



BEST BUDS Running the read option, Quarterback Reed Muir (8) sprints down the sideline after confusing the other team by faking the handoff to the running back at Crabtree Field against Chelsea on September 17. They ended up defeating the Bulldogs 28-6, helping contribute to their 5-1 season. Muir really valued his relationship with his teammates, and he loved bonding with them throughout the season. "I think that we all came closer during the season and we had great coaching," Muir said. "I loved playing with these guys." **photo by Sarah Yousif**

PSYCH Getting a quick first step, Dylan Mesman (8) runs a route to fake out the cornerback in his game against Dexter on September 8. Mesman's eighth grade blue team defeated the Dreadnaughts with a score of 18-0 at Crabtree Field. "I think this was one of the best seasons we've had because we had a rough season last year and it really woke us up," Mesman said. **photo by Delaney Lee**



Terminating TIES

Stand out players recall their game changing plays at clutch moments



In the final moments of the Tecumseh game on October 15, Donovan Gillow(8) saved the day. Gillow intercepted a throw on fourth down at the 15 yard line to prevent a game tying touchdown. "That was the last game of the season and it was one of my favorite moments of my season," Gillow said. **photo by Sarah Yousif**



With the game on the line, Jackson Hamilton (7) sprinted across the field to score a touchdown that broke a tie game against Adrian on October 1. "This play affected the team because it helped our team stay undefeated," Hamilton said. "I could've never done it without the linemen." **photo by Karli Dorr**

RUNNING TO victory

Players look back on superstitions, influential coaches, and proud moments from the season

content/design by Karli Dorr and Sarah Yousif

The cold, thirst quenching milk glass slammed down on the bleacher. Some players were preparing by running the plays through their heads, but Roman Morrison (7) took a bit of a different approach.

"I am superstitious," Morrison said. "I would always drink milk before every game."

Other players such as Trent Hankamp (8) and Chris Cappello (8) found out what it really meant to improve as a teammate and player this season.

"Last season, I wasn't great at football because I never put the time in," Cappello said. "This season, I learned that I needed to work harder on my position."

"Every time we stepped on the field it felt like we were getting better," Hankamp said.

Players weren't the only ones who made a huge impact this season. Isaiah Gifford (8) truly felt how much a coach could influence him.

"Coach Schwartz had the biggest influence on me," Gifford said. "Coach Welton was great too, but the mindset Schwartz gives you and all of his football knowledge helped a lot."

Football had different meanings and impacts on all the players, and this season really changed some of their views. Not only did they learn more about the sport they love, but they learned how to be a good person outside of the game, thanks to their amazing coaches and reliable teammates.



1) BATTLE FOR THE BALL

Jumping to get the ball, Caid Fox (8) contributes to winning the game on October 9 at Crabtree Field against Dexter. Fox's eighth grade blue team won 40-14 over the Dreadnaughts. "Last year we weren't that good but this year we got better," Fox said. "The coaches, I feel like had an impact on that." **photo by Delaney Lee**

2) PUSHING ONWARD Blocking for his running back, Kai Brown (8) tries to create an open running lane at the game on October 1 against Ypsilanti. The eighth grade gold team finished off the season with a record of 5-1 including a three touchdown performance by Brown at the Monroe game. "I learned lots of new plays this season that helped us win," Brown said. **photo by Ella Martino**

THE PERFECT COACH In one big huddle, Matthew Mareno (7) and his teammates intently listen to Coach Brett Parachek just before their 48-0 home domination against Chelsea on September 17. Mareno has been playing football for 2 years and this season really changed his outlook on the sport. "My coaches made me love football more this season than I did the season before, and I had a very good relationship with them," Mareno said. "They were all good coaches and they taught me exactly what I needed to learn." **photo by Grace Warren**