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Rothsay Tigers Football Ready For Another Winning Season



Members of the Rothsay Tiger Football team are, left to right, back row - Coach Jamie Nordick, Coach Joe Broemenshenkel, Braden Moen, Paker Keep, Jett Kulack, Tanner Keep, Manager Derrick Pflugsten, Coach Josh Nordick; middle row - Mason Kadel, Tanner Heier, Karsyn Zilmer, Ethan Bennett, Noah Fiedler, Jacob Christ, Thomas Webster; front row - Mark Carrillo, Tristan Gill, Ethan Curtis, Colby Larson, Jackson Cuhel and Gage Johansen.

Kelsey Buchholz
Sports Writer



After finishing with a 7-2 record, finishing runner-up in the conference, and earning the #2 seed in the section last year, the Rothsay Tiger football team is eager to get back on the gridiron and mark their territory as a force to be reckoned with during the 2018 campaign.

Returning for his third year leading the Tiger gridiron gang is Josh Nordick. Back to assist the potent offense and defense are assistant coaches Joel Meyer and Joe Bromenshenkel. Jamie Nordick was also added to the coaching staff this year.

In addition to strong returning coaches, there are quite a few athletic weapons, who have seen considerable playing time, returning to the football field for Rothsay, including five seniors, three juniors

and two sophomores. This includes All-District honorees Jacob Christ and Parker Keep.

Coach Nordick was quick to note that each player brings something different to the team. And those unique qualities will be needed as they Rothsay Tigers look to retool both their offense and defense after losing quite a bit of experience to graduation, including district MVP/All-State running-back Wyatt Curtis, and all-district players Levi Foss and Riley Larson. However, those voids will be quickly filled by eager players, ready to step into the ranks.

"We lost a lot of experience on both sides of the ball," Nordick said. "Our line will remain relatively intact with Karsyn Zilmer and Nick Wiezorek looking to step up on the offensive side, while Colby Larson, Ethan Curtis, and Thomas Webster will split carries to compensate for losing three running backs."

Some of those same players, specifically Curtis, Zilmer, and Webster, will fill in the gaps of the defensive linebacker crew.

Despite some new faces and new roles on both sides of the ball,

Nordick has confidence in his team. "We should be good on offense as we can stand behind our strong offensive line with some speed in the backfield."

The defense also has the potential to lock it in like it did last year but a few more new faces will require a bit more work to get back to where they were.

Helping lead the way and promote the positive, hard-working culture of the Tigers are a few key players.

According to Nordick, "Parker Keep brings experience and size to the line of scrimmage." This will help break in a few new players and continue to protect the quarterback, allowing plays to fully develop.

"Jacob Christ brings strength and tenacity. Colby Larson brings speed and quickness. Braden Moen brings dedication and intelligence."

This combination of athletic ability, mental strength, and leadership serves as a great base for continuing to build the Tiger football program.

Rothsay hopes to "continue to develop younger players and be role models for other students," said

Nordick. That solid foundation needs to be continually laid to keep the program on its upward swing. There are almost 20 boys out for football this year and the success they have had will only garner more interest, but Nordick is not just developing players, he is developing polite, hard-working, respectful young men.

By the end of the 2018 campaign, the Tigers want to at least be playing for a section championship, but they know that will be tough. Brandon-Evansville will once again be tough to beat but is not on the regular season schedule for the Tigers. However, Verdale is another stiff competitor. Rothsay will see the Verdale Pirates midway through the season, but will have home field advantage.

To get to their goal of the section championship, it will be challenging for the Tigers, but "most teams got a little better, so it should be interesting to see how it all shapes out," notes Nordick.

The Tigers open their season at Hillcrest Lutheran Academy. Their home opener is September 7 versus Hancock.

Success breeds success—and for the Tigers, the success from 2017 is still fresh on their minds and running through their veins. Rothsay's fighting spirit, strong leadership, and solid foundation will place them in contention every game this season.

Colby Larson	15	5.9	151	55	6.3	147	
Jackson Cuhel	22	5.7	118	Gage Johanson	57	5.7	158
Tanner Heier	25	6.0	195	Tristan Gill	28	5.1	177
Eighth Grade				Mason Kadel	58	5.11	174

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Seniors			
#	Height	Weight	
Jacob Christ	23	6.0	234
Paker Keep	74	6.6	233
Tanner Keep	67	6.3	186
Braden Moen			
75	6.1	265	
Thomas Webster			
37	5.9	172	
Juniors			
Noah Fiedler	3	6.2	147
Ethan Curtis	7	5.8	168
Nick Wiezorek	65	5.8	213
Sophomores			



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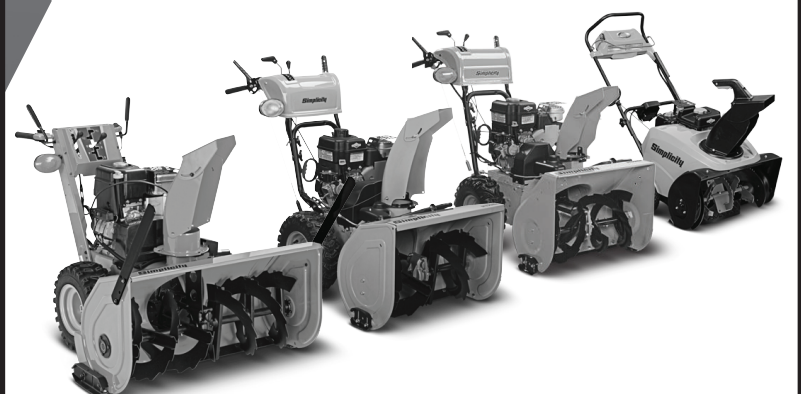
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