

Three Generations On The Barnesville Trojan Gridiron

By Michael Stein

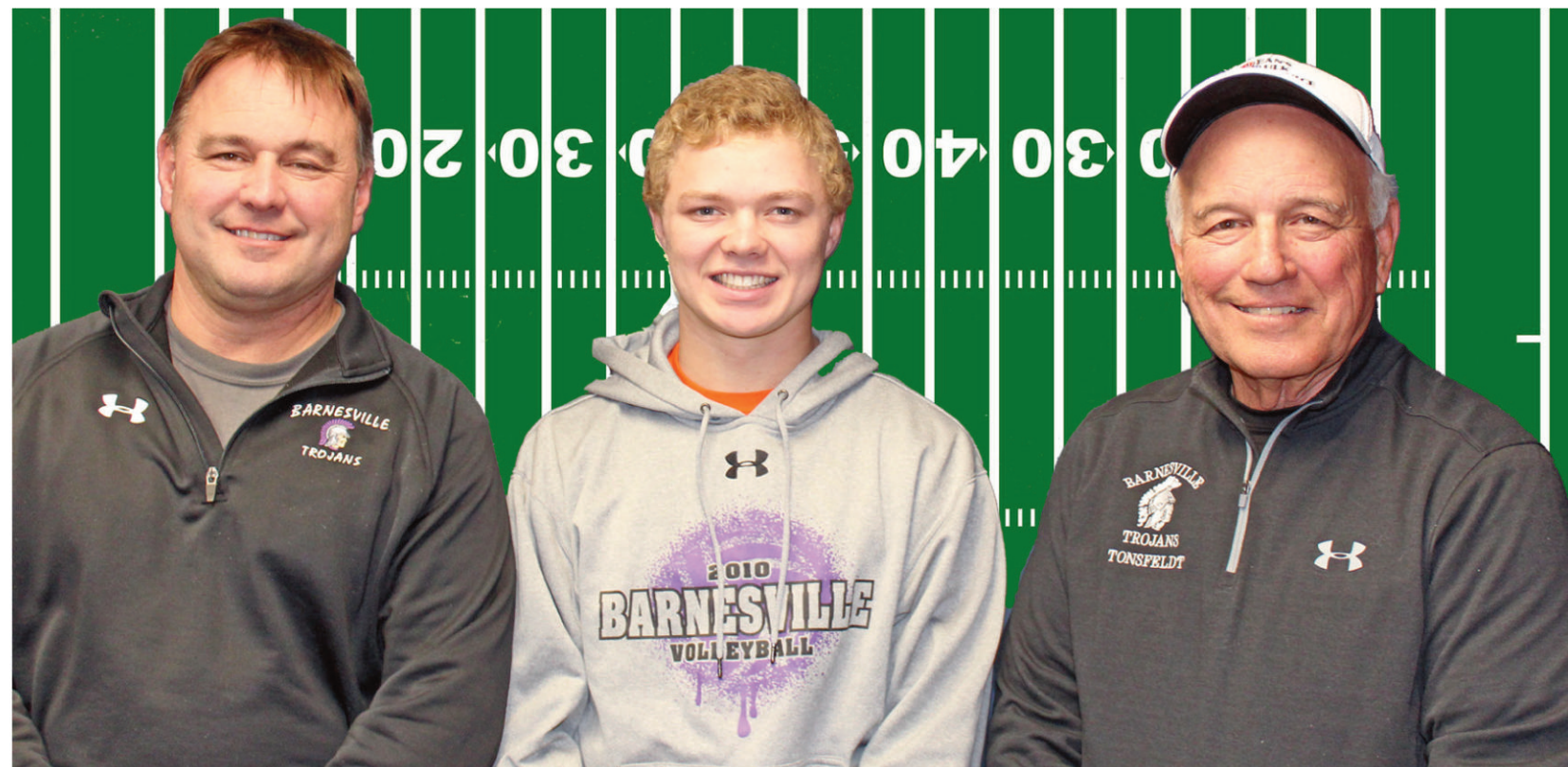
Barnesville Trojan sophomore Adam Tonsfeldt, who took over the quarterback duties during a stellar 2018 season, is proud to be part of a three-generation football family.

Stretching back more than 50 years, Adam's grandfather Dean was part of the unbeaten, untied 1961 team, which had similarities to the 2018 squad.

"We were a running team with a very good quarterback in Tom Noyes," Dean said. "We weren't huge, but we hit hard."

Dean played fullback for a speedy offense. "I also blocked for two very good halfbacks," he said. "The three of us were also on the track team and ran relays together. We lined up in a straight T-formation, which is what the Trojan team used a lot this season."

The '61 team played many of the same core Heart O' Lakes Conference teams as the current Trojan team faces. After defeating Breckenridge, Elbow Lake, Pelican Rapids, Dilworth and others on their



Ryan, Adam and Dean Tonsfeldt make up three generations of Barnesville football players dating back to the early 1960s.

way to an 8-0 record, that was it. Post-season was a concept for the next generations.

"Playoffs weren't part of the culture back then. We just moved on to the next athletic season," Dean said. "I think we might have had a pep rally after the last game."

As they are today, the Hawley Nuggets were a natural rival for the Trojans. And although today's teams play just as hard for the victory, situations back then occasionally got out of hand, as Dean recalls:

"We played Hawley at their field. The lights went out about 10 times. It was a rough, hard-hitting game and we beat them 28-0. They weren't the team we were that year."

The hard-hitting at the line raised emotions and tempers, causing the officials to start tossing players. Dean was an emotional player himself, but his father, who attended every game, warned him to keep things in check—or else.

Dean was on the sidelines for a few moments as the game heated up

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Martinson Never Let Tragic Loss Define Him

By Chris Murphy, The Forum, Nov. 9, 2018

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Tanya Martinson was beginning to get worried. She was waiting for her husband to return from his run, so they could drive to work together as they had always done. Mark Martinson had just received cortisone shots after a hip injury, so he was starting to run again.

Mark had a short and long route for his morning run. Tanya, figuring he was still getting over the injury, decided to drive through his short route. She couldn't find him, so she went back home to get her two sons ready for school.

Brooks Martinson, a senior linebacker for this year's Barnesville High School football team, was 5 years old when his mother pulled into the driveway. He was standing in the window of their home. She got Brooks and his 3-year-old brother

into the car and went looking for Mark on the long route.

Brooks hates to admit he doesn't remember much about his dad, but he will never forget his mother throwing her cell phone against the windshield of the car when they pulled up to the scene of an accident and saw his father's body covered with a blanket in a ditch. He remembers wanting to go see his dad one last time.

Tanya identified the body for police. When she returned to the car, Brooks asked "Is dad OK?" and "What are they doing to my daddy?"

"Who's going to be my daddy now?" Brooks asked when he was told his dad was dead.

Mark was hit by a car and died at the age of 41 while running the morning of Sept. 21, 2006. It was deemed an accident. Tanya to this day even mentions how terrible she feels for the driver.



Despite the tragedy, Brooks has forged ahead.

"He's a kid that has just gotten by with hard work and this bad thing happened to him, but he really hasn't let it define him," Barnesville coach Bryan Strand said. "He's a very sincerely nice kid that works hard."

Brooks is second on the Trojans with 73 tackles, along with three fumble recoveries and an interception this season. He helped lead the defense in the Minnesota Class 2A quarterfinal matchup against Moose Lake-Willow River.

Brooks looks like his dad and has the same quiet sense of humor. Tanya says it was Mark's genuine personality and generosity that she loved. When she was asked for a story that sums up Brooks, she talked about a young neighbor boy, Noah, who is always waiting for Brooks to

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After Memorable Season, Coach Strand Tends To His Health

By Michael Stein

For coaches and players, every season has its memorable moments, highs and lows, and unexpected turn of events.

For Barnesville Trojans head football coach, Bryan Strand, the 2018 season will stand out for its challenges on and off the field.

In fact, last March, Strand had moments when he thought he was going to die. On March 10, while in Rothsay playing Bingo with his wife, Meg, he suffered what he learned was a stroke.

To make a long story short, the following months leading up to the 2018 football season, Strand went through a series of physical and speech therapy. Although he resumed his duties as high school principal and head coach for a team he knew was one of his best, Strand still had numbness on the right side of his face and in two of his right fingers.

The thought of taking a break from the season was never an issue. Coach Strand was determined to be on the sidelines with his coaching staff and team, never losing sight of a goal his players set for themselves: a trip to the state finals at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

"During the season, I knew it was going to be us or Hawley in the finals," Strand said. "They had an outstanding senior class, and they are very well coached."

Before the season even started, the sophomore pegged to be starting quarterback, Adam Tonsfeldt, broke his thumb during a pre-season scrimmage and wasn't able to take that position until the sixth game of the season.

The Trojans got off to a strong start, but stumbled in their last two games, losing to their primary rival Hawley and then to Breckenridge. Both losses were by a single point.

The team continued to battle all



After another successful football season, Coach Bryan Strand will deal with the heart issue that led to his stroke last March.

the way into the post-season and the state final.

"We knew that if we could beat Hawley and be healthy toward the end of the year, we'd get to the state tournament," Strand said. "But it depends on who you match up with to get to the finals."

By the quarter-finals, the Trojans were pumped and primed, beating Moose Lake-Willow 40-0. They went on to the semis and overcome a tough Minneapolis North squad 34-20.

"Our kids went out there and got it done," Strand said. "They didn't make that many mistakes either. Against Moose Lake, it was a good game between two good teams. But it was the first time they'd seen us, which I think helped us."

Strand said his team played better against Caledonia than the 21-0 final score indicated.

"They were big, but our kids hung right with them," he said. "We played them a whole lot closer than the score indicated. Our guys knew what they were supposed to do with their field assignments, and I was very impressed with them. And a lot of that can be attributed to our coaching staff and the hard work ethic of our kids."

The team's work ethic showed itself not long after the state final. Strand said they were right back in the weight room early in the morning.

Once the season was over, Strand turned his attention back to the cause of his stroke, which turned out to be a small hole between the two chambers of his heart.

"It's getting on to be eight months since the stroke," he said just after the Thanksgiving break. "My doctors wanted to do the surgery earlier, but I wasn't going to miss this season. It's not that my staff isn't capable, but for my own sake, I wanted to be

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Despite Pain, Detloff Made An Impact With 2018 Team



Senior Nick Detloff had an amazing year, defensively and offensively, after taking his junior off from football.

By Joel Sipper, The Forum, Nov. 8, 2018

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In the first six weeks of the season, the Trojans had six different combinations in their backfield, but there has been one constant. Barnesville is getting big contributions from a player they didn't expect they would a year ago.

To play football you have to be able to take a pounding. For Barnesville senior fullback Nick Detloff, there was a time the pounding was too much.

"I got hit really hard in the arm and ever since then it's gotten slowly worse and worse. I got it checked out they said there could be slight nerve damage," Detloff said.

After his sophomore year, his injury, school, and a part-time job were among the factors that caused him to not come out for football the next year. Even though he wouldn't play he would still go to games. As he would sit in the stands or be in the halls at school, he'd always hear the same question.

"They'd all come down and ask why are you not playing? Students would too. I'd say I don't know its not really my thing I guess, but it kept eating at me," Detloff recalled.

"He knows the feeling of winning the section championship his sophomore year and we felt it last year. I knew he was going to miss out and regret it," Trojans senior running back Chase Brenner said.

This season Detloff has made up for lost time and fought through his injury despite the pain.

"If it gets hit my whole arm will go numb. So it's hard to feel for the ball, but I still have my strength," Detloff said.

"That nerve was giving him all kinds of problems. I remember against Mengha/UNC running for a touchdown," Barnesville head coach Bryan Strand explained. "He got through and was running 60 yards down the field with both hands on the ball. He was not letting go of it."

No matter the punishment he's faced playing football, you can bet he'll hang on to these memories for the rest of his life.