

ALL-AREA FOOTBALL PREPS

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

E Shane VanFleteren
School: Utica.
Class: Senior.
Size: 6-foot-2, 180 pounds.
Highlights: Caught 74 passes for 1,288 yards and 12 touchdowns as the Chieftains went 6-0 in league play and won the MAC White Division championship for the first time in 10 seasons. Coach Tony Smith: "This year he was our best receiver and the best in the area — he was our main go-to guy."

OL Adam Bennett
School: Romeo.
Class: Senior.
Size: 6-foot-2, 280 pounds.
Highlights: Since Bennett took over as the starting center at the beginning of his sophomore year, the Bulldogs have rushed for more than 6,600 yards. Also a successful wrestler. Coach Curt Rienas: "He's done a phenomenal job with our ground game, and he also makes all of our pass-protection calls."

OL Reggie Lewis
School: Grosse Pointe South.
Class: Senior.
Size: 6-foot-2, 285 pounds.
Highlights: Lewis captained South to the Division 2 semifinals. State-qualifying wrestler. Coach Tim Brandon: "Two years ago I thought he would pursue wrestling. But after our team's success, I think he's leaning toward playing college football."

OL Cody Vargo
School: St. Clair Shores Lake Shore.
Class: Senior.
Size: 6 feet, 200 pounds.
Highlights: Right tackle helped the Shorians set a school record for points (338). Coach Tom Iwanicki: "He's an undersized lineman, but he has great technique and great feet. He's one of the tougher blockers out there; he makes it look easy."

OL Mike Keith
School: Warren De La Salle.
Class: Senior.
Size: 6 feet, 232 pounds.
Highlights: Was a reliable two-way player for the Pilots as tackle and middle linebacker. He was a two-year All-Catholic player who became the second-leading tackler in program history with 134. Coach Paul Verska: "He was just a great leader and set a good example for the team. He was buried in the weight room."

OL Tom Czerwinski
School: Fraser.
Class: Senior.
Size: 6-foot-5, 270 pounds.
Highlights: Was an imposing presence in the trenches for coach Joe Kaczanowski's Ramblers, who often ran behind his lead blocking at right guard. Also anchored the front of the 4-3 defense. Is a shot-putter/discus thrower on the track team.

E Eric Posavetz
School: Utica Ford.
Class: Senior.
Size: 6 feet 1, 180 pounds.
Highlights: Set a school record with 52 receptions and was a big reason why the Falcons improved from a 2-7 team in 2009 to 7-4 this year. Coach Todd Winters: "He's an unselfish go-to guy. He had a gift for making catches in heavy traffic, and he also excelled in one-on-one coverage."

QB Mark Morris
School: Macomb Dakota.
Class: Senior.
Size: 5-foot-11, 175 pounds.
Highlights: Three-year starter has the ability to make plays and an accurate arm. Passed for 2,017 yards and 17 touchdowns, but was hardly one-dimensional, rushing for 1,003 yards. Also saw major playing time at cornerback. Coach Mike Giannone: "He's just a tough kid — he did everything for us."

RB Latham Donald
School: St. Clair Shores Lakeview.
Class: Junior.
Size: 5-foot-9, 175 pounds.
Highlights: Huskies' workhorse carried 371 times for 2,174 yards and 23 touchdowns. Led Lakeview to first playoff appearance since 1981. Coach Pat Threet: "He's a good back. He would not be in this position without his blockers, but he's got some moves."

RB Ryan Burkhard
School: Romeo.
Class: Senior.
Size: 5-foot-11, 200 pounds.
Highlights: Emerged to average more than 100 yards per game and scored 21 touchdowns. Coach Curt Rienas: "He's been one of those kids on a mission to prove he can do it. People knew who he was, but they didn't know how good he was."

RB Brandon Hughes
School: Macomb Dakota.
Class: Senior.
Size: 5-foot-9, 190 pounds.
Highlights: Cougars' top backfield weapon rushed for 1,689 yards and 20 touchdowns. Also had 79 tackles and an interception. Coach Mike Giannone: "He's a strong, compact runner, very hard to bring down. Not only did he make the average plays, but he made the big plays, too."

P/K Chris Selita
School: Macomb Dakota.
Class: Senior.
Size: 6 feet, 170 pounds.
Highlights: He was successful on 39 of 42 extra points and eight of 12 field goals. Of 64 kickoffs, 40 went for touchdowns.

ALL-EAST

Teams selected by Mick McCabe, written by Wright Wilson

South's Reeves super with brain and brawn

By WRIGHT WILSON
 FREE PRESS SPECIAL WRITER

Nothing gets past Will Reeves. Perhaps it's because of his tackling ability, but it also could be his 3.8 grade-point average.

The 6-foot, 220-pound Grosse Pointe South senior anchored the Blue Devils' defense the past three seasons, helping the team win the Macomb Area Conference Blue Division championship and three playoff games this fall despite playing part of the season with a broken wrist.

"He was a three-year starter and the leading tackler right away as a sophomore. He was the leading tackler on the team for all three years," coach Tim Brandon said. "He was our middle linebacker for 2½ seasons and set single-season and career records for tackles."

Late this fall, when South's backfield was decimated by injuries, Brandon moved Reeves to safety.

"It's probably the safest move we could have made," Brandon said. "He's maybe the smartest defensive player I've coached. He saw more in front of him. He can make shifts, change stunts with linebackers, call off blitzes, those kinds of things. We might have been better off to do it earlier in the season."

With an equal mix of brawn and brain, it's no surprise that Reeves seeks a college that is academically challenging, even if it means he has to walk on.

"He could probably get his pick of any number of schools, but he wants to go someplace he is going to get a great education," Brandon said.

COACH OF THE YEAR: After four

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seasons at South, Brandon is 25-16. But those numbers don't tell what the Blue Devils have accomplished under his reign.

South has been above .500 each season, won the past two MAC Blue titles, and advanced to the Division 2 semifinals this fall.

"It was pretty exciting, I'm really proud of my kids," said Brandon, who came within one step of the state championship game. "It's a building block. We don't expect to go to the semifinals each year, but we want to get better and better — not just getting to the playoffs, but making runs in the playoffs."

Brandon and his crew nearly missed out. Although Marine City beat South, 35-14, in the final regular-season game, the Blue Devils still made the playoffs with a 5-4 record.

"After we were given what amounted to a second chance, the kids just kind of jelled together and started peaking at the right time," he said.

In the postseason, South beat Detroit Cody in the pre-district (17-14), Detroit King in the district final (37-21) and Temperance Bedford in the regional final (44-42). Farmington Hills Harrison ended South's season in the semifinal, 51-0.

Besides a mythical state title for Grosse Pointe High in the 1950s before a playoff system was in place, this year's squad was the first Blue Devils team to reach the semifinals.

Second team

OFFENSE
E: Rayshawn Nance, Warren Woods Tower
OL: Eric Montgomery, Lakeview
OL: Michael Rozwadowski, Utica Eisenhower
OL: Evan Lock, Grosse Pointe North
OL: Christian Gore, Dakota
OL: Lucas Zeoli, Center Line
E: Ben McCord, Warren Cousino
QB: Ben Fry, Grosse Pointe South
RB: Casual Williams, South Lake
RB: Chris Anderson, Lake Shore
RB: Dejuan Morton, Warren Fitzgerald
P/K: Aaron Berthet, Utica Ford

DEFENSE
DL: Aaron Cox, Utica Ford
DL: Lyle VanFleteren, Warren De La Salle
DL: Bernard James, Grosse Pointe South
DL: Travis Joseph, Lake Shore
LB: Jacques Christian, South Lake
LB: Deyanco Hardwick, East Detroit
LB: Sedic Jones, Utica
LB: Jon Sulek, Sterling Heights Stevenson
DB: Cortez Smith, Clintondale
DB: Ryan Lombardo, L'Anse-Creuse North
DB: Zak Bielecki, Macomb Lutheran North

Honorable mention

Receivers: Dominic Brugnoli, De La Salle; Victor Mattison, Grosse Pointe South; Brad Plec, Sterling Heights Stevenson; Yousseff Bujaidar, Utica Eisenhower; Cullen Rudd, Roseville; Teo Redding, Warren Michigan Collegiate.
Linemen: Evan Cavanaugh, Warren Cousino; Brad Meredith, Utica Ford; Darius Brownlee, Warren Fitzgerald; Anthony Tacheson, Warren Lincoln; Richard Kelly, South Lake; Adam DeJans, South Lake; Mark DeMarra, Utica Eisenhower; Aaron Berry, Anchor Bay.
Quarterbacks: Vinny Delicata, Parkway Christian; Ryan Newcom, Warren Woods Tower; Mike Saba, Utica Ford; Connor Hinebaugh, Utica; Matt Gruszczynski, Roseville; Kendrick Mingo, East Detroit; Ray Borkowski, Lake Shore; Connor Harvey, Sterling Heights Stevenson; Zach Hite, Anchor Bay.
Running backs: Ryan Kryska, Warren Cousino; Jimmy Guest, Grosse Pointe North; Mike Abiragi, De La

Salle; Anthony Saurine, Utica Ford; Kevin Linson, East Detroit; Lairen Johnson, Warren Lincoln; Eddie Mollison, Grosse Pointe South; Gage Ruehlen, Anchor Bay; Horace Lane, Sterling Heights; Anthony Saurine, Utica Ford; Tommie Bush, Warren Michigan Collegiate; Robert Porter, Roseville.
Linebackers: Zac Siemel, Lake Shore; Matt Zeolla, Fraser; Dan Naert, Utica Eisenhower; Drew Sanders, Macomb Dakota; Jack Doyle, Grosse Pointe South; Eddie Pare, Anchor Bay.
Defensive backs: Erik Winnega, L'Anse Creuse; Terron Bridgeman, Lake Shore; Alfred Tolliver, East Detroit; Zak Bellas, Romeo; Alfonso Vultaggio, Utica Eisenhower; Gerald Jackson, Macomb Dakota; Dajvion Edwards, Utica Ford.
Kickers/punters: J.J. McGrath, Lutheran North; Aaron Mick, Parkway Christian; Tyler Arnold, South Lake; Ray Setter, Lake Shore.

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DL Luke Valutis
School: Utica Eisenhower.
Class: Senior.
Size: 6-foot-1, 195 pounds.

Highlights: Registered 40 tackles for the Eagles and intercepted a pass. Coach Bob Lantzy: "He was the fireplug of our defense — he was wired. He's very special and plays with everything he has. He's impossible to block one on one; he will dance around an offensive lineman rather than run past him."

DL Ronald Thompson
School: East Detroit.
Class: Junior.
Size: 6-foot-4, 215 pounds.

Highlights: Already named captain for 2011, Johnson was instrumental in getting the Shamrocks into the playoffs for the first time. He scored a touchdown on a fumble return against St. Clair. Coach Paul Windham: "He's a great pass rusher, and he's a run stopper too. He can do it all."

DL Bernard Taylor
School: Macomb Dakota.
Class: Senior.
Size: 6-foot-2, 285 pounds.

Highlights: Had 103 tackles, 10 sacks and three hurries for the Cougars. Coach Mike Giannone: "He's the nose tackle in our 3-4 defense — he's definitely a stopper. He's got a great punch and great feet."

DL Chris Nash
School: Roseville.
Class: Senior.
Size: 6-foot-4, 220 pounds.

Highlights: A four-year starter at defensive end for coach Melvin Richendollar. He was instrumental in helping the Panthers qualify for the playoffs the past two seasons.

LB Taiwan Jones
School: New Baltimore Anchor Bay.
Class: Senior.
Size: 6-foot-4, 240 pounds.

Highlights: Verbally committed to Michigan State, Jones was a multiple-threat player for the Tars, not just as a linebacker, but also as a running back and slot receiver. Coach Phil Latona: "Taiwan was a great athlete for us. Any way we could get him the ball, we did. He was a dominating force."

LB Will Reeves
School: Grosse Pointe South (Captain).
Class: Senior.
Size: 6 feet, 220 pounds.

Highlights: South's defensive player of the year holds school records for tackles in a career and in a season. Named to Macomb Area Conference first team for three consecutive seasons. Coach Tim Brandon: "He may be the smartest player I've ever coached. As smart as he is, he's also a tough, tough kid."

LB Nathan Fraeyman
School: Romeo.
Class: Senior.
Size: 6-foot-1, 185 pounds.

Highlights: Speedy two-year starter also adept in the secondary and at receiving kickoffs, averaging 48.2 yards per return. Coach Curt Rienas: "When he got his hands on the ball, he was pretty special. Of all the seniors that we've got, he has the biggest potential to go to the next level."

LB Jadon Cook
School: Grosse Pointe North.
Class: Senior.
Size: 6 feet, 185 pounds.

Highlights: A two-year starter, he led the Norsemen with 72 tackles, including 27 solo and 10 behind the line. Coach Frank Sumner: "Jadon is a very intense player — he's a very hard hitter. One of the best tacklers we've ever had."

DB Marcus Anderson
School: St. Clair Shores South Lake.
Class: Junior.
Size: 5-foot-10, 175 pounds.

Highlights: Intercepted eight passes, recovered two fumbles and had 28 tackles. Also starts at wide receiver for the Cavaliers, averaging 28.5 yards per catch for 450 yards. Coach Steve Senter: "He's pretty electric, and he's a very coachable kid."

DB Brandon Bartneck
School: Utica Eisenhower.
Class: Senior.
Size: 6-foot-4, 190 pounds.

Highlights: Led the Macomb Area Conference Red Division with six interceptions. A 4.0 student who scored 34 on his ACT. Coach Bob Lantzy: "There aren't too many players that have the smarts to go along with their athletic ability."

DB Chris McNelly
School: Warren Fitzgerald.
Class: Senior.
Size: 5-foot-9, 165 pounds.

Highlights: Had six interceptions. Also scored on an 85-yard kickoff return against Warren Woods-Tower. Coach Jason Byers: "He brought a big-play ability for us on offense, on defense, on special teams."

Coach Tim Brandon
School: Grosse Pointe South.

Highlights: Brandon guided the Blue Devils to the Division 2 semifinals for the first time. He's 25-16 in four seasons. "We want to get better and better," he said. "Not just getting to the playoffs, but making runs in the playoffs."