

Defense | All-North Suncoast football



LANCE ARAM ROTHSTEIN | Times

Defensive Player of the Year Mike Fields, Nature Coast, Jr.

Fields became the North Suncoast's premier cover corner thanks to speed, size and talent. His 10 interceptions were enough to lead the state despite playing plenty of competition determined to run the football. Fields shut down one of the state's top receivers in the region quarterfinal in North Marion senior Darius Morgan, who was thrown to six times — five against Fields — but did not make a catch.

Height/weight: 6-0, 150

Significant statistics: Beyond 10 interceptions, Fields logged 58 tackles, 12 pass breakups, two forced fumbles, one fumble recovery and a blocked kick. ... was the Sharks' leading receiver with 398 yards and a pair of touchdowns on just 14 catches, giving him a whopping 28.4 yards per catch. ... had 11 pancake blocks.

Favorite moment: The interception he made against Hernando was worthy of a highlight tape, and probably the one most teammates would point to. He reached behind his head with one hand horizontal, pulling it to his chest for a one-handed interception.

Why he wears No. 7: Fields wanted to wear No. 7 after watching his favorite college player, Ted Ginn Jr., the former Ohio State Buckeye and current Miami Dolphin.

What's next: Fields has one more season, then hopes to get a shot at playing college football.

First team | Defense



DE: Joseph Robinson, Sr.
Land O'Lakes
Big No. 54 collected three sacks along with his 57 tackles.



LB: Ben Perry, Sr.
Ridgewood
The heart and soul of the defense, he finished with 166 tackles and six sacks while also filling in at fullback in short-yardage situations.



LB: Ray Rouch, Sr.
Wesley Chapel
Wildcats defensive leader with 106 tackles.



DB: Ely Payne, Sr.
Land O'Lakes
Arguably the most versatile player on the North Suncoast with six interceptions.



K/P: Alex Spock, Jr.
Land O'Lakes
Led the Gators with six field goals, including a 57-yarder, 26 extra points and 31 touchbacks on 39 kickoffs.



DT: Travis Tindell, Sr.
Hudson
Had 64 tackles and four sacks for resurgent Cobras.



LB: Arron Jackson, Sr.
Ridgewood
Playing in honor of his brother who passed away, Jackson racked up 101 tackles and 13 sacks.



LB: Alex Mathis, So.
Land O'Lakes
Talented linebacker led the Gators with 127 tackles.



DB: Jeff Wright, Sr.
Central
A solid cornerback, he led the Bears in receptions and returned four kicks or punts for touchdowns.



Util: Stephen Pelaez, Sr.
Nature Coast
Amassed 1,389 yards of total offense with seven TDs. Had 49 tackles, two sacks and two interceptions.



DE: Alex Sampson, Jr.
Zephyrhills
He logged 6½ sacks, including 47 tackles, two interceptions and a fumble recovery.



LB: Nathan Brazeau, Sr.
Central
Finished with more than 100 tackles and anchored a defense that allowed 18.7 points per game.



DB: Mike Fields, Jr.
Nature Coast
Led the state with 10 interceptions at cornerback.