



Nuggets Looking To Rebuild Starting Line



The Hawley Nuggets Football team members are, left to right, front row-Derian Gerdes, Keenan Syverson, Gavin Mickelberg, Matt Thompson, Marcus Rosing, Nathan Sperr, Carter Langer, Cole Matson, Logan Reiland; row two-Ethan Magnussen, Matt Nelson, Tanner Leister, Nick Groth, Cole Sunde, Justin Koski, Jesse Fox, Braeden Hager, Sam Helgeson, Kaden Murphy; row three-Hayden Grani, Bailey Thomson, Ethan Anderson, Aidan Dahl, Alex Schenck, Darin Kroshus, Carson Brew, Andrew Dahl, Gavin Rodke, Connor Reiland; row four-Sam Burkel, Dalton Flaten, Lance Weiss, Joey Aakre, Wyatt Dunham, Brett Daggett, Jacob Hegna, Gage Matson, Bryant Carlisle, Evan Vetter; row five-Derek Tibbetts, Hunter Baer, Dustin Gerdes, Braxton Boe, Benjamin Geeslin, Shea Hockett, Carter Haugen, Ryan Sperr, Caden Robertson; back row-Kyler Card, Max Ness, Eli Baasch, Caden Larson, Layton Leister, Gavin Knutson and Bradley Olson.

Kelli Frosle
Sports Writer



"The best part of being a coach is the development of relationships that will last a lifetime," said Hawley Nugget Head Coach Peder Naatz.

That sentiment has proven to be successful as Naatz goes into his 20th year as head coach.

"I still really enjoy spending time with the kids in the competitive nature of athletics."

Naatz continued, "There are plenty of opportunities to laugh and enjoy being around one another creating memories and stories for 'old time's sake.' Education and sports are all about developing trust and relationships among people. I feel that the kids and our interactions keep

me feeling young even though I'm losing the look of a young person."

The Hawley Nuggets had another outstanding season in 2018, with an overall record of 9-2 and claiming the White Sub-District championship with a 7-0 mark. Their season ended with a loss to Class AA state runner-up Barnesville in the Section 8AA title game.

The 2019 season will be a tough one to start as the Nuggets lost 17 seniors to graduation. With the loss of that experience, also comes opportunities to claim starting positions.

Key players lost were quarterback Jake Vetter, tightend Noah Glad, linebacker/running back Gunner Lawson, wide receiver Chase Libak and running back Traton Cossette.

Naatz said, "We are hoping to have several players with less experience to step up to the challenge and make the most of

their opportunities."

Lone team captain this year is Derian Gerdes.

Returning starters are Derian Gerdes, Matt Thompson, Marcus Rosing, and Wyatt Dunham.

"Our strength lies in our big fellas," commented Naatz. "We have great size and numbers in our OL and DL areas with those same kids having the bulk of our returning experience. The main weakness at this point is experience at our skill positions and overall team speed. We will have to be able to control the ball and time of possession to be competitive. Our hope is to continually improve throughout the season and challenge for post-season play."

2019 Season Nugget Roster

2	Andrew Dahl	LB	10
3	Cole Matson	WR	12
4	Sam Helgeson	LB	11
5	Blake Manthe	FB	11
6	Nathan Sperr	QB	12
7	Bailey Thomsen	WR	10
10	Cole Sunde	QB	11
11	Carson Brew	WR	10
13	Dalton Flaten	RB	10
14	Hayden Grani	QB	10
18	Kaden Murphy	DB	11
19	Keenan Syverson	TE	12
20	Bryant Carlisle	LB	10
21	Sam Burkel	RB	10
22	Shane Todd	RB	11
24	Aidan Dahl	LB	10
25	Jacob Hegna	LB	10
26	Justin Koski	RB	11
27	Derian Gerdes	RB	12
28	Gage Matson	RB	10
32	Carter Langer	DE	12
34	Jesse Fox	FB	11
35	Darin Kroshus	DL	10
37	Ethan Anderson	DL	10
44	Wyatt Dunham	FB	10
56	Gavin Mickelberg	OL	12
58	Alex Schenck	OL	10
60	Braeden Hager	DE	11
62	Marcus Rosing	OL	12
65	Matt Thompson	OL	12
70	Tanner Leister	OL	11
72	Logan Reiland	OL	12
73	Gavin Rodke	OL	10
74	Connor Reiland	OL	10
79	Lance Weiss	OL	10
80	Ethan Magnusson	TE	10
82	Evan Vetter	TE	10
84	Brett Daggett	TE	10
85	Nicholas Groth	TE	11
87	Joey Aakre	TE	10
88	Matthew Nelson	WR	11

Assistant coaches are Brett Schmidt, Jon Hinrichs, Tim Pederson, Nick Bircham, Aaron Haugen, David Ames and Travis Haugen.

Student managers for the season are Jack Ames, Noah Nelson, Karson Kopacek and Kaden Kopacek.

According to Coach Naatz, Barnesville and Pillager are the favorites in Section 8AA.

The Nuggets have an

impressive alumni squad as 2019 graduate Jake Vetter is currently playing football at NSU in Aberdeen, SD; Ben Ellefson, a 2015 graduate is a tightend for

the NDSU Bison and Logan Alm, another 2015 graduate is the full back/half back for the UND Fighting Hawks.

The Nuggets open the 2019

season with a match-up against long-time rival Barnesville. The Nuggets will host the Trojans on Friday, September 6 with kickoff at 7:00 p.m.

GO NUGGETS



Good Luck, Nuggets!
... and all other area sports teams.

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