

A Look Back At Undeclared And Untied Teams

Making an appearance at the Minnesota State High School playoffs is a dream that every member of a football team thinks about when he straps on the pads for the first time in August. The athlete endures sweltering hot days and two-a-day practice sessions that will completely drain the energy from his body.

But he will arise the next morning and make it to practice on time again to go through every play in the book. In the off-season the athlete will go through conditioning exercises and weight room marathons as he works on strength and speed exercises.

At the end of the season his body will ache from an accumulation of deep bruises that he has acquired over the season. The sweat-drenched, hot practice sessions that were experienced in August and September have given way to rain, snow and cold as the season moves along towards its ultimate goal, a state championship for one team.

For some schools, those who seem to build football dynasties, making an appearance at the state tournament is an annual event. That's not the case with the Barnesville Trojans. In fact, the 2016 football team is one of only four teams in the school's history to compete in a state tournament.

The first BHS football team to play in a state tournament was the 1978 squad. After finishing the regular season 9-0, they went on to win the next two games in the state tournament before losing to Richland-Hartland 48-8 in the finals.

The 2009 team broke a 31-year drought when they became Section 6A champions and earned a state berth. However, the Trojans would only play one game in the Minnesota State High School tournament. The pairings that year had the Trojans face the Minnetonka Vikings in the first round, a squad that won the state championship. Even though they lost 45-17, the Trojans could say they were one

of the eight best teams in the state.

The success, enthusiasm, spirit and pride from the 2009 season continued in to the 2010 season. The "Boys of Fall" gave it their all on the gridiron winning every game of the regular season to become the Northern Plains Conference and Section 6A champions. Unfortunately, the New Ulm Cathedral Greyhounds crushed the Trojans ultimate hopes of a perfect season and the ultimate goal of becoming a state champion. The Trojans only loss of the season was to New Ulm Cathedral by a score of 19-13.

The 2010 team joined some elite and unique company in school history. In the past 60 years, they were one of only four teams that finished the football campaign undefeated and untied. There may have been teams that accomplished this feat prior to 1949, but the school has no record of it and neither does the Record-Review.

What is known is that there were some great teams along

the way that won Heart O' Lakes Conference titles. There were teams that went undefeated, such as the 1951, 1956 and 1959 Trojan squads.

But, those teams did not have perfect seasons since each of those squads had at least one tie for the year. In fact, the 1959 team lost the opportunity to claim the HOL crown after they played three games that wound up in ties. This was before the state high school league implemented rule changes and put an overtime methodology in place that result in one team winning.

The last Barnesville football team that went undefeated during the regular season was the 2016 Trojans. The previous four squads to accomplish this feat in the past 60 years were Trojan teams from 1961, 1978, 2009 and 2010.

This page takes a look back at the historic teams from 1961 and 1978. Refer to page 13 for a review of the 2009 season, and page 16 for a review of the 2010 season.

1961 BARNESVILLE TROJAN FOOTBALL SQUAD



The 1961 Barnesville Trojans HOL Championship football team members are, left to right, front row - Roger Lemke, Jack Hendrickson, Dave Bulik, Arnold Ellefson, Raymond Peppel, Dean Tonsfeldt, Mike Thompson, Keith Carr, Frank Roesch, and Doug Anderson; row two-Jim Hanson, Ted duCharme, Dean Mollerud, Roger Ellefson, Bob Randall, Clair Anderson, Ray Severson, Larry Carlson, Stephen Kunz, and Danny Lien; row three-Michael Peet, Bernard (BJ) Bertram, Jim Schindler, Carroll Larson, Bill Nelson, Kip Emerson, Earl Thomas, Rick Holland, Charlie

Brusven, Norton Peet, Jon Gislason, Jerry Wagner, and Assistant Coach Stan Aldrich; row four-Student Manager Dale Swenson, Curt Rehder, LaVern Swenson, Jon Evert, Bob Lower, Steve Olson, Lawrence Swenson, Tom Noyes, Gary Pender, Cliff Bang, Doug Noyes, Lyle Braton, Norel Dahlen, and Student Manager Pat Collins. Inset - Coach Don Kerlin.

Team Captains-Keith Carr, Jim Schindler, Bernard (BJ) Bertram and Dean Tonsfeldt



In 1961, John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as president; Roger Maris set a new home run standard with 61 four-baggers; and a scruffy British band called the Beatles was playing gigs in Hamburg, Germany, with the

hopes of someday making it to the big time.

And 1961 was also the year the Barnesville Trojans gridiron bunch could not be stopped.

Coached by the legendary Don

Kerlin, the Trojans rolled through the season with eight straight wins.

The average score for the season was an incredible 28-4, or 223 points to 32 points by their opponents. The squad blanked their opponents three times.

Kerlin, a standout athlete for Dilworth High School and Concordia College, steered the Trojans for about a decade in the mid-1950s through the mid-1960s. He went on to coach in North Dakota at Mayville State College and retired there.

The season was a series of victory celebrations. And had there been a tournament system in 1961, this team certainly had a great chance to bring home a state championship trophy.

The Trojans had to be satisfied with the Heart of Lakes championship and simply hung up their helmets and pads and got ready for basketball.

The 1961 Trojans were headed up by four HOL All-Conference players. Keith Carr took care of the lineman assignments while Tom Noyes handled the quarterbacking chores for the Trojans.

The All-Conference backfield consisted of seniors James Schindler and Ray Severson, two of the most prolific halfback scorers to ever wear Trojan uniforms. Both also followed up their athletic careers by earning their doctorate degrees. Of the 223 points scored by the 1961 team, Schindler and Severson accounted

for 134 of them.

Severson at right halfback was the season's scoring leader for the Trojans and the conference, picking up a total of 88 points on the season, 58 of those in conference games. He was a speedster coming out of the backfield who was rarely caught if he broke into the open field. Severson could run the hundred yards of the football field in 10.3 seconds in full gear and for years held nearly all of the Trojan track speed records. Now deceased, Severson became a scientist and chemist, working on numerous projects for the federal government.

While Severson was finesse and speed, Schindler was a smash-mouth running back coming out of the

left halfback position. He carried the ball 192 times for 1,262 yards, school record. He averaged just over 6.5 yards per carry and scored 46 points on the season, 35 of those in conference games.

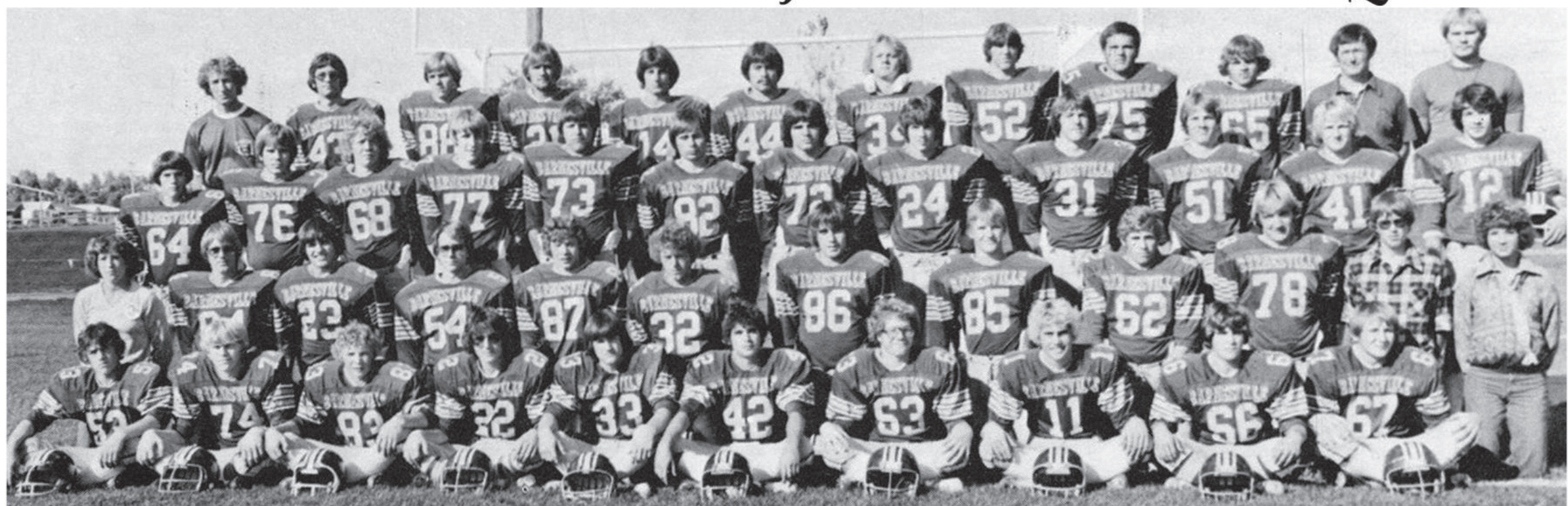
Second only to Severson in scoring in the HOL, Schindler was considered for All-State recognition. He went on to play for the NDSU Bison, graduating in 1966.

Schindler followed his brother Dave as a Rhodes Scholar where he earned his doctorate from Oxford University in England in 1969. He is currently on the emeritus faculty of biological sciences at Clemson University.

1961 BARNESVILLE TROJAN FOOTBALL SCORES

Barnesville.....	35	West Fargo.....	6
Barnesville.....	32	Breckenridge.....	6
Barnesville.....	33	Elbow Lake.....	0
Barnesville.....	28	Hawley.....	0
Barnesville.....	14	Perham.....	7
Barnesville.....	13	Pelican Rapids.....	7
Barnesville.....	34	Frazee.....	6
Barnesville.....	34	Dilworth.....	0

1978 BARNESVILLE TROJAN FOOTBALL SQUAD



The 1978 Barnesville Trojans HOL Championship football team members are: front row, left to right-Gary Olson, Todd Affield, Tom Ishaug, Adam Bernier, DeNell Lanning, Greg Nosal, Mike Manston, Tim Naugle, Mike Wohlwend, Mark Lewis; second Row-Student Manager Sue Griffin, Tim Shulstad, Jeff Halverson, Nathan Megorden, Bill Ishaug, Dave Nygard, Jerry Hennessey, Pete Olsgaard, Perry Thompson, Steve Halverson, Student Manager Scott Staska, Student Manager Julie Cole; third row-Pat

Cox, Steve Hanson, Larry Anderson, Tim Thompson, Kevin Barta, Stal Talsnes, Clay Sweet, Jeff Cook, Rob Nelson, John Kava, Kim Peterson, Eric Ferris; fourth row-Coach Gary Vorachek, Duane Wallace, Gary Martinson, Randy Lemke, Jay Smith, Bruce Hoekstra, Perry Ferris, Todd Stangeland, Pat DePew, Tim Poppel, Coach Larry Anderson, Coach Steve Dibb.

Tri-Captains for the Trojans were Jay Smith, Perry Ferris and Bruce Hoekstra.

The 1978 Trojans defense was made up of some very stingy guys. They might lend you a few bucks for the concession stand, but held fast if you were looking for game points.

Under the tutelage of long-time coach Larry Anderson, this Trojan team went undefeated and untied until their very last game of the season.

Anderson coached the Trojans from the late 1970s into the 1990s. His first years at the helm of the Barnesville Trojans were his most prolific and peaked with this 1978 team.

Up until the championship game, the Trojans scored 327 points. Their opposition was held to a mere 57. The

Trojans averaged almost 30 points per game while giving up just slightly over five points per contest. They posted four shutouts and finished their season with a record of 11-1 after the title bout. They were 9-0 on the regular season and took the undisputed HOL crown.

The Trojan's season ended in the championship match with the highly ranked Richland-Hartland team. In the 48-8 loss, the Trojans gave up almost as many points to Richland-Hartland as they had all season.

The Trojans led the HOL in offense and were second only to Perham on defense. Quarterback Jay Smith had a wealth of runners and pass targets

to assist with the team's many scoring drives.

Barnesville had four of the top 10 HOL offensive scorers on their squad. Bruce Hoekstra scored 52 points during the season, closely followed by teammates Perry Ferris with 46 points and Jeff Halverson and Jay Smith with 38 points each.

Ferris led the Trojan running attack, carrying the ball 95 times during the season for a 6.1 yards per carry average. Smith kept the ball himself 54 times and had a 7.7 yards per carry average. Bruce Hoekstra carried the ball 71 times for a 5.7 yards per carry average.

The 1978 Barnesville Trojan

Football Squad had seven players named to the HOL All-Conference team. They were Ferris, Steve Hanson, Todd Stangeland, Pat DePew, Smith, Hoekstra and Randy Lemke. Ferris was named the conference MVP.



1978 BARNESVILLE TROJAN FOOTBALL SCORES

Barnesville.....	46	Waubun.....	0
Barnesville.....	22	Breckenridge.....	8
Barnesville.....	24	Elbow Lake.....	8
Barnesville.....	38	Hawley.....	0
Barnesville.....	29	Perham.....	8
Barnesville.....	14	Pelican Rapids.....	6
Barnesville.....	28	Glyndon-Felton.....	0
Barnesville.....	58	Frazee.....	0
Barnesville.....	28	Dilworth.....	8
Playoff Game			
Barnesville.....	14	Sartell.....	13
State Semifinal Game			
Barnesville.....	34	Atwater.....	6
State Championship Game			
Barnesville.....	8	Richland-Hartland.....	48