Associated Press All-State Players

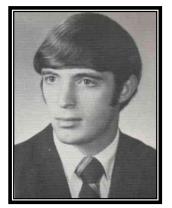
Tom Isanhart: Tom was the first player from DeWitt to be an All-State player. He was named to the Associated Press All-State team in 1961. Additional information on Tom is forthcoming.

Mike Ashley: Mike was named to the 1969 Associated Press Class C First Team as a defensive guard, Detroit News All-State Class C First Team offensive guard and United Press International All-State second team as a guard. Beyond all the statistics that evaluate offensive "skilled positions", there are those that are recognized for greatness by the success of the team. Mike started on varsity all four years in high school. An 0-8 record his freshman year in the tough CMAC was followed by an 0-7-1 his sophomore season, 5-4 as a junior, including breaking a 36 game winless streak. Entering his senior year in 1969,



third year Coach Gary Roberts named Mike as captain. Mike's quiet leadership, lead by example and tough as nails player, enabled DeWitt to win their first CMAC league championship and first undefeated season since 1964. The team posted five shutouts defensively and beat third ranked Potterville 40-34 before a crowd of 4,000. Twice, Mike accounted for over 20 tackles in a game. At 5'10" and 170 pounds his size is dwarfed by today's standards. However, Ashley's outstanding play earned him the post season honors he deserved and is one of the best linemen in DeWitt Football history. Mike went on to assist DeWitt baseball in the 1990s, lending his leadership skills as the Panthers garnered eight league titles and three appearances in the State championship games, winning one in 1993.

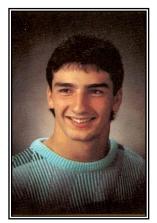
Steve Shooltz: Steve was named to the 1971 Associated Press First Team All-State Class C team as a center. Steve was also named all Central Michigan Athletic Conference his junior and senior year. Shooltz best position was center but played other spots on the offensive and defensive line. His accomplishments were named despite playing the last half of the season with a broken hand. Steve was a three year varsity player.



Roger Wardell: Roger, alongside of team mate Steve Shooltz, was named to the Associated Press First Team All-State in Class C for the 1971 season. Roger was a four year player on the Varsity and helped DeWitt continue the winning ways starting in 1968 when he was a Freshman. Wardell was named All Central Michigan Athletic Conference first team his junior and senior seasons as an offensive and defensive tackle as sell as All-State Honorable Mention his junior year. He was selected as a team captain and team MVP, as a lineman his senior season. As a freshman, he registered 44 tackles making a significant impact his very first year. Roger was also an excellent baseball player earning All-CMAC honors for three years.

Associated Press All-State Players

Jim Seegraves: Jim was named Associated Press First Team All-State Clas C as a linebacker in 1982. Jim was also named to the First Team Capital Circuit, All Clinton County as a linebacker, All-Area (Lansing State Journal), All-Area Player of the Year, Detroit Free Press First Team All State and United Press International Honorable Mention. Seegraves rushed for 656 yards his senior year as the full back in Gail Thornton's wishbone backfield and was the lead blocker for DeWitt's first ever 1,000 yard rusher, Jim McCarthy. His forte was defense. He had 135 solo tackles and 137 assists for 259 total tackles. Thornton said Jim was the hardest hitter he ever coached. Seegraves may have been one of the most pure physical football players ever at DeWitt. Many times, Seagraves would have to sit out of hitting drills or scrimmages because he was just that hard of a hitter. Seegraves started at Western Michigan University as a true Freshman, in 1983 next to Ken Offerdahl, who went on to play for the Miami Dolphins. Many compared Seegraves to Offerdahl. Westernn Michigan was coached by Jack Harbaugh, Jim and John Harbaugh's father.



Chad Daggy: Chad was named to the 1988 Class C Associated Press All-State team and Captain of the Lansing State Journal Dream Team as a running back. One of DeWitt's finest all around male athletes, Chad also excelled in track as an all-state finisher and three time state champion in wrestling. On the gridiron, Daggy was a shifty, quick and hardnosed running back in Gail Thornton's powerful wishbone attack. His senior season, he helped DeWitt rush into the State Semi-Finals for the first time in history. Alongside junior Mike Cowdrey, the duo made up one of the most prolific backfields in DeWitt History. His senior season rushing total of 1,349 yards (to Cowdrey's 1,351) and 18 touchdowns (including four against Leslie) rank amongst DeWitt's finest season totals. His career totals are 1,886 yards rushing and 25 touchdowns, all-purpose yards 2,882,

57 punts for a 32 yards-per-punt average, 831 return yards and 150 points. Truly a special athlete, on the other side of the line of scrimmage, Chad ended his career with 273 tackles, including 203 assists and three interceptions. Besides four school track records and several wrestling records, Chad accounted for 13 individual football records when he hung up the football cleats in 1988.



Scott Simon: Scott was named to the 1992 Associated Press All-State Team and Lansing State Journal Dream Team as a running back. Scott's freshman year was a learning experience as the fourth running back in coach Gail Thornton's prolific and senior laden wishbone attack that ended up in the Class B state finals at the Pontiac Silverdome in1989. By Scott's senior year, the Panthers finished undefeated only to lose to Montrose in a "mudder" in the playoffs. Scott's senior year stats were outstanding, with 1,121 yards on 136 carries and 18 touchdowns in 10 games. He also returned 12 punts for a gaudy 14 yards per return and 5 kickoff returns for an unbelievable 222 yards, a 44 yards per return average. For his career, Scott rushed



Associated Press All-State Players

for 2,241 yards on 257 carries and ended up with 30 touchdowns. Defensively, he ended with 65 solo tackles and 47 assists and three interceptions. Scott was perhaps one of the most outstanding all around athletes in DeWitt history earning All-State recognition in baseball as well. Scott went on to play baseball at Dartmouth and was part of the first inductees into DeWitt Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008.

Tony Pulice: Tony was the Associated Press Special Mention Class B quarterback in 2000. He was the first in a long line of outstanding quarterbacks coached by Rob Zimmerman. Tony expertly ran the new potent option run offense along with timely accurate passing. One of Tony's most memorable games was the district playoff game with defending State Champion Chesaning in 2000, leading DeWitt to a come from behind 35-28 game only a week after Chesaning gave DeWitt its only regular season loss in the regular season finale. Tony ranks third in passing on the all-time DeWitt record books with 173 completions in 341 attempts for 2,375 yards and 20 touchdowns. Tony went on to play at the University of Chicago.

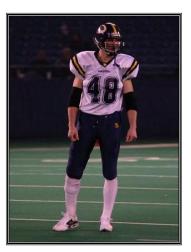
Chad Alger: In 2002, Chad was the Associated Press First Team Class B quarterback and named

Captain and quarterback of Detroit Free Press All-State Dream Team. He was also the Lansing State Journal Offensive Player of the Year. Running primarily option run offense his junior year, Chad's passing talents as a quarterback and a new spread offense helped rocket DeWitt to the top ranking in Division IV in 2002. Along with his ability to read defenses and his rocket arm, Chad was also a bruising runner. With a wealth of excellent receivers and speedy running backs, Chad led the high powered Panther offense to the Division III Finals at the Pontiac Silverdome where he set a number



of Finals passing records. His record number of attempts (51) and completions (23) still stand today despite playing with a painful separated left shoulder, which he suffered in the semi-final game. His season numbers are amongst the States' top performances; 164 completions in 290 attempts for 2,930 yards and 29 touchdowns along with 1,207 yards rushing on 187 carries and 16 TDs. For his career, Chad ended with 3,813 yards passing and 37 touchdowns, 1,728 yards rushing and 32 touchdowns. Chad went on to play at Michigan Tech.

Associated Press All-State Players



Justin Braska: Justin was named on the Associated Press First Team Class B linebacker in 2004. He was also named the Defensive Player of the Year by the Lansing State Journal. He was the team captain and leader of a tough bruising defense that mimicked Justin's style of play. He also played tight end on a powerful running offense and would occasionally drop back into the backfield to open a hole as a blocking back or getting the ball and running for some tough yards. Justin was perhaps the best and the last in a line of Braska brothers that excelled in football at DeWitt. Justin was the leader of the 2004 team that returned to the Silverdome in Division IV. Despite all of the accolades and accomplishments given to him, his quiet toughness was exemplified by playing his entire senior with a partially torn ACL. After being a three year starter at DeWitt, Justin went on to play and start at Western Michigan University.



Ken McClure: Ken was named on the first team Associated Press Class B as a defensive back in 2004. Ken was a defensive back on the 2004 defensive team that was one of the stingiest defenses ever. Playing safety behind one of the most talented quartet of linebackers in DeWitt Football history, Ken made the most of his 6'4" stature by picking off a record 15 passes. His reading opposing quarterbacks and cat quick reactions let the linebackers concentrate on stopping the run. By far, the most exciting play made by Ken was the regional final win over

Pontiac Notre Dame Prep by intercepting a pass in his own end zone and returning it 106 yards for a game sealing touchdown. Ken went on to become a walk-on player at Central Michigan University.



Dan VanDreumel: Dan was named to the Associated Press Class B team and the Detroit Free Press Dream Team in 2007. He was also the Offensive Player of the Year in the Lansing State Journal. Dan was brought up mid-season as a sophomore and inserted right away. In his first game, he drove the Panthers 95 yards late in the game to beat Williamston. With a wealth of top receivers, his senior season was one for the record books. His 39 touchdown passes in only 11 games set the State season record. His career total of 69 TD passes is

second on the all-time State list. Dan's low key approach on the field allowed him to patiently wait for his receivers to get open and zip a pinpoint pass. An excellent junior season set the stage for a prolific senior season; 166 completions in 266 attempts for 2,565 yards and 38 touchdowns yet he was only intercepted three times. Dan also ran for 714 yards on 101 carries for an additional 11 TDs. His career passing stats; 373 completions in 614 attempts for 5,052 yards (2.9 miles!)

Associated Press All-State Players

with 69 touchdowns. Also, Dan rushed for 2,395 yards and 25 touchdowns.

Jason Fleet: Jason was named to the Associated Press Class B team in 2007. Jason had an incredible senior season with DeWitt and was surrounded by other talented receivers. The fleet footed Fleet dazzled the large crowds with a number of acrobatic catches during the season and was one of mid-Michigan's most versatile and exciting players. His 66 receptions, 1,302 yards and 19 TDs are all on the State season record books. Jason also picked off seven passes which he returned two for touchdowns. He also returned eight kickoffs for a gaudy 29 yards per return and one touchdown. He honored DeWitt by being named to the 2008 All-Star game played at Spartan Stadium. Jason went on to play college football at Saginaw Valley State University.





Jimmy Williams: Jimmy was named as the Associated Press Special Mention Class B quarterback for the 2009 season. He was inserted as quarterback in the fifth game of the 2008 season and helped lead the junior laden class to five wins in the next seven games, including an incredible come-from-behind district win over Lansing Sexton where he threw for 355 yards. The unflappable Williams then led the powerful Panther offense in dominating fashion past twelve straight teams on their way to a State semi-final appearance in 2009. A strong arm with a velvet soft touch and deceptive speed along with natural leadership skills, Jimmy guided the complex and potent yet balanced Panther offense to the most prolific scoring season in school history. Jimmy's senior

numbers rank amongst the top three in series of outstanding quarterbacks in recent Panther history; 1,910 yards passing, 26 touchdowns, 137 completions and only three interceptions along with nearly 700 yards rushing and nine touchdowns. For a career, Jimmy ended up with 3,268 yards passing on 236 completions, 37 touchdowns and only eight interceptions. Rushing, Williams ended his career with 1,216 yards and 14 touchdowns.

Associated Press All-State Players

Paul Jorgensen: Paul was named to the Associated Press Class B First Team as a lineman in 2009. He was also named to the Detroit Free Press Dream Team, Detroit News Dream Team, Lansing State Journal Defensive Player of the Year and named to the MHFCA All-Star team. Paul was a three year varsity starter on both sides of the ball. His dedication in the weight room added strength to his 6'7", 270lb frame and was a physically intimidating player. Defensively, "Jorgy" was a nightmare for the opposition, who could not run past him, through him or pass over him. Even with his size, Paul was very quick and agile, opening massive holes for running backs to follow or protecting the quarterback, which helped lead his team to a school record of 82 touchdowns for the year. Offensive line coach Bob Acre said Paul's greatest asset was his near perfect blocking



techniques. Paul will continue his football career as a Wildcat at Northwestern University.



Caleb Higbie: Caleb was named the Associated Press First Team Class B All-State quarterback for the 2010 season. He was also named as the Lansing State Journal Dream Team quarterback and selected as the starting quarterback for the MHSFCA All-Star football game. Caleb's career stats are very impressive, except his career as a quarterback was his first and only season as a varsity quarterback. Caleb took over the QB reigns from 2009 All-Stater Jimmy Williams with a team that had only three returning offensive starters, including a whole new line and led the Panthers into the State Division III semi-finals. Higbie was a complete package; outstanding arm strength and touch, speed and quickness, ability to scramble and elude tacklers and ability to throw on the run. Other firsts for Caleb, he was Zimmerman's first left handed quarterback and the first QB that Zimmerman let play defense. Higbie's final numbers mirrored the team's

offensive balance. He completed 169 of 262 (65%) passes for 2,571 yards and 34 touchdowns, rushed for another 1,253 yards on 155 carries and 11 touchdowns. Defensively, he finished with his career with 84 tackles (52 solo and 32 assists), 2 blocked kicks, 2 interceptions and 7 batted passes. His last minute heroics in wins over Portland, East Lansing, Harper Creek and Mason led LSJ Prep Sports Editor Geoff Kimmerly noted that Caleb may have been the best pure athlete at quarterback that Coach Rob Zimmerman has had at DeWitt. Caleb went on to play football, along with his twin brother, Jacob, to Saginaw Valley State University.

Associated Press All-State Players

Jimmy Melton: Jimmy as named the Associated Press Class B All-State Special Mention as a linebacker for the 2012 season. He was also named to the Lansing State Journal Dream Team and All CAAC Red Division first team. Small of stature from a typical linebacker, Melton's ability to hide behind his huge defensive line made him hard to find to block. His quickness made him one of the best sideline-to-sideline linebackers DeWitt has had since Cody Worden in 2007. His toughness showed as he played for a good part of the season with a broken right hand. Jimmy is in the top few of all time tackles for a season for DeWitt with 173 total tackles with 68 solo and 104 assists. Among the highlights are an impressive 24 tackle game against Haslett, 20 against D-5 champs Portland,18 against Owosso, 18 against St. Johns and 17 against then undefeated Fruitport. A big game player, Jimmy had 55 tackles in the four Panther playoff games and led the young Panthers to



a birth in the Division 3 semi-finals. As of this writing, Melton is third all-time for number of career tackles with 258.

Christopher Ruby: Christopher was named to the Associated Press First Team All-State for 2013

touchdown reception on a swing pass against Owosso was a typical highlight



as a defensive back. He was also named to the Detroit News Dream Team and Lansing State Journal Dream Team as a defensive back. Ruby's accolades also included CAAC Red Division league honors as defensive back and wide receiver. Ruby was a three year starter for DeWitt and one of the most exciting players on the field on either side of the ball. With amazing quickness, acceleration and an "extra gear" when in the open field, Ruby was a delight to watch. His carry around the right end against St. Clair in the 2013 semi-finals into a 40 mile an hour wind to get past mid field on the first play from scrimmage got the Panthers started toward the win and the Division 3 state finals. His school record 85 yard

reel of Christopher's abilities; eluding tacklers, several change of directions and spins and outracing the secondary. Ruby is on the Panther record books in a number of categories. For his career, Ruby rushed 73 times for 651 yards and five scores including a long of 74 yards. He caught 53 passes for 1,127 yards (21.3 average) for 15 touchdowns. Christopher returned 26 kickoffs and a handful of punt returns. From his defensive back position, Ruby ended his Panther career with 124 tackles, 12 batted passes and 14 interceptions.



Jacob Johnson: Jacob was named to the Associated Press First Team All-State for the 2013 season as a quarterback. He was also named to the Detroit Free Press First Team All-State, Detroit

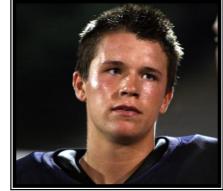
Associated Press All-State Players



News First Team All-State, Lansing State Journal Class A All-Area as well as CAAC Red Division All-Conference quarterback. Johnson is the first DeWitt player to be named All-State as a junior. Jacob was injured late in Week 6 against St. Johns yet came back in the first week of the playoffs to lead DeWitt to a berth in the Division 3 State Finals at Ford Field. With a stable of excellent receivers to pass to, the strong-arm passing Johnson completed an impressive 68% of his 176 passing

attempts with only three interceptions. His season stats; 119 completions for passes for 2,039 yards and 31 touchdowns. Jacob also ran for just over 600 yards and a touchdown. Three different

receivers had over 30 receptions. Jacob was the latest in the line of outstanding quarterbacks to play for Coach Rob Zimmerman. He was the first to start three seasons as the number one quarterback. Jacob's sophomore year was also a short one due to a broken throwing hand, passing for 1,243



yards and tossing 16 touchdowns in six games, helping DeWitt land in the state semi-finals. **Update 2014:** Jacob Johnson also had an injury missing much of his senior season yet passed for 662 yards and five touchdowns in five games. For his career, Johnson was 262 of 439 passing for 3,945 yards and 52 touchdowns and only 12 interceptions. Rushing, Johnson had 215 carries for 1,370 yards and ran for 11 touchdowns. He was named Honorable Mention quarterback his senior year by the Detroit Free Press, Lansing State Journal Class A All-Area and CAAC Red Division All-League. Jacob will continue his football career at Central Michigan University.



Josh Hanna: Josh was named to the Associated Press First Team All-State as a defensive lineman for 2014. Josh was also named to the Detroit Free Press First Team All-State, the Detroit News Honorable

Mention, Lansing State Journal Dream Team and CAAC Red Division All-League. Hanna was the anchor in the middle of the Panther defensive line that only yielded 129 rushing yards per game. Teams only scored more than one

touchdown against the Panther defense in four of eleven games. Hanna had 51 tackles (21 solo, 28 assists) and two sacks in a primarily run league. He had two fumble recoveries and caused a fumble and patted away a couple of passes on the rush up the middle. His career stats match up against anyone in Panther history for



Associated Press All-State Players

defensive linemen; 52 solo tackles and 72 assists plus 4.5 sacks for 129 total tackles, many times being double and triple teamed. Josh also had two caused fumbles, recovered two, batted away three passes and blocked a kick. Hanna's Coach Rob Zimmerman praised him as one of the "finest defensive linemen that has played for me".

Ben Heinritz: Ben was named as a Special Mention Associated Press All-State running back for the 2014 season. He was also named Detroit Free Press First Team All-State, Honorable Mention by the Detroit News, Lansing State Journal All-Area and CAAC Red Division All Conference. Ben took over as the top running back during his junior season on a team with an All-State quarterback and for of the best receivers Coach Rob Zimmerman had on a single team. The addition of Ben in the backfield allowed the passing game to flourish and left Ben to run up the middle for tough yardage. His size and strength would blast through arm tackles and his knack for bouncing off of tacklers allowed him to get many yards after initial hits. Heinritz is a north/south running back with subtle movements in direction to make tacklers miss.





Scott Simon in 1992.

His running helped DeWitt to the 2013 state finals. His senior year the offense transitioned to a running game featuring Ben. His toughness led to him to carrying 200 times in eleven games and 1,243 with only losing 14 yards during the season. Heinritz blasted his way to 25 touchdowns. His 26th touchdown for the year was a punt block scoop-and-score against St. Johns. He also carried the ball 34 times for 183 rugged yards against Mason His junior year against Linden, he scored on a 93 yard burst off the left side. For his career, Ben carried the ball 365 times for 2,664 yards and 42 touchdowns. He is the first Panther All-State running back since

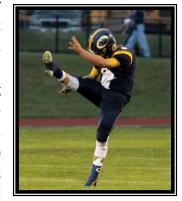


Will Nagel: Will was named to the Associated Press First Team All-State Class B as a punter for the 2015 season. He was also named to the Detroit News First Team All-State and Lansing State Journal Dream Team as well as Capital Area Activities Conference Red Division First Team. An added dimension for the Panther special teams, Nagel, a junior, was already behind the center in the pistol formation as the Panther QB. He punted 27 times

Associated Press All-State Players

during the season for 1,133 yards, a school record average of 42.0 yards per kick. Of the 27 punts, 15 ended up inside the opponent's 20 yard line and several inside the five yard line. Only

one of Nagel's punts resulted in a touchback. Will not only took over as the Panther quarterback this season, working on his QB skills but also honed his punting technique, knowing exactly what to do based on where he was on the field. His longest punt this season was 55 yards and also had a 78 yard kick his sophomore year. After hearing of Nagel being named to the All-State team, Panther Coach Rob Zimmerman shared with Lansing State Journal sports editor Brian Calloway, "Both him (Nagel) and Matt Meagher (kicking specialist) were instrumental in the success we had as a team. Our special teams were outstanding and those guys were the key to it. Will's numbers



were tremendous and the field position that he helped give us was definitely a big plus for us on both sides of the ball."



JD Ross: JD was named Associated Press Special Mention to the All-State Team as an All-Purpose player. He was also named to the Detroit Free Press Honorable Mention Team, Detroit News Honorable Mention Defensive Back, Lansing State Journal Dream Team Defensive Back and Capital Area Activities Conference Red Division First Team Running Back and Honorable Mention Defensive Back. Ross, a junior, seemingly did

something different in every game to help the Panthers to their 10th CAAC Red Division Conference title. From making a big run or a key

reception or defensive play or a return, his physical approach always led to a big play when the team needed it. His stats were not gaudy but demonstrated his versatility. He carried the ball 75 times for 800 yards for whopping 10.7 yards-per-carry average and scored nine touchdowns including a long of 85 yards. Ross pulled in 14 receptions for 283 yards (20.9 per catch average) and a pair of touchdowns. Defensively, JD had 46 tackles, 3 batted passes, 3 interceptions and two blocked punts. Special teams, he was special. Along with teammate ShonQuise Trainor, the duo made many teams kick the ball out of bounds on kickoffs. When



teams did challenge Ross, he returned eight kickoffs for 308 yards and two touchdowns, his longest being 93 yards. His return average was nearly 39 yards per return. And, he led the team with 10 smuks. DeWitt Coach Rob Zimmerman said of Ross "JD had a tremendous season for us. He has a great combination of speed and toughness that separates him from most high school football players".



Associated Press All-State Players