



Trojans Consistently Blanked Gridiron Foes...

2009 Team Marked First Trip To State In 31 Years



The 2009 Barnesville Trojans varsity football team members are, left to right, front row-Student Managers: Andrew Trowbridge, Jimmy Kletsch, Cheerleaders: Jennie Tucker, Amanda Bartelson, Alyssa Schiefert, Kaelyn Blumhagen, Cassie Kramer, Abby Brandt, Mary Schindler, Sally Berg, Bethany Montplaisir, Student Managers: Jonny Kletsch, Brady Martz; row two-Jacob Bashor, Jake Grosz, Leland Volrath, Cory Amundson, Spencer Cook, Zach Buth, Cody Mortensen, Matt Walters; row three-Stuart Brandt, Andrew Stout, John Hagen, Brett Johnson, Caden Summers, Zach Hochhalter, Connor Paul, Tanner John, Trevor Nelson, Andrew Janssen, Brad Halverson, Matt Harris;

row four-Colby Mahar, Jordan Kurtz, Robbie Strand, Adam Garry, Colby Braton, Adam Rice, Jacob Kletsch, Gus Settelmeier, Bryan Praska, Josh Harris, Brady Dokkebakken, Mac Tschakert, Dylan Mahrer; row five-Hunter Olson, Brian Butenhoff, Wendell Rogers, Isaac Goedtke, Dain Biewer, Willie Anderson, Kyle Johnson, Austin Martz, Roman Hedstrom, Kody Bartch, Tyler Olson, Tracy Jerald; back row-Assistant Coach Phil Trowbridge, Head Coach Bryan Strand, Assistant Coaches: Andy McCarty, Tracy Hinsz and Mike Sacrison. Missing are Garrett Nelson, Brad Ellefson, Travis Williams, Luke Nord and Student Manager Caleb Stetz.

In his fifth year as Trojan head coach, Bryan Strand's goal was to build up a team that showed championship-level promise. In their 2007 and 2008 seasons, the Trojans went 7-3 and were more than ready to fulfill Strand's goal. Regular season games were fun for the Trojan fans, but not so much

for the team. Wins were incredibly lopsided with scores like 74-0 and 62-0! The Trojans were doubly fired up for their first game against the Lake Park Raiders, who beat the Trojans in their previous two meetings. In 2009, the outcome was different as the Trojans jumped out to a quick

lead and repelled the Raiders 27-8. The first road game of the season saw the Trojans shutting out the Frazee Hornets 37-0. The first string was able to control the clock in the first half and build a big lead. This enabled the Trojans to bring in their backups so they, too, could get some playing time.

The Blackduck Drakes must have felt more like roasted ducks when they came to town. The Trojan offense hit the field with the heat turned up, scoring 42 points in the first quarter, allowing Strand start subbing early and making it a total team effort. Final score was 74-0. The Trojans' long bus ride to play Lake of the Woods did not seem to affect them as they cruised to a 35-12 victory. Once again, because of the efforts from a strong Trojan offensive line, all of the subs got a chance to play in the fourth quarter.

The next victim was the Walker-Hackensack-Akeley Wolves, who were more like sheep as the Trojans rolled to another no-doubter with a final score of 62-0. Homecoming was sweetened by a victory over long-time rivals, the Hawley Nuggets, also undefeated for the season and also state-ranked. The weather was atrocious, but the outcome was amazing. The 33-16 Trojans victory against the Nuggets was their first since the early 1990s.

Illness and perhaps a little fatigue from the Hawley game didn't stop the Trojans from rolling to a 43-0 conference win against the Bagley Flyers on a sloppy home field. The last 2009 regular season game was icing on the cake. Barnesville capped an undefeated season on the road with a 55-0 drubbing of Pine River-Backus, and they claimed their first outright conference championship title since 1978.



Award winners from the 2009 Trojan football team are clockwise left to right-Jacob Grosz, John Hagen, Spencer Cook, Leland Volrath, Andrew Janssen, Zach Buth, Cory Amundson, Zach Hochhalter, Brad Halverson and Jacob Bashor.

Gaining the number-one seed in Section 6A, the Trojans hosted the number-eight seeded Parkers Prairie Panthers in the first playoff round. The Trojans had little trouble on this night as they took the opening kickoff 78 yards for a touchdown return that propelled

them to a 49-6 playoff victory. Three days of snow and rain preceded the second playoff round game with defending Class A state runner-up Royalton Royals. Momentum shifted from one team to the other, but the Trojans eventually got the upper hand as they ran play after play for short but effective yardage. Late in the game and needing to score to stay alive in the playoffs, the Trojans monopolized the ball in a 16-play, 73-yard drive that ended with a one-yard touchdown run with 37 seconds to go. The hard fought 16-12 victory game propelled the Trojans into the Section 6A championship.

Behind a strong running game and a powerful defense, the Trojans trounced the Browerville Tigers 33-7 to win the Section 6A championship and advance to the quarterfinals of the state football playoffs. Remember the Metrodome? That was the arena in a showdown

between third-ranked Minneota Vikings and fourth-ranked Barnesville for the right to move on to the state semifinals. The Vikings proved to be a worthy opponent, jumping out to an early lead and pretty much controlling the second half to defeat the Trojans 45-17 and end what was an amazing memory-filled season. Behind two-year starter and senior quarterback Spencer Cook was a stable bunch of very effective running backs, including seniors Jacob Grosz and Jacob Bashor. Underclassmen who contributed at this position were Colby Braton, John Hagen, Zach Hochhalter, Austin Martz and Adam Rice. As a team the offensive line rushed for 3,211 yards in 492 attempts, or 6.5 yards per rush. The Trojans greatly outscored their 2009 opponents 481 to 106. The rugged defense held opponents to under 115 yards, on average, during the regular season and 140 during tournament play.

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