

1A PLAYER OF THE YEAR

LEIGHTON VANDER ESCH
SALMON RIVER SAVAGES



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Dominant QB/LB goes out on top

WHY HE IS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Seldom has one player meant as much to a football team as Leighton Vander Esch did to Salmon River in 2013. The standout senior dominated in all three phases of the game as the Savages rolled to a 12-0 season and their second consecutive 1A Division II state championship.



Opponents knew exactly what was coming when they

played Salmon River and yet were powerless to stop it, making Vander Esch the easy vote for the 1A All-Idaho Player of the Year.

Vander Esch was a devastating dual-threat quarterback, accounting for 68 total touchdowns. He also anchored the defense at middle linebacker and wreaked havoc on special teams as a return man and a kicker capable of altering field position with touchbacks.

Vander Esch turned Salmon River's 66-26 state title-clinching victory over Council into a personal highlight reel, racking up 341 yards passing, 144 yards rushing and tying the all-class state record with eight total TDs.

JUST THE STATISTICS

- > 157 carries, 1,565 yards, 34 TDs
- > 121 completions on 199 attempts, 2,155 yards, 28 TDs, one interception
- > 131 total tackles (85 solo, 46 assisted), five interceptions, five fumble recoveries, four defensive TDs
- > Two kickoff returns for touchdowns

WHAT COACHES ARE SAYING

"Leighton is the most dynamic football player in 8-man football. He proved unstoppable on offense and unbendable on defense. He played his best in the biggest games of the year."
— Charlie Shepherd, Salmon River

"He's a whale of a football player. We did everything we could to try and slow him down, but sometimes you just have to tip your hat to a guy. He's a very special talent."
— Dan Shumway, Council

NOTABLE

Vander Esch loves to hunt and fish. His favorite memories include shooting a 6x6 bull elk on his first big game hunt and catching chinook salmon every summer.

WHAT'S NEXT

Vander Esch plans to join the Boise State football team as a walk-on linebacker. Jordan Rodriguez, special to the Statesman

1A All-Idaho First Team

Offense

KADE KRESS HAGERMAN, QB

The 2013 Wendy's Idaho Heisman winner led the Pirates to their second 1A Division I title in three seasons, breaking team single-season records for passing yards (3,280), scoring (414), all-purpose yards (4,748) and completions (137). Kress finished his career with a record of 34-1, 12,714 yards and 176 TDs.



ZACH BAFUS TROY, RB

The Whitepine League Offensive Player of the Year set a single-game school record with 405 yards rushing. The 6-foot-1, 200-pound senior had 148 carries for 1,825 yards and 28 touchdowns, plus 396 receiving yards and seven more TDs. Bafus played in the state title game despite dislocating his shoulder.



AUSTIN FUNKHOUSER HAGERMAN, RB

The most impressive statistic for the 5-10, 195-pound senior was he had zero fumbles on his way to a school record of 1,651 rushing yards with 24 touchdowns. "When Austin wasn't breaking tackles, he was unleashing pancake blocks on defenders," Hagerman coach Mark Kress said.



ADAM TAYLOR LIGHTHOUSE CHR., RB

An All-Idaho first-team pick for the second year in a row, the 5-10, 220-pound junior carried the Lions to a third consecutive state playoff appearance with 1,447 rushing yards, 495 receiving yards and 32 total TDs. "He's a very physical runner with great speed for his size," Lighthouse coach John van Vliet said.



DILLAN HENSLEE HAGERMAN, WR/TE

The 5-11, 160-pound senior set single-season records for receiving yards (1,334) and receptions (50) despite breaking his leg in the state title game. "When Dillan wasn't catching under routes and breaking tackles, he was throwing blocks for his teammates," Hagerman coach Mark Kress said.



KELLEN HOSKINS TROY, WR/TE

The Trojans made their way to the 1A Division I championship game with the help of their 5-10, 146-pound junior, who caught 20 passes for 560 yards and nine TDs — an average of 28 yards per catch. "Kellen was a big-time playmaker for us at the wide receiver position," Troy coach Rob Bafus said.



JIMMY SHEPHERD SALMON RIVER, WR/TE

The favorite target of 1A Player of the Year Leighton Vander Esch, the 5-7, 145-pound junior caught 38 passes for 670 yards and nine touchdowns. "He is surprisingly fast and has an uncanny knack of getting open, combined with great hands," said Salmon River coach Charlie Shepherd, Jimmy's dad.



AUSTIN FENSTERMAKER DIETRICH, OL

The 6-3, 190-pound junior anchored a line that allowed the Blue Devils to average 37.4 points per game, making an appearance in the 1A Division II semifinals. "Terrific player," Dietrich coach Doug Astle said. "He has great footwork and can make any block. Really good speed and power."



ROGELIO GOMEZ RAFT RIVER, OL

The Trojans played in the 1A Division I state semifinals for the second straight season, as the 5-10, 195-pound junior helped them rush for more than 3,500 yards. "He is one of the hardest workers in the offseason in the weight room," Raft River coach Brian Poole said. "He plays very hard and aggressive."



WILL GRAM TROY, OL

At 6-4 and 274 pounds, the junior gave teammate Zach Bafus, a first teamer at running back, big holes to run through. "Will was the main cog to our offensive line," Troy coach Rob Bafus said. "We could either pull him in our trap game or run right over the top of him knowing he wouldn't let us down."



FRED TAYLOR SALMON RIVER, OL

The two-time 1A Division II state champs left opponents in the dust, playing two complete games throughout the season. Behind the 6-0, 260-pound senior center, the Savages averaged 56.1 points. "Showed amazing blocking speed for such a big guy," Salmon River coach Charlie Shepherd said.



DILLAN HENSLEE HAGERMAN, K

The 5-11, 160-pound senior showcased his versatility by garnering enough votes to make the All-Idaho first team on offense, defense and special teams. Henslee made 46 PATs and 3-of-4 field goals for the Pirates, who won their second 1A Division I state championship in three seasons.



Defense

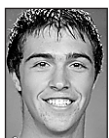
BLAKE BELL HAGERMAN, DL

With four sacks in the 1A Division I state championship game, the 6-2, 190-pound senior was able to slow Troy's high-powered offense, leading to a 42-34 Pirates win. "Blake was able to do what many defensive lines could not: Tackle (Troy quarterback) Cody Self," Hagerman coach Mark Kress said.



AUSTIN FENSTERMAKER DIETRICH, DL

The 6-3, 190-pound junior was nearly impossible to contain, racking up 126 tackles, 19 sacks and 33 tackles for loss for the state-qualifying Blue Devils. "Demanded double teams about all the time," Dietrich coach Doug Astle said. "Opposing teams had to account for him every play."



SAM ROOT GARDEN VALLEY, DL

Salmon River coach Charlie Shepherd had high praise for the 6-2, 220-pound senior: "Easily the best defensive lineman we faced all year." Root contributed 63 tackles and 18.5 sacks. "Great quickness off the ball, and his ability to shed blockers with his hands made him almost unstoppable," Shepherd added.



MICK WILSON COUNCIL, DL

Also the starting QB for the 1A Division II state runners-up, the 6-4, 220-pound senior accounted for 76 tackles and 9.5 sacks. "Strong, fast and tenacious," Salmon River coach Charlie Shepherd said. "Impossible to block one-on-one." Wilson added a combined 3,158 yards and 39 total TDs.



KELLEN HOSKINS TROY, LB

An All-Idaho first-team selection on both sides of the ball, the 5-10, 146-pound junior racked up a team-leading 150 tackles, eight interceptions, seven sacks and seven fumble recoveries. "As impressive as the numbers are, he is even more impressive to watch in person," Troy coach Rob Bafus said.



KADE KRESS HAGERMAN, LB

As a four-year starter, the 5-10, 190-pound senior finished with 469 career tackles, including 133 this season, as Hagerman won its second state title in three seasons. "Kade is an incredible athlete," Troy coach Rob Bafus said. "You must account for No. 2." Kress was the 2011 1A All-Idaho Player of the Year.



ADAM TAYLOR LIGHTHOUSE CHR., LB

An All-Idaho first-team selection on both sides of the ball, the 5-10, 220-pound junior made 137 tackles for the state-qualifying Lions. "Adam led his team in tackles and draws many double teams," Lighthouse Christian coach John van Vliet said. Added Council coach Dan Shumway: "Big and fast."



DILLAN HENSLEE HAGERMAN, DB

For the third season in a row, Henslee was voted to the All-Idaho first team at defensive back. During his senior campaign, the 5-11, 160-pounder contributed 74 tackles. "Dillan is one of the most unselfish players I've ever coached," Hagerman coach Mark Kress said.



KYLE ISHAM BUTTE COUNTY, DB

Also voted a 2013 All-Idaho first-team selection as a basketball player, the 6-0, 165-pound senior accounted for 61 tackles, seven interceptions and one fumble recovery returned for a touchdown. "Kyle was one of the best athletes in our conference," Hagerman coach Mark Kress said.



CODY SELF TROY, DB

The 6-3, 168-pound senior was an instrumental part of Troy's 1A Division I state runner-up finish, starting at quarterback, too. Self had 69 tackles, six interceptions and one fumble recovery. "Cody is all over the field and made some incredible interceptions throughout the year," Troy coach Rob Bafus said.



JIMMY SHEPHERD SALMON RIVER, DB

Voted to the All-Idaho first team on both sides of the ball, the 5-7, 145-pound junior boosted the Salmon River defense with 52 unassisted tackles, 33 assisted tackles and five interceptions. "Fast and physical for his size," Council coach Dan Shumway said. "Reads well and has a nose for the ball."



DEVON FITZSIMMONS MURTAUGH, P

A four-year letterman who also started at defensive end and tight end, the 6-3, 190-pound senior punted a career-best 73 yards this season and had two successful fake punts. "He definitely had a big leg, and his coverage skills down field after the punt were also key," Murtaugh coach Adam Johnson said.



1A All-Idaho Second Team

OFFENSE

POSITION	NAME	YEAR	SCHOOL
Quarterback	Logan Bosma	Senior	Lighthouse Chr.
Running back	Max Boden	Junior	Raft River
Running back	Hazen Weber	Senior	Dietrich
Running back	Zeke Brown	Senior	Calvary Chapel
Receiver/TE	Clint Clifford	Senior	Hagerman
Receiver/TE	Luc Fadness	Senior	Lighthouse Chr.
Receiver/TE	Corbin Hedges	Junior	Council
Line	Anthony Duran	Soph.	Hagerman
Line	Tell Hites	Junior	Troy
Line	Sonny Mays	Senior	Hagerman
Line	Matt Schwartz	Senior	Prairie
Kicker	Hussein Abdellatif	Senior	Troy

DEFENSE

POSITION	NAME	YEAR	SCHOOL
Line	Gerrett Blattner	Soph.	Butte County
Line	Drake Cain	Senior	Challis
Line	Will Gram	Junior	Troy
Line	Reggie Tilleman	Senior	Genesee
Linebacker	Austin Funkhouser	Senior	Hagerman
Linebacker	Ruger Piva	Senior	Challis
Linebacker	Wil Holtman	Junior	Raft River
Defensive back	Zach Bafus	Senior	Troy
Defensive back	Josh Fadness	Soph.	Lighthouse Chr.
Defensive back	Corbin Hedges	Junior	Council
Defensive back	Terrun Zolman	Senior	Salmon River
Punter	Reggie Tilleman	Senior	Genesee

RECENT 1A PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

2012	Kevin Hill	RB/DB	Kamiah
2011	Kade Kress	QB	Hagerman
2010	Tim Hoopes	RB	Carey
2009	Dustin Rinker	RB/LB	Salmon River
2008	JC Tucker	QB	Garden Valley
2007	Matt Paradis	OL/DL	Council
2006	Justin Udy	QB	Genesee
2005	Carl Jensen	RB	Genesee

RECENT 1A STATE TITLE GAMES

2013 D-I	Hagerman 42, Troy 34
2013 D-II	Salmon River 66, Council 26
2012 D-I	Kamiah 30, Butte County 20
2012 D-II	Salmon River 53, Lighthouse 38
2011 D-I	Hagerman 31, Kendrick 20
2011 D-II	Lighthouse Christian 32, Carey 24