



# Trojan Football Support Teams...

A good team is nothing without the support of the behind-the-scenes people. Those people are the ones who put in just as much hard work and dedication, as the team. They endure the long bus rides, freeze along the sidelines and do the running when something is forgotten. The statisticians, cheerleaders and water boys that have supported the Barnesville Trojans football team have been a huge assets to the team.



Keeping the crowd fired up to cheer on the Trojan sideline are cheerleaders, bottom row, sitting - KayLea Berg, Sydney Engel; kneeling - Kylee Engel, Alyssa Lien, Becca Johnson; standing - Micayla Walters, Caroline Redding, Jaclyn Keller and Maura Herberg.



Coaching staff for the very successful 2018 Trojan Football team are, left to right, back row - Assistant Coach Dain Biewer, Assistant Coach Scott Snobl, Assistant Coach Phil Trowbridge; Assistant Coach Ace Gregg; front row - Team Trainer Tessa Martin, Assistant Coach Nate Strand, Head Coach Bryan Strand and Assistant Coach Nick Paur.



Keeping track of every play during games, are statisticians Jacie George, Mattea Gardner, Callie Krause and Madi Sossa.



## 2018 SEASON REVIEW FROM HEAD COACH

# BRYAN STRAND



The 2018 season was another one for the record books. So many great things to celebrate. A terrific group of 13 seniors accompanied by a host of juniors, sophomores, freshmen and even an 8th grader. They set their sights high and worked their butts off the past 12 months to put themselves in this position. What a year it was for sure!

I was assisted by Phil Trowbridge, Nate Strand, Nick Paur, Scott Snobl, Ace Gregg and Dain Biewer. These coaches are seriously the hardest working group around and so wonderful with the kids. They are the best in the area and always give us a leg up on the competition. The staff works well together and each week came up with a strong gameplan. We wouldn't be as successful as we are without them.

The year started on a major downnote, when we lost Jackson Wahl in the 2nd week of practice. Jackson was by far our best running back coming back this year after rushing for around 800 yards last year. He was projected to have a great year. He tore his ACL in practice during the 2nd week. That same Saturday we lost Adam Tonsfeldt to a broken thumb on his throwing hand and would not come back into quarterback spot until week 6. So here we are two weeks into the season and we have lost possibly our best two offensive players. Losing those two seemed like a challenge for the other backs, Nick Detloff, Kellen Hinsz, Chase Brenner and Hunter Anderson as well as quarterbacks Preston Snobl and Sam Askegaard. The injuries made others step up. And step up they did!

We started the year off beating a good DGF team at DGF, which is never easy to do. Came back and beat Frazee in Frazee for week two. We made mistakes in both these games but our defense really kept us in them. In week 3 we were finally able to have a home game when we hosted West Central Area/Ashby. We played a great game, winning 38-14, we were up 38-0 in the fourth and they were able to put up a couple late TD's. Again, kids were starting to figure some things out and the defense played great. We would next play Pelican Rapids and beat them at home 53-0. Offensively we played great and again the defense pitched another shutout. In week 5 we would travel up to Roseau to play. It was a 3 1/2 hour bus ride and to say we didn't play our best would be an understatement. Game was close at the half but in the end we pulled it off for a 32-6 win. We would next have Crookston at home in week 6 and this would see the return of Adam Tonsfeldt at quarterback. It was his first game ever at QB and he did a good job leading us to a 28-0 win over a section opponent. Next up was the rematch of the 2017 Section title game, Hawley Nuggets. It was a very sloppy and muddy field because we got a few inches of snow that week, it would make for a very interesting game, on both sides of the field. It was a hard fought game and the difference was we were 0-3 on 2 point conversions and they made one of their extra point kicks and pulled away with a 19-18 win. Next up was Breckenridge at home for the season finale. I felt we played just well enough to lose this game. We had a lead of 20-14 late in the game when a Tonsfeldt pass was intercepted and returned to about the 25 yard line, a few plays later they would go in to score and kick the extra point taking the lead 21-20. We would have a chance at the end but a pass was deflected off of one of our player's hands and ended up right in the hands of a Breckenridge player, game over. Regular season over, I think we grew and got better as the season went on. Next up Section 8AA playoffs.

We would start the section 8AA playoffs vs Frazee at home. We had played them earlier but I didn't feel we had played well or up to our ability. We came out and played a good first quarter and had a 13-7 lead going into the 2nd quarter. What happened over the next 12 minutes was nothing short of an amazing quarter. We would score 49 points in this quarter, have 3 one play scoring plays, an interception for a score and just about play the perfect quarter. We would take a 62-7 lead into halftime. We played all underclassman the 2nd half and would eventually win the game 74-22. We got Roseau for our Saturday game, again a rematch of an earlier game in which I didn't feel that we played real well. We would have a 19-0 lead after 1 and then a halftime lead of 33-0. We eventually won the game 53-0 to get back to the section 8AA title game vs Hawley. We had a great week of prep leading into the game and we knew there were things we didn't do in our first match up that we could do this time around. It was another great game with the Nuggets. After the first quarter we were ahead 8-7, but Hawley was quick to answer in the 2nd. It was a great back and forth game and at the half the score was 22-14. We would score in the 3rd quarter on a great run by Adam Tonsfeldt of 28 yards, and Hawley would answer late in the 3rd, they would also get a field goal earlier in the 3rd. End of the 3rd quarter score was 28-23. We would add one more in the 4th quarter putting the score at 34-23, and that is where it would end up. It was our 3rd straight title and probably the most rewarding of the past 3. Kids worked so hard for it and really went out and played a near perfect game against a quality team.

In the state AA playoffs we would match up with Section 7, and the winner of that section was Moose Lake Willow River, a very good team. They have won their section title something like 13 of the past 14 years. We would face them on a very cold night in Brainerd. We played a great game, honestly everything that we could do went our way. We would eventually win the game by a score of 40-0, the kids were fantastic again and I still feel like we are getting better and better every week. We would get a trip now to the US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. What a treat for the kids and fans. We would now match up against Minneapolis North, the number one QRF seeded team in our classification. They were big and fast and truly amazing on paper. Our boys just flat out went out there and outplayed them for 48 minutes. The boys truly played a fantastic game, working so hard and at one time in the first half took a 28-0 lead. North would get a TD before the half and a 2 point conversion, at the break it was 28-8. We played a great 2nd half and in the end we would the state semi final game 34-20. This would lead us to a state championship match up with the 3 time defending state champs, Caledonia Warriors. They truly are a great team and very well coached. The kids prepared so hard and came out and fought to the bitter end. We gave up one TD in the first 3 quarters of play in the 2nd quarter when we fumbled the ball inside our 25 yard line and a few plays later they would find the endzone. The score was 7-0 and that is where it would stay until about 4:30 to go in the game, when on 4th and 2 they found the end zone. We would have to take to the air and a pass was picked off and returned for a TD, so in a span of 61 seconds we gave up 14 points. We would now trail 21-0 with under 3 minutes to go. We ran out of time but the boys never ran out of heart. We lost 21-0 but in no one's eyes was it a 21-0 game.

The boys played their hearts out and really were outstanding vs the top team in our class and what some consider the top team in the top 4 classes. We finished as the state runner up and two weeks later I am about as proud of this group as I could be. Hard work pays off and team chemistry is KEY. Great group of boys and a senior class that will be missed.



Helping Hydration Specialist Chad Holland keep the team hydrated are managers, left to right - Daxton Strand, Tyler Friesen, Jaron Peopping and Jacob Strand.

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