The only field goal he missed was a 52-yard attempt.



JACOB KRUG
Huron
L, 5-7, 205, senior
He graded out at 90-percent blocking efficiency. "Jacob is one of the finest young men I have ever had the pleasure of coaching," Huron coach Dan Kalbfleisch said.



TRACE LINDEMAN
Milan
RB, 5-8, 145, freshman
Ran for 1,149 yards on 143 attempts, an average of 8 yards a carry. He scored 10 touchdowns. "He has been a very hard worker from Day One," Milan coach Jesse Hoskins said.



ALEX MARCHESE
Monroe
L, 6-2, 300, junior
The future is bright for this big junior who was called "a stud" by Bedford coach Jeff Wood. "He is our best and most consistent blocker by far," Monroe coach Eric Redmond said.



TYLER OLSON
Huron
R, 5-11, 170, senior
One of Huron's top weapons with 25 catches for 663 yards and 6 TDs. He also made 49 tackles on defense. "Tyler was our team MVP this year," Huron coach Dan Kalbfleisch said.



ALEX RAHMING
Carlson
R, 6-0, 175, senior
Had 40 catches for 677 yards and 1,031 all-purpose yards. "He has great body control and excellent hands," Carlson coach Kent Sikora said.



ELIJAH SANDORE
Jefferson
RB, 5-10, 190, senior
Accounted for about 70 percent of Jefferson's offense with 1,182 rushing yards, 169 receiving yards and 16 TDs. "He did amazing things," Jefferson coach Bruce Pickens said.



GAGE SMITH
Milan
R, 6-0, 161, senior
He hauled in 40 passes for 654 yards and 6 touchdowns. "They have a pretty good connection," Milan coach Jesse Hoskins said of Smith and quarterback Robert Kanitz.



CALEB YEARY
Ida
RB, 5-7, 135, senior
Ran for 834 yards on just 104 attempts for an average of 8.0. He scored 11 TDs. "He is not that big, but runs hard," said Summerfield coach Erik Johnson. "He is quick and elusive."



★ COACH OF THE YEAR:
JEFF WOOD
BEDFORD



★ PLAYER OF THE YEAR:
ROBERT KANITZ
MILAN

Read about Jeff Wood and Robert Kanitz on **Page 2B**

ALL-REGION FOOTBALL DEFENSE



AUSTIN RIEDMAIER,
Bedford
DE, 6-3, 205, senior
His 106.5 tackles included 56 solos, 11 for loss and 7.5 sacks. "He caused problems on the edge," said Monroe coach Eric Redmond.



MICHAEL WAY
Ida
LB, 5-9, 165, senior
He was Ida's leading tackler with 91 stops. "Michael is our most fiery competitor," Tom Walentowski said. "He's quick, he hustles, he's got a nose for the ball and he's very determined."

Note: Austin Riedmaier and Michael Way were inadvertently left off Tuesday's All Region Defense. The News apologizes for the omission. They will be included with the defense on any posters of the All-Region defense that are ordered.

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.



MONROENEWS.COM

Year of triumph and grief for Wood, Bedford

BY NILES KRUGER

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This was the greatest year of Jeff Wood's career as a football coach in many ways.

His Bedford team went undefeated during the regular season and won the Southeastern Conference Red championship.

The Mules rose as high as No. 4 in the Associated Press state rankings.

They posted a pair of impressive playoff victories before falling to state power Novi Detroit Catholic Central by a single point in a thrilling Regional championship game.

But in one important way, it was the worst year of Wood's coaching career.

Wood, his players, their families and the entire Bedford community had to cope with the death of senior Colton Durbin, who was killed in an automobile accident days before the regular-season finale.

"That was really hard – especially because I know his parents so well," Wood said. "His older sister was my student aide one year."

In dealing with the tragedy together, the Bedford coaches and players found the truth in something that Wood has always preached: football is more than just a sport, it's a family.

"This is the greatest fraternity in the world," he says.

Wood has built a family at Bedford that is strong and successful.

In 2008, he took over a program that had managed just nine winning seasons since 1958 and guided it to six straight winning records and five straight playoff berths.

Wood guided the Mules to an 11-1 mark this year, pushing his career mark at Bedford to 47-17.

For the third time in the past five seasons, Wood is the Monroe County Region Coach of the Year. He was selected by The Monroe News sports staff in a close vote over Jesse Hoskins of Milan, Jack Giarmo of St. Mary Catholic Central, Jason Mensing of Whiteford and Tom Walentowski of Ida.

In dealing with the Durbin tragedy, Wood leaned on the wisdom of people he respects.

"I got a lot of great advice from coaches who had been through things like this before," he said. "One major piece of advice was to do everything together. That helps the painful blow pass faster."

Wood let the players decide whether or not they would play the final game of the regular season. They opted to play.

"That was possibly the greatest decision they could have made," he said. "Everyone was in pain, but that game was therapy."

Through that game and the entire playoff run, the Mules kept Durbin on their minds.

"I think this season was special for everyone involved," he said. "The one thing missing was Colton."

Wood, 45, believes he has found the perfect home in Bedford.

The son of former Summerfield and Erie Mason coach LeRoy Wood graduated from Toledo Central Catholic in 1986.

He made coaching stops as an assistant at Summerfield, Ypsilanti, Dundee, Northwood (Ohio), Erie Mason, Blissfield and Bedford. He had one brief shot as a head coach before landing the Bedford job, going 11-9 in two seasons at Genoa (Ohio) in 1998-99.

At Bedford he has put together a staff that has a combined 331 years of coaching experience.

One of the first things he and his staff needed to do at Bedford was convince the players that they could

be winners.

"We needed to get them back on track mentally," he said. "We needed to create an atmosphere where the kids were passionate about football and believed they could be successful. They needed a ray of hope."

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