

‘Athlete’s’ lead Division 3 and Division 4 teams

By DOUG DONNELLY

Few sophomores from across the state of Michigan get to call themselves First Team All-State, but Dante Moore can.

The Detroit King budding star is one of the Division 3 quarterbacks on the First Team All-State squad chosen by the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association. He earned the title after leading the Crusaders into the Division 3 Regional final.

Moore threw for 1,434 yards and 23 touchdowns this season, while being intercepted just three times. He’s already getting Division 1 looks from some of the most prominent college football programs in the nation.

Joining him on the Division 3 quarterbacks list is DeWitt’s Tyler Holtz. Holtz had a remarkable season in his own right, being one of the few quarterbacks in the state to throw for more than 2,000 yards. He completed 100 passes for 2,109 yards and 32 touchdowns and just one interception for the Panthers, who are 9-0. He also rushed for more than 300 yards.

Those are two of the headliners on the Division 3 and Division 4 teams announced by the MHSFCA.

Coaches met to choose All-Region teams. Players making the first team in each region then became All-State candidates. An overall Dream Team will be announced in January. Only players from schools in which their head coach is a member of the association are eligible.

Both Moore and Holtz were joined by teammates on the all-state team. Two DeWitt linebackers made the grade, including Andrew Debri and Grant Uyl. DeWitt wide receiver Tommy McIntosh caught 28 passes for 692 yards and 13 touchdowns and had four interceptions on defense.

There are several outstanding two-way players on the team, such as Joe Taylor of Chelsea who made the team as an athlete. He had 764 yards receiving and 13 touchdown receptions while also intercepting two passes, forcing a fumble and returning a kickoff for a touchdown.

In Division 4, Tyson Davis was the coaches choice for “athlete” on the all-state team. The Central Michigan University recruit missed more than two games with an injury, but still averaged 21 yards per catch and caught 11 touchdowns and was an outstanding defensive player. Goodrich had two defensive first teamers in lineman Evan Williams and defensive back Milo Deciechi.

North Branch was one of the highest ranked teams in Division 4 all season and two good reasons why was linebacker Drake Deshetsky and 1,400-yard rusher running back Brandon Martin. Deshetsky made 42 solo tackles.

The MHSFCA and its members have been devoted to the promotion of high school football since its inception in March 1972. For more information about the organization, visit www.mhsfca.com.