

Division 5 and 6 All-State teams dominated by big numbers

By DOUG DONNELLY

Corey Vanderputte didn't have to share anything this season.

The Muskegon Oakridge junior was in the same backfield as All-Stater LeRoy Quinn a year ago. All Quinn did was rush for more than 5,000 yards in his career. With Quinn graduated and at Ferris State University, it was Vanderputte's time to shine for the Eagles.

Vanderputte rushed for 1,506 yards on 129 carries and scored 22 touchdowns in helping Oakridge reach the Regional final. He was named today to the Division 5 Michigan High School Football Coaches Association All-State team. The Division 5 and Division 6 teams were announced today, part of a week-long release of all-state teams by the coaches.

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.

Vanderputte is one of two Oakridge players to make the Division 5 First Team, along with linebacker Jacob Danicek. Grand Rapids Catholic Central put three players on the first unit, including wide receiver Jace Williams, quarterback Joey Siveri and defensive back Nolan Ziegler. Frankenmuth also had three first team choices in quarterback David Raif, linebacker Ethan Jacobs and lineman Kyle Main.

Montague dominated the Division 6 team with five first team selections, led by quarterback Drew Collins. He threw for 1,412 yards and rushed for 613 yards and was even the Wildcats punter.

He's joined by a talented group of players from across the state, including two offensive linemen from Clinton, which gained 3,323 of its 3,460 yards of offense on the ground. Clinton had two more All-State choices in linebacker Brayden Randolph and defensive back Davey Campbell. Clinton beat Blissfield in the District final. Blissfield featured one of the top receivers in the state in 6-4 Bowling Green State University baseball signee Zack Horky, who caught 47 passes for 939 yards and 18 touchdowns.

Additional All-State teams will be announced Thursday, December 17.

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.