

BEECHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

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KHSAA Hall of Fame Nominations

November 1, 2008

Dear Committee:

When you think of sports Hall of Fame certain things come to mind such as team accomplishments and individual ones.....

Pro Football...	1972 Miami Dolphins perfect season
Pro Basketball...	Michael Jordan's numerous MVPs and 6 World Titles
Pro Baseball...	New York Yankees, Jackie Robinson, and the Big Red Machine
College Basketball...	UK Basketball & Adolf Rupp or Lew Alcindor and the UCLA Bruins
College Football...	Archie Griffith's two Heisman trophies

When you mention the Dawahares Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame and the topic turns to football, you can be sure that the Beechwood Tiger Football program is going to be mentioned. During the nineties, Beechwood won seven state football championships. I cannot think of two players who deserve to be nominated for this honor more than Brandon Berger and Greg Hergott. Two standouts, they excelled to the highest level in football, other sports, and in the classroom. Perhaps most importantly, these two men have gone on to become productive citizens in the community, as well as role models to our current student athletes in their role as assistant coaches at Beechwood.

I have attached both completed forms and included just a small sample of the numerous press clippings. I can share many more if you desire.

In my short time at Beechwood, the stories I have heard about their playing days, in addition to what I have witnessed first-hand as they work with our current football program, I can assure you these guys possess a level of personal integrity and a competitive spirit that few people across the state can match. These two were great in high school, and they continue to use their expertise to make others great now!

Long time assistant coach Jim Procaccino who has been involved in all ten state championships summed it up best by saying the following comment about each.....

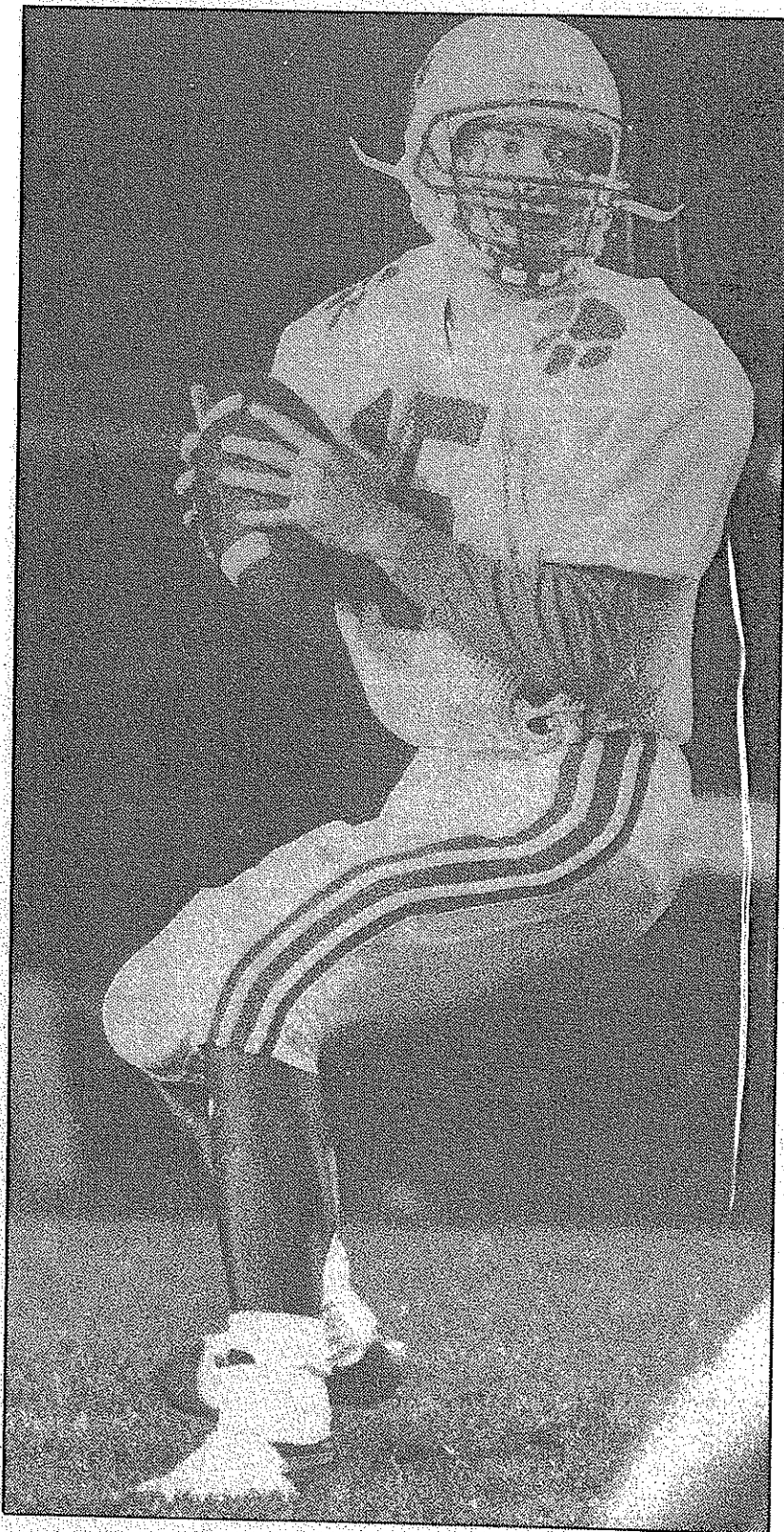
"When we loaded the bus we made sure that Brandon was on it because the rest just follow his lead. The opposing coaches felt the same way. He was the most respected player that has ever come through here in all of my thirty years."

"Greg was a football 'phenom'.....playing both middle LB and QB says it all. It can only happen at Beechwood and he was Beechwood for four years!"

I nominate them without reservation and with strong conviction to be part of the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

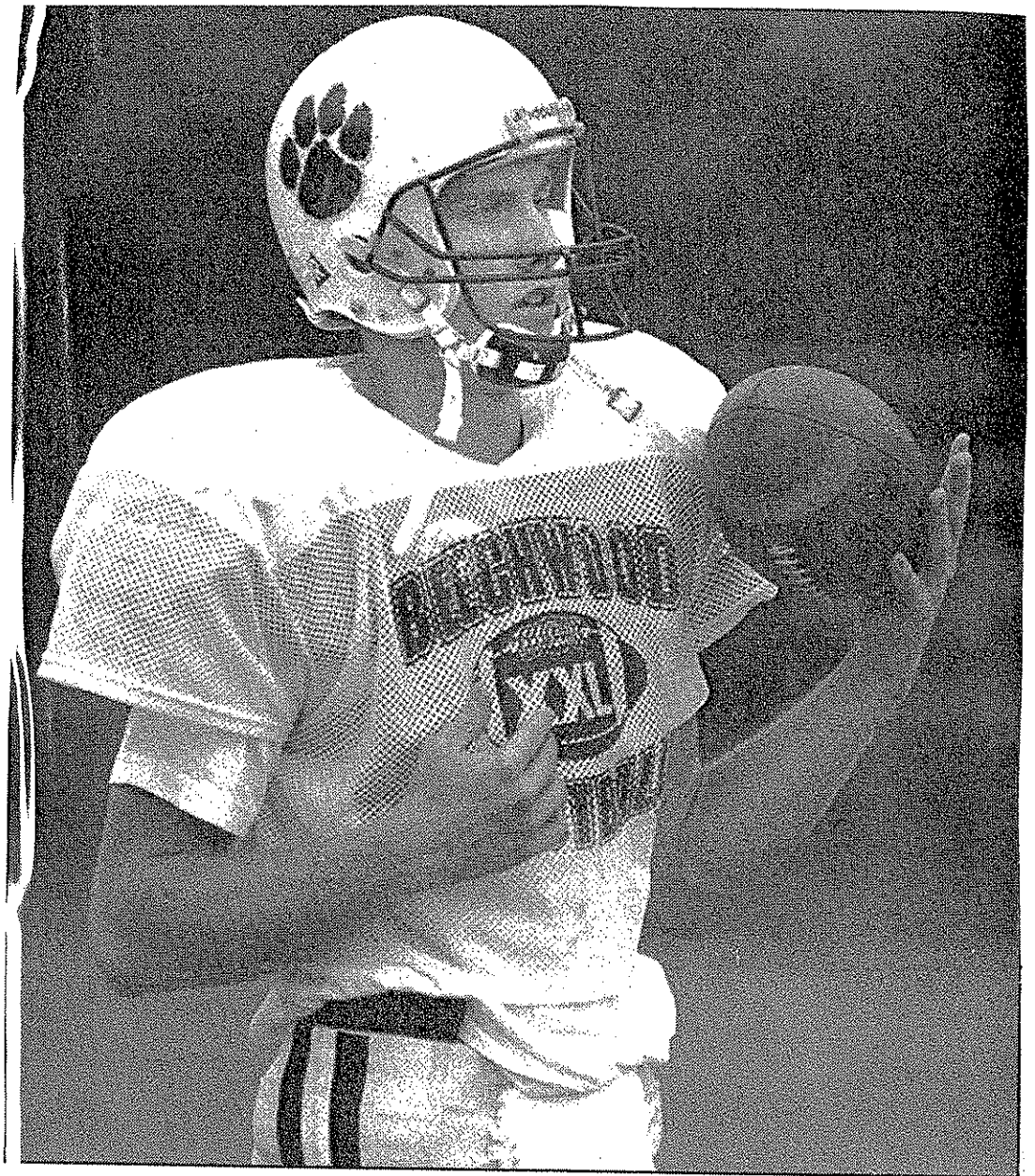
Sincerely,

Ben A. Zimmerman Jr.

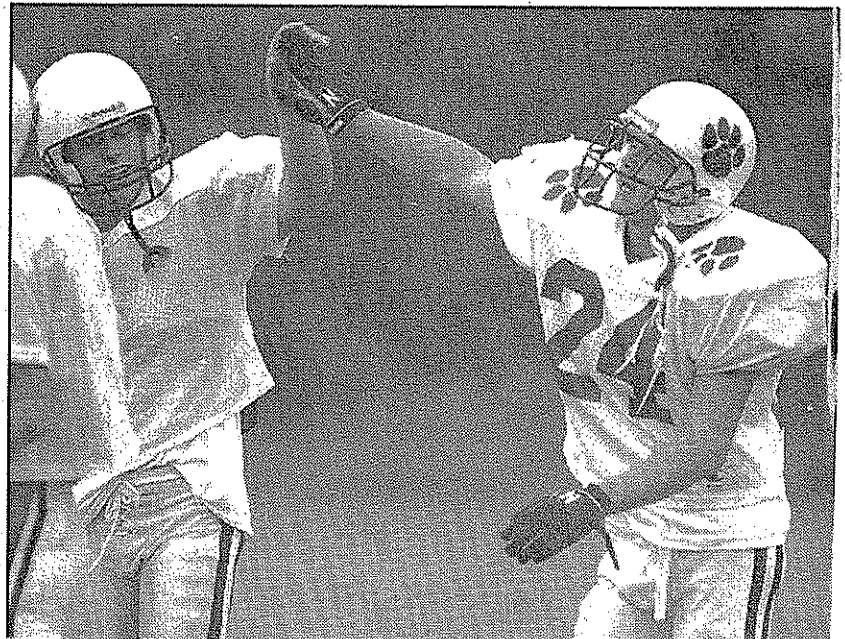


RICHARD PRIDEMORE/The Kentucky Post

Beechwood quarterback Greg Hergott looks downfield for a receiver in his team's 49-23 victory over Lloyd.



TOP: Quarterback Greg Hergott and his fellow Beechwood seniors are aiming to do what no one in Kentucky has done before: win four state football titles. **RIGHT:** Funning back Bret Brockhoeft, another senior, leads a strong Tiger ground game.



The Cincinnati Enquirer
Michael Snyder

Beechwood flying high

Hergott leads Tigers past Dayton, 44-14

BY RAY SCHAEFER

Enquirer contributor

Knowing Beechwood quarterback Greg Hergott is the key to the Tiger offense is one thing.

Stopping Hergott is more difficult.

Dayton learned that lesson Friday. Hergott ran for one touchdown and threw for three more to lead the Tigers past the Greendevils, 44-14, in a Class A district game at Davis Field in Dayton.

Hergott, who finished with 116 yards Friday, says he doesn't care that his passing statistics are down.

"We . . . like to come out and establish the running game," Hergott said. "I really haven't thrown that many passes all year, but it doesn't bother me because we're winning football games," he said.

"The only thing Greg cares about is winning," said Beechwood coach Mike Yeagle. "That's why Greg's doing what he's doing, and that's why we're where we're at. It's a team game, and stats mean absolutely nothing."

Dayton (5-2) came into the game with Northern Kentucky's stingiest defense, giving up 173 yards a game. Beechwood had 179 by halftime.

"We played the best team in the state, so that can conceivably happen," said Dayton coach Dan Ridder. "Their speed's a lot stronger than ours, and if you can't match up with that, it's going to be a hard night."

Dayton didn't, and it was.

The Tigers (7-0) needed just two plays to score their first touchdown. Junior Jeff Lubrecht started the drive with a 17-yard run, and after a holding call put the ball at the Dayton 45, Hergott and Brett Brock-

(Please see TIGERS, Page D6)

Beechwood players used to winning

BY RAY SCHAEFER

Enquirer contributor

FORT MITCHELL — Don't bother telling the Beechwood Tigers about their 20-game winning streak, No. 1 ranking in Kentucky's Class A or the drive for a record fourth straight state title.

They're well aware of all that.

The Tigers travel to Paris (10-2) on Friday for the Class A quarterfinals, yet they're not worried a bit. Senior running back Brett Brockhoeft has gotten used to playing — and winning — in November.

"It sounds kind of bad, but it seems like a tradition," Brockhoeft said. "To me, ever since I've been here, it seems like that's what we have to do is to win."

"We're very happy right now," said coach Mike Yeagle. "We're the only team in Northern Kentucky in Class A football that's still playing. We've come out of a great district up here. Right now we're happy, we're excited."

With good reason. Beechwood (12-0) has:

► Scored 101 points and surrendered just 15 in victories over Bath County and Lloyd.

► Won 17 straight playoff games.

► Racked up 478 yards in total offense against Lloyd last week.

Quarterback Greg Hergott said the magnitude of what has happened has only now begun to sink in, if only a little.

"It's been in the back of our minds all year what we're going for," he said. "But now that we're in the third round of the playoffs, we know if we win two more that we're going to be down there (in Louisville) playing for our fourth straight."

All of which has caused Paris coach David Buchanan some concern. He said stopping Hergott is his top priority.

"First thing I'd have to say, they have a great football team overall," Buchanan said. "Greg Hergott is an exceptional talent, he's probably the most outstanding on a very good team. We think he's more dangerous when he pulls the ball down. (Running back Jeff) Lubrecht and Brockhoeft, they've got outstanding speed."

Paris tailback Vincent Clark scored three times in last week's 39-14 victory over Newport Central Catholic, including a 59-yard fumble recovery and a 56-yard interception return.

The defense also forced seven New-Cath turnovers.

"(Quarterback) Cory Dumphord and Vincent Clark, they have tremendous athletic ability in the open field," Yeagle said. "And we've got to get to the football, we've got to grab cloth and get more than one guy to the point of attack."

"(Clark's) hard to tackle," Buchanan said. "He runs low to the ground, he's got speed and power."

THEY MEET AGAIN

Beechwood's road to fourth state title will go through Pikeville, as usual

BY RAY SCHAEFER

Enquirer contributor

It's the suburbs versus the mountains.

It's a battle between two Kentucky high school powers.

It's time to renew the Beechwood-Pikeville feud. The Tigers and Panthers meet again tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Pikeville in the Class A semifinals. Beechwood, the three-time defending champion, is bidding for a Kentucky-record fourth straight state title. Only two other teams, Pikeville (1987-89) in Class A and Louisville Trinity (1988-90) in Class AAAA, have won three in a row.

"I think we're always out to prove something," said Beechwood senior running back Brett Brockhoeft.

"We're a defending champion, so we have to."

Inside

Boone County, Covington Catholic continue their state title quests. **B4.**

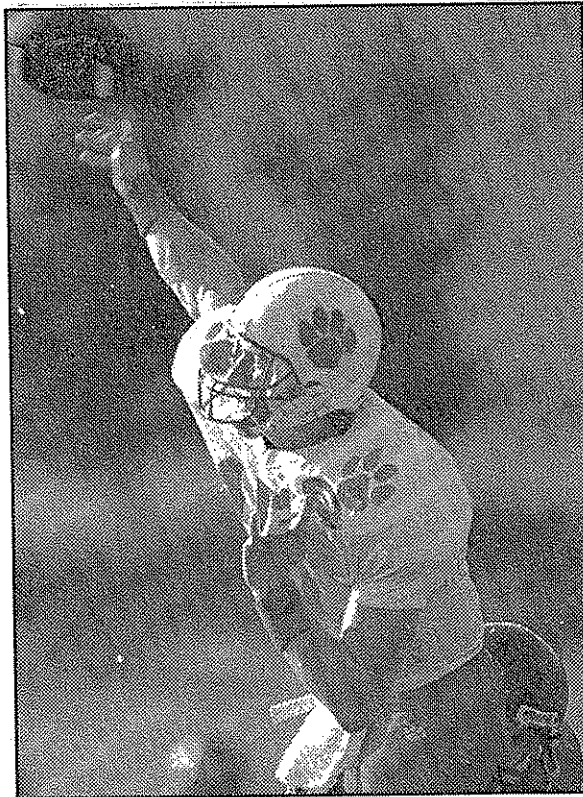
Girls basketball preview

Outlooks and rosters for Northern Kentucky girls basketball squads. **B5.**

"I think (we're) getting better each week," said Beechwood coach Mike Yeagle, "and that's all you can ask. The emotion's there right now. I still see a lot of hungry boys out on the practice field."

The emotions run just as high in the Appalachian Mountains.

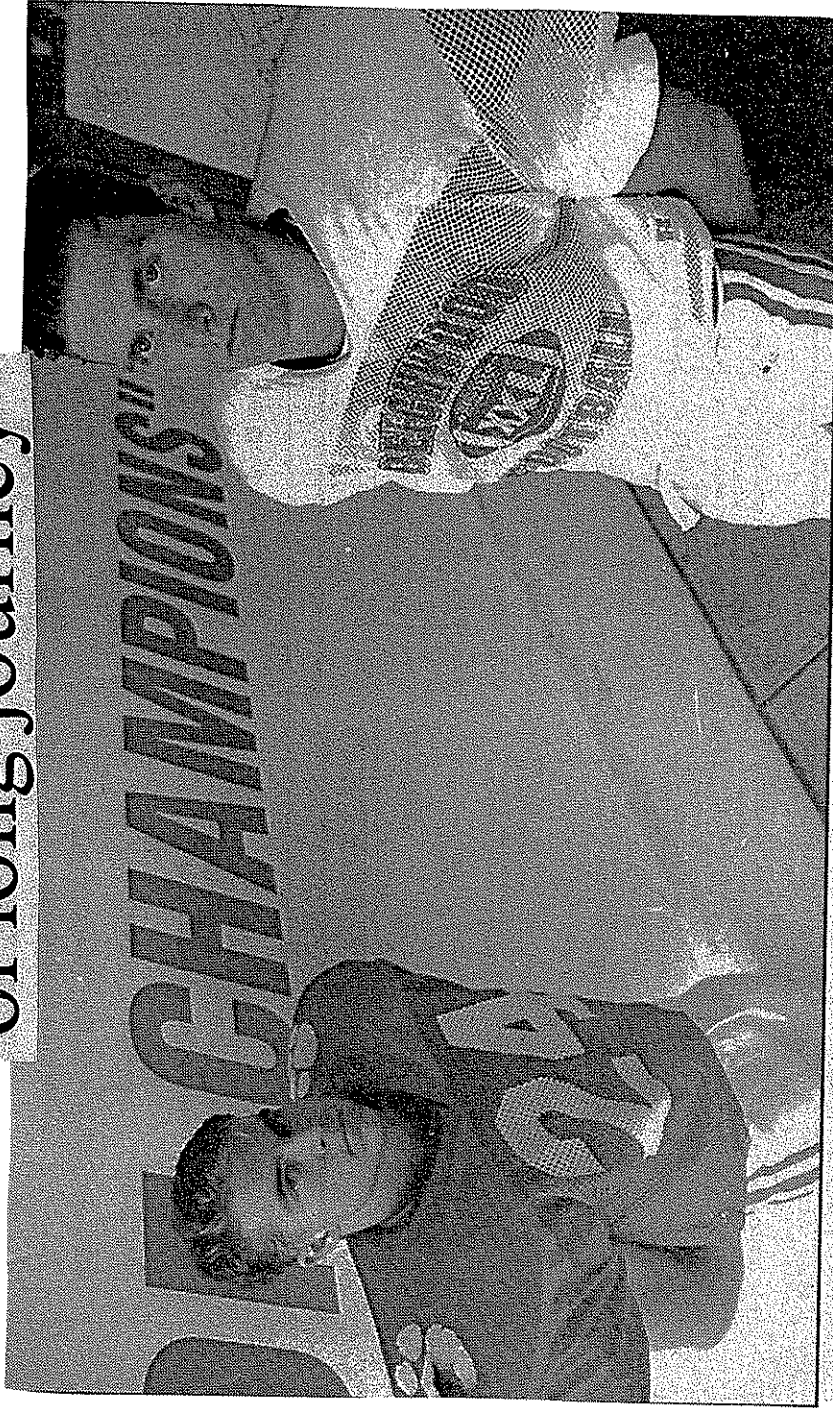
(Please see **BEECHWOOD**,
Page **B4**)



The Cincinnati Enquirer/Tony Tribble

Beechwood quarterback Greg Hergott has plenty of weapons in his backfield, but he'll go to the air when necessary.

Tigers: This duo nearing the end of long journey



Brett Brockhoeft, left, and Greg Hergott have been a prominent part of Beechwood's winning tradition. The Cincinnati Enquirer/Craig Ruttle

Beechwood duo near end

Hergott, Brockhoeft go way back together

BY RAY SCHAEFER

Enquirer contributor

Beechwood quarterback Greg Hergott recalled Tuesday the first time he saw teammate Brett Brockhoeft in a football game.

Both were seventh-graders, and Hergott's Fort Mitchell Spartans were playing Brockhoeft's Bengal Tigers of Covington. "We were keying to stop him because he was the best athlete on their team," Hergott said. "I think we shut him down that day."

Not many high school teams can make a similar claim.

Hergott and Brockhoeft play their final high school game in the state Class A finals in Louisville against Murray, and they are two of the biggest reasons the Tigers are going for a record fourth straight title.

Brockhoeft said he's relied on Hergott for much of what he's done on

offense. "I respect his arm strength and when he can run," he said. "I believe in him, and I think he can do whatever he wants to do."

Hergott says coaching against Brockhoeft would be a nightmare.

"I think I'd be afraid of everything he can do on offense," he said. "He can run the ball, he can catch the ball. He's got exceptional speed and great moves. . . . He runs back kicks, he does everything on offense for us."

The 6-4, 198-pound Hergott comes into Friday's game with a 63.4 percent completion rate, and he has thrown for 1,816 yards, 13 touchdowns and an average of 25.6 per completion.

Beechwood coach Mike Yeagle said Hergott's biggest improvement over the years is his mental grasp of the game.

"He makes much better decisions, plus he's gotten bigger and stronger," Yeagle said. "I would like to think I helped him with the mental part, but the physical part he earned in the weight

room."

Brockhoeft, though just 5-9 and 182 pounds, has been spectacular everywhere else. He has:

► Rushed for 1,142 on 124 carries for an average of 9.2 yards per carry.

► Caught 20 passes for 538 yards.

► Scored a team-leading 24 touchdowns.

► Returned eight kicks for 170 yards, an average of 21.2 yards per return and seven punts for 89 yards and a 12.7 yard average.

► Recovered two fumbles and intercepted two passes as a defensive back.

Beechwood coach Mike Yeagle is certain the Tigers wouldn't be in Louisville without both Hergott and Brockhoeft.

"(Hergott) works harder on the practice field than any kid I've ever had," Yeagle said. "He's a tremendous leader, he's got a great work ethic. He's just the absolute everything you ever wanted out of a quarterback."

"Brett at any time and any place can explode," Yeagle said. "He's a tremendous athlete. It seems like the bigger the game, the better he plays. He's been like a son to me."

Hergott came to Beechwood as a fifth-grader, and Brockhoeft arrived three years later.

"We knew of each other," Brockhoeft said. "We played a little softball league one time, that's how I got to know him before I came to Beechwood."

"I knew who he was, but I really didn't know him," said Hergott. "Eighth grade, I started to know him, and then once we got into high school football we became good friends."

Brockhoeft said one of the biggest plays of his Beechwood career came last week's semifinals, when he recovered a Pikeville fumble with 1:45 left in the game to save a 23-17 win. "It felt the best because I knew after that the game was over," he said. "It was a lot off my chest."

Hergott credits Brockhoeft for preventing some of his passes from becoming interceptions. He remembered a particular play in the quarterfinals against Paris two weeks ago.

"Paris' safety went up, and I think he had the ball, and Brett came and took it away from him," Hergott said. "He's made some catches to save me a lot of times, I'm glad he's on my team and not on the other team."

Hergott is headed for the University of Kentucky next fall, but he's still going to miss high school football.

"I'm going to be playing in college next year, but it's not going to be anything like high school," he said. "High school has been some of the most fun times in my life, these last four years."



JIM OSBORN/The Kentucky Post

With Tommy Hergott as a coach and his brother, Greg, as quarterback, the Beechwood Tigers will try to make Kentucky prep history by winning a fourth consecutive state championship.

State's top seniors leave record legacy

BY MARK STORY AND MIKE FIELDS

HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITERS

It was a history-making season for Kentucky high school football, and the history-makers assured themselves of a place on the Herald-Leader's third annual "Class of the Commonwealth" — our compilation of the top 22 senior football players in the state.

The all-star squad had to include these seven players:

■ Male quarterback Chris Redman, who set a national record for touchdown passes in a season with 57. He also set a national record by throwing for eight touchdowns *in a half*. Redman did it twice.

■ Boone County tailback Shaun Alexander, who scored a state-record 54 touchdowns this season and 110 in his career.

■ Bullitt East receiver Jason

On Pages C10-11

- Meet the Class of '94.
- Class of '93: Where are they now?

Reynolds, who caught a state-record 96 passes this year and 227 in his career.

■ Bullitt East quarterback Brandon Egan couldn't match Redman's touchdown total, but his 48 scoring passes would have been a state record any other season.

■ Trinity linebacker Shawn Johnson and lineman Brian Hemmerle helped the Shamrocks win an unprecedented 12th state title.

■ Beechwood quarterback Greg Hergott helped the Tigers become the first Kentucky school to win four consecutive championships.

CLASS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

The top 22 high school football seniors in Kentucky

Shaun Alexander	Boone County
Kinte Bess	Danville
Brad Centers	Boone County
Chris Cheaney	Murray
Cory Dumphord	Paris
Brandon Egan	Bullitt East
Thomas Graham	Lou. Central
Ibn Green	Male
Rodney Ham	Fern Creek
Brian Hemmerle	Trinity
Greg Hergott	Beechwood
Ryan Hill	Webster County
Shawn Johnson	Trinity
George Massey	Cumberland
Larry Morris	Prestonsburg
Sean Oliver	Covington Catholic
Eric Witherspoon	Middlesboro
David Raeuchle	Lou. Holy Cross
Chris Redman	Male
Jason Reynolds	Bullitt East
O.T. Todd	Russellville
Craig Yeast	Harrodsburg

GREG HERGOTT QB/LB, BEECHWOOD

■ **Height, weight:** 6-4, 195

■ **Credentials:** Hergott did not throw the ball nearly as much as more acclaimed quarterbacks Chris Redman and Tim Couch, but few threw the ball more accurately. And no quarterback won more.

Hergott completed 64.4 percent of his passes (76 of 118) and accounted for 1,927 yards and 14 touchdowns. A versatile athlete, he also ran for 460 yards and 13 touchdowns and was a standout linebacker.

Hergott was a member of four straight Class A state champions, and the starting quarterback on three. He ended his career on a 24-game winning streak, with a



record as a starter of 39-4.

"Greg's record speaks for itself," Beechwood Coach Mike Yeagle said. "The kid's an absolute winner."

Hergott, a 3.2 student who has qualified to play as a freshman, committed to Kentucky Sept. 17. He turned down scholarship offers from Indiana, North Carolina State, Miami of Ohio and Akron. Penn State was also evaluating him.

And throughout UK's dismal 1-10 season, Yeagle says Hergott never wavered in his commitment.

"Never. He is so proud to have the opportunity to play for his home state," Yeagle said. "He believes in Coach (Bill) Curry. He believes in Kentucky."

**THE 1994 ROY KIDD
HIGH SCHOOL
PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

CLASS A

**Greg Hergott, Beechwood High School
Quarterback**

Greg passed for 3,652 yards, completed 57% of his passes, and threw for 27 touchdowns in his career for the Tigers. In his career he averaged an outstanding 21.3 yards per completion and in his senior season led the state in passing efficiency. In addition he has led Beechwood to the State High School Championship, rushing for a total of 1,520 yards. Greg was a member of the 1991, '92, '93, and, 94 state championship teams.

Greg Hergott Beechwood (1991-1994)

Greg Hergott enjoyed a tremendous career at Beechwood High School in both basketball and football for the Tigers.

Hergott lettered three years in football and basketball for the Tigers.

He also lettered two years in baseball for Beechwood.

Greg in basketball played point guard and helped lead his team to the Northern Kentucky Athletic Conference Championship in 1992-93.

In baseball he played shortstop, third base and first base and helped his team to the 1993 Regional Tournament.

Football though is where Hergott enjoyed his greatest success and accomplishments.

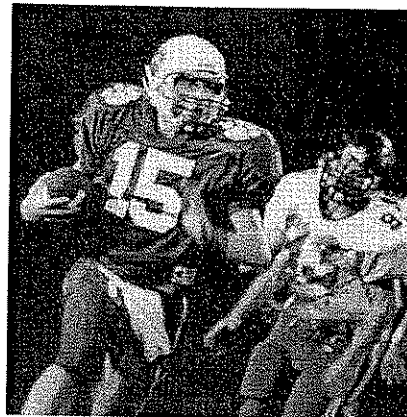
Perhaps his greatest high school football accomplishment as having the distinction of playing on four consecutive State Championship teams for the Tigers.

During those four years Beechwood compiled an overall 54-4 record as one of the most successful programs in Northern Kentucky.

Hergott, as a sophomore leader for the Tigers, became the teams starting quarterback and remained in that position for three years and guided the team to a 39-4 mark and three State Titles.

If that wasn't enough to do, Greg in 1993 and 1994 also played on defense as a linebacker.

The sophomore was All-NKAC and All-District. As a junior he was All-District, All-NKAC and Honorable Mention All-State as a quarterback.



Greg Hergott #15

He rushed and passed for over 1,000 yards.

As a Senior was All-District, All-Region, and 2nd Team All-State.

Hergott led the state in passing efficiency averaging 25 yards per completion. He was named Class A "Player of the Year," and was a finalist for the Ky. "Mr. Football Award." He was a member of the NKAC Top 24.

Greg was a team captain and MVP of the 1994 State Champion team a finalist for the LaRosa's "Male Athlete of the Year Award." He was a "Class Of the Commonwealth" Top 22 Pick statewide and was starting quarterback in Kentucky—Tennessee All Star game. Greg finished with 3,810 passing yards, 31 touchdowns and 1,710 yards rushing and 25 touchdowns.

He played 1 year at UK and four at UC. He is in 5th year as Beechwood's Offensive Coordinator.

