

## **A History of the Twin Valley League 1996-2007**

The Twin Valley League arguably has become the most powerful small school league in the State of Kansas in a short period of time. Known throughout the state for its powerful athletic accomplishments, the TVL also more than holds its own in both the field of academics and in the arts. Thirteen schools comprise the Twin Valley League. Axtell, B&B-Baileyville, Bern, Blue Valley-Randolph, Centralia, Clifton-Clyde, Frankfort, Hanover, Linn, Onaga, Valley Heights, Washington and Wetmore.

The origins of the Twin Valley actually date to 1993. Its formation was a result of declining enrollment and the decisions of several Nemaha Valley League and Blue Valley League schools to move from 11-man to 8-man football schedules. Centralia, Onaga and Frankfort continued to remain playing 11-man football in the Nemaha Valley League. Clifton-Clyde, Valley Heights, and Washington played 11-man football in the Blue Valley League. In order to have a more meaningful football league, the six schools playing 11-man football decided to form their own football league. This league, called the Twin Valley League, existed for two years during the 1994 and 1995 football seasons.

In 1994, the administration of the six, 11-man football schools began discussing the idea of forming a league, which would involve all sports and activities. Thus, in the fall of 1994, discussions began on the possible formation of a thirteen school "Northeast Kansas League." The league would invite all schools that were members of the Blue Valley League and Nemaha Valley League to consider possible scenarios for bringing the two leagues together under one entity.

Dave Zumbahlen, President of the Nemaha Valley League and John Bergkamp, President of the Blue Valley League began organizing the possible merger of the two leagues by polling each school to determine the interest in such a merger. In the fall of 1995 the first meetings were held to implement the official formulation of a new league. Dave Zumbahlen of Centralia served as Chairman of the meetings between the two leagues.

It was soon determined that all thirteen schools had agreed to form a yet unnamed thirteen-member league. Committees were chosen to develop a league constitution guiding the administration of all activities sponsored by the league. A vote by the students of all thirteen schools led to the current name, Twin Valley League.

The Twin Valley League's first year of participation began in the fall of 1996. Immediately the TVL made an impact on the activities sponsored by the Kansas State High School Activities Association. Frankfort won the first TVL state championship in the 2A-1A football playoffs during the fall of 1996. Four TVL teams took State Championship runner-up trophies home the fall and winter of 1996, Blue Valley in 8-man Division I football, Centralia girls in Class 1A volleyball, and basketball, and Hanover girls in Class 1A cross-country. Two more state championships were added, one by Washington's girls in Class 2A track and field and one by Bern's girls in Class 1A track and field in the spring of 1997.

The league's athletic and academic power is staggering by small school standards. Since the fall of 1996 the Twin Valley League schools have won an unbelievable **28 State Championships, 33 State Runner-ups, 16 third place trophies and 17 fourth-place finishes.** This accounts for a total of 94 top four-state championship places in KSHSAA sponsored activities in just ten years.

### **Girls State Accomplishments in Basketball:**

1997- Centralia-2<sup>nd</sup> Place in 1A

-Bern lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 1A

-Blue Valley lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 2A

1998-B&B-2<sup>nd</sup> Place in 1A

-Bern lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 1A

-Valley Heights-3<sup>rd</sup> in 2A

1999-**B&B-1A STATE CHAMPIONS!!!**

-Bern 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 1A

**2000-CENTRALIA-1A STATE CHAMPIONS!!!**

- B&B 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 1A
- Valley Heights lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 2A

2001-B&B lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 1A

- Valley Heights lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 2A

**2002-CENTRALIA-1A STATE CHAMPIONS!!!**

- Onaga lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 2A

2003-Centralia 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 1A

**2004-CENTRALIA-1A STATE CHAMPIONS!!!**

- B&B 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 1A

2005-Wetmore 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 1A

- Onaga 4<sup>th</sup> place in 2A
- B&B lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 1A

2006-Hanover lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 1A

2007-Centralia 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 1A

- Blue Valley 4<sup>th</sup> place in 1A

**Boys State Accomplishments in Basketball:**

1994-Centralia 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in 1A

1995-Centralia 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in 1A

1997-Centralia-3<sup>rd</sup> place in 1A

- Bern-lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 1A
- Clifton Clyde lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 2A

**1998-HANOVER-1A STATE CHAMPIONS!!!**

**1999-HANOVER-1A STATE CHAMPIONS!!!**

- Frankfort 4<sup>th</sup> place in 2A

2000-Hanover 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 1A

- Frankfort lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 1A
- Washington lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 2A

2001-Hanover lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 1A

- B&B lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 1A
- Washington lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 2A

**2002-CENTRALIA 1A STATE CHAMPIONS!!!**

- B&B lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 1A

2003-Hanover 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 1A

- Bern lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 1A

2004-Frankfort 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 1A  
-Centralia lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 1A

2005-Centralia lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 1A

2006-B&B 4<sup>th</sup> place in 1A  
-Centralia lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 1A

2007-Frankfort 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 2A  
-Centralia 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 1A  
-Hanover lost 1<sup>st</sup> round in 1A

**Past Twin Valley League Basketball Tournament Champions**

<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>
1997: Centralia	Clifton-Clyde
1998: Centralia	Valley Heights
1999: B&B	Linn
2000: Centralia	Centralia
2001: Centralia	Bern
2002: Valley Heights	Centralia
2003: Centralia	B&B
2004: Wetmore	Frankfort
2005: Centralia	Centralia
2006: Centralia	Frankfort
2007: Bern	Centralia