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## Returning Talent Fuels Trojans Boys Track In 2026



The Trojans boys track team members are, left to right, front row-Manager Oaklyn Strand, Bryce Stokka, Parker Sizer, Asher Soland, Camden Sizer, Walter Rotz, Weston Karsten, Cooper Fronning, Jace Meyer, Asst. Coach Nick Paur, Asst. Coach James Rickford; row two - Head Coach Kailee Strand, Jack Martin, Erwin Miller, Riley Morrison, Rueben Green, Braxten Jenderseck, Baxter Rickford, Ryker Klemmin, Collin Grommesh, Brandon Braton; row three - Carson Smith, Parker Strom, Brayden Levenson, Levi Cossette, Eli Amundson, Connor Klemmin, Lane Systma, Owen Thorkildson, Liam Andres, and Davis Johnson.

### By Tracy Hinsz

The 2026 Barnesville Trojans Boys Track and Field Team is off and running in anticipation of a strong 2026 campaign with many returning athletes looking to make their mark.

The Trojans are led by third year Head Coach Kailee Strand who will focus on the Long Jump and Triple Jump with assistant coach Nick Paur working with the Shot Put and Discus. Volunteer coach James Rickford joins the staff and will work with throwing events, with other volunteer coaches including

Carolin Rotz who will work with the Distance Runners and Joe Westbrook who will work with the Hurdlers.

Barnesville has a small roster of 18 athletes out for track and field this season, but a majority of them were important cogs to last year's team.

Back for their senior season are Connor Klemmin, Jack Martin, Bryce Stokka and Lane Sytsma with newcomer Carson Smith joining the team this year.

Juniors include Reuben Green, Collin Grommesh, Brayden Levenson, Henry Rotz and Parker Strom, along with Eli Amundson,

Owen Thorkildson and Brandon Braton coming out to help the squad as well.

Sophomore Levi Cossette is back for another season of track and field and he will be joined by freshman Davis Johnson, Ryker Klemmin, Erwin Miller and Baxter Rickford.

"We have another small team this season and lost a key contributor to graduation in Gannon Bolgreen," said Strand. "Our team will be short on depth and have gaps in some events that will make it hard to place high overall in the track meets we will compete in.

However, with many guys returning this year and some new additions, our second year captains will be looked at to help our team compete in each meet. We have a great group of athletes who put in the work to improve for each day. I feel we are going to see many improvements throughout the season with our team."

The Trojans are looking to their

4x800 Meter Relay team, 400 Meter Dash, 3200 Meter Run, 110 and 300 Meter Hurdles and short sprints to be the events to watch in 2026. The new athletes will be looked to bolster the shot put and discus events and should be something to keep an eye on, as they could provide key points for the team.

Connor Klemmin, Jack Martin, Levi Cossette and Ryker Klemmin will form a strong 4x800 Meter Relay team this season," mentioned Strand. "Klemmin and Martin will also be fierce competitors in the 400 Meter Run, while Cossette should be a strong contender in the two mile run.

Lane Sytsma will be someone to watch in the 110 and 300 Meter Hurdles, with Brayden Levenson bolstering the 100 and 200 Meter short sprints.

I am also looking forward to seeing how we perform in the field events with our new track and field athletes in Carson Smith, Eli

Amundson, Owen Thorkildson and Brandon Braton looking to provide strong competition to help our team, with Amundson also helping make our 4x100 and 4x200 Meter Relay teams stronger.

We look for these athletes, as well as the others, to help us compete in each meet. The athletes are another year older, faster and stronger. We want to see them improve on a daily basis and hope to see them develop as the season progresses."

Coach Strand believes Perham and Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton should be the favorites in the Heart

O' Lakes Conference with Sauk Centre and Osakis favored to win Section 6A.

"A new season always brings new hope and ambitions for the athletes and coaches," said Strand.

"We have three captains in Connor Klemmin, Jack Martin and Lane Sytsma. They are ultra-competitive and lead by example. We may have a small team, but a strong group of competitors from top to bottom. I am looking forward to seeing how we compete from the first meet to the last. It should be a great season."



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