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Trojan Football Looking For Second Straight Trip To US Bank



Members of the Barnesville Trojans football team are, left to right, front row - Team Managers Eli Amundson and Daxten Strand, Matt Samuelson, Damian Camperud, Blake Torfin, Hunter Anderson, Connor Morse, Hunter Zenzen, Adam Tonsfeldt, Max Olson, Caleb Ott, Tate Shellito, Team Managers Jacob Strand and Charlie Peterson; Row two - Noah Gray, Blake Anderson, Assistant Coach Noah Brenden, Assistant Coach Nick Paur, Assistant Coach Scott Snobl, Head Coach Bryan Strand, Assistant Coach Dain Biewer, Assistant Coach Ace Gregg, Water Specialist Chad Holland, Assistant Coach

Phil Trowbridge, Assistant Coach Nate Strand, Tanner Kadrmas, Graham Abarr; Row three - Andrew Zajac, Brodee Gray, Brennan Steele, Wyatt Roller, Bryce Krueger, Carter DuBord, Devon Troy, Connor Loeks, Carson Hagen, Aaron Baker, Brikker Bakken, Quincy Morey, Jase Kujava; Row four - William Rotz, Andrew Pederson, Brady Dollison, Peyton Pauna, Logan Yeske, Braden Bredman, Tim Wells, Owen Riddle, Eric Ackerson, Logan Ernst, Isaac Maneval, Max Olson, John Roller, Austin Bolgrean; Row five - Jack Olson, Joey Mark, Cameron Heng, Johnny Robideau, Noah Krause, Ryan

Martinson, Spencer Schumacher, Travis Affield, Tate Inniger, Marcus Paul, Nolan Rick, Joaquin Nelson, Ian Bolgrean;

Row six - Cole Swenson, Jordan Kroll, Wyatt Sutter, Aaron Schiefert, Kaden Zenzen, Brady Kroll, Kason Sytsma, Mason Moen, Toby Elliott, Team Statisticians Brea Hauck, Abby Wells, Grace Olson;

Back row - Katie Quinstorff, KayLea Berg, Kylee Engel, Macalya Walters, Keelin Fitzpatrick, Maura Herberg, Kira Schilling, Krysta Braton, Becca Johnson, Kim Olson and Emerson Biewer. Not pictured is Gavin Grommesh.

Tracy Hinsz
Sports Writer



The Barnesville Trojans had a magical 2018 season, making it to the state championship game, where they battled powerhouse Caledonia for four quarters before coming up short. The 2019 Trojans are hoping to jump on the success of last year in their quest to make it back to US Bank stadium for the third time in four seasons.

Back to lead Barnesville for his 15th season as the head coach is Bryan Strand. Coach Strand has an overall record of 115 wins and 40 losses with last year's team

finishing at 11-3.

The 2018 team was not the favorite to make to the state tournament, but the team gelled and bonded very well as the season played out. They finished 4-2 in the Midwest District-White Division, losing two one-point games to end the season before winning the section championship over Hawley.

The Trojans would go on to crush Moose Lake-Willow River before taking down powerful Minneapolis North in the state semifinals at US Bank Stadium. They went toe-to-toe with juggernaut Caledonia, but could not slay the dragon, succumbing in a close battle.

Strand has guided his team to three straight Section 8AA Conference championships,

making it to US Bank Stadium two times. The goal of this year's team is to keep the tradition going that has been put before them.

"Last year was another outstanding season of Trojan football," Strand said. "We had a very successful team that came together at the right time. The senior class was a fantastic group that worked very hard and bonded together. Every one of those seniors led this team and had a hand in our success as state runner-up in Class AA football."

"We lost a lot of talent with the graduations of Sam Askegaard, Luke Aaudett Chase Brenner, Gabe Dent, Nick Detloff, Kellen Hinsz, Grant Inniger, Brooks Martinson, Jacob Morgan, Jackson Poepping and Preston Snobl. I thank each of them and wish them the very best in their future endeavors. But we have grown a program that has underclassmen ready to step up and help lead our team in 2019. Our offseason weight room work was outstanding. As much fun as last season was, we are looking forward to our upcoming season."

Assisting Coach Strand will be some familiar faces as offensive coordinator Phil Trowbridge returns for a 20th season with Nick Paur and Nathan Strand back to lead the JV and freshman teams.

Volunteer coaches include Scott Snobl, Ace Gregg and Dain Biewer, while the Junior High coaches are Matt Askegaard, eighth grade; Scott Amundson, seventh grade; and Tracy Hinsz, 7/8 grade assistant.

Barnesville returns some talented players for the 2019 season. Senior Hunter Zenzen returns for his final campaign with continued high expectations having played since the eighth grade. He signed to play college football at Iowa State and is looking to lead his team back to US Bank Stadium.

He will be joined by fellow seniors Connor Morse, Hunter Anderson and Matt Samuelson, who were vital in the team's success last season. Morse and Samuelson will anchor the offensive and defensive lines, with Anderson taking on full-time duties at running back and linebacker.

Another prominent player back this season is junior quarterback/defensive back Adam Tonsfeldt. He started last season with a broken hand and did not play right away. When he returned, the offense entered another level with his ability to hide, deceive and run

the football. His vision and ability to make people miss tackles makes him extremely difficult to tackle. He also was a ball hawk, leading the team in interceptions as well.

Other players who saw action last season and are ready to see increased time are juniors Joey Mark, tight end/defensive end and Aaron Schiefert, running back/linebacker. Sophomores Cameron Heng, running back/defensive back, and Kaden Zenzen, tight end/defensive end, are expected to see a much bigger role.

Add in freshman Jonny Robideau who started on the offensive line as an eighth grader and will help out at linebacker as well, the Trojans have a core nucleus that is ready to lead the youngsters into battle.

The roster will include seniors Graham Abarr, Blake Anderson, Damian Camperud, Noah Gray, Tanner Kadrmas, Max Olson, Caleb Ott, Tate Shellito and Blake Torfin. Juniors Eric Ackerson, Ian Bolgrean, Carter DuBord, Toby Elliott, Brady Kroll, Mason Moen, Jack Olson, Marcus Paul, Nolan Rick and Cole Swenson will also vye for playing time.

The sophomore class will include Travis Affield, Brady Dollison, Logan Ernst, Noah Krause, Bryce Krueger, Ryan Martinson, Joaquin Nelson, Peyton Pauna, Wyatt Roller and Kason Sytsma. There are 25 freshmen trying out for the team this season.

"We have a lot of talented athletes returning from last year's state runner-up team," said Strand. "These players have played a lot of minutes and will be expected to step into important leadership roles. Zenzen returns for his final season of Trojan football, and is super excited to get the season going. He is a workout warrior, motivating other players to get into the weight room. Add in seniors Hunter Anderson, Connor Morse and Matt Samuelson, along with juniors Adam Tonsfeldt, Joey Mark and Aaron Schiefert and a few other younger players, we have high expectations for the 2019 season."

Continuity at the youth football levels all the way up through the varsity, has been instrumental in the success the team has built over the last 10-plus years. Players have bought into the Trojan Football tradition with weightlifting, teamwork and cohesiveness.

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