

The Greatest Show on Turf

Wrapping up the 2016 football season

by Blake Borgardt

As DHS prepares for the beginning of winter sports like basketball and wrestling, the football team recently finished its run in the playoffs. The team won the conference with an impressive 7-2 record, and they made it to the playoffs for the fourth straight year in a row. This is impressive by any standards.

On the final game of the season the Barbs faced its toughest challenge all season, #16 in the state, Sterling High School. Sterling dominated the Barbs during the first half. The score before halftime was 21-7 in favor of the Sterling Warriors.

After halftime it became a defensive standoff, but the offense needed to step it up if they were going to win the game. The offense came to life with a quick score on a quarterback keeper from senior Derek Kyler. They then got a score from senior Zuerek Day. Day went on a "fly" route and then caught the ball and outran all of Sterling's defenders. That tied the game at 21.

The Warriors and Barbs each scored a touchdown each, but right before the Barbs went to kick the extra point and tie the game up at 28, the power cut out all across the field! While this may appear to be a bad thing for the Barbs, it really wasn't. It gave the team time to rest and stretch. The power came back on, and sophomore Connor Tierney made the extra point.

While the game went to a thrilling overtime, the Barbs lost to Sterling. That game showed that the Barbs can be true competitors in the playoffs.

Although the Barbs had a tough loss against the Warriors, they had to bounce back in order to keep the season alive. The next game was against #11 ranked Marmion Academy Cadets.

The Barbs came out against Marmion and showed why they deserved to be in the playoffs. They shut the Cadets down on defense by keeping pressure on the quarterback all night. The trio on offense was Kyler, Day, and senior Cole Tucker. Day had two touchdowns out of

his slot position. Tucker had two touchdowns on offense and a kick return coming out of halftime. Derek as well made great plays with his feet, finding his way out of the pocket and finding his receivers for big gains.

The Barbs defense also had a great game. The final score being 35-20 in favor of DeKalb. The Barbs showed great resilience against another formidable opponent.



*The intimidating front seven for the Barbs
Photo taken by Cris Rojo*

The next challenge was Antioch. The Barbs were at an immediate disadvantage due to the fact that they were away.

The defense did a fantastic job of containing Antioch's mobile quarterback. The Barbs offense did work on Antioch's defense all afternoon. Whether it was through the air, or on the ground, Antioch had no answers for them.

Kyler did a fabulous job of fitting the ball into tight windows. On one play in the third quarter, Day ran a fly route right up the middle of the defense, splitting the two safeties. Kyler fit the ball into a tight window, and it hit Day right in the chest. Day took the ball all the way down the field to the 15 yard line. His catch set up the Barbs for a three yard touchdown from senior Delvin Williams. The rest of the game was controlled by the Barbs with a final score of 36-3.

After Antioch, the Barbs were faced

with a huge challenge against #5 Cary Grove. At the time of the game, Cary Grove was 10-1, with their only loss being to the number three team in the state, Prairie Ridge.

Luckily the Barbs played the Trojans at home. The Barbs came out and did a good job of containing the Trojans star running back. Kyler played fantastic against a very good Cary Grove defense.

He found different receivers on almost each play. The Barbs offense scored around their season average, 35 points. The win earned them a trip to the semi-finals against Prairie Ridge.

The game against Prairie Ridge began with a quick strike touchdown from Prairie Ridge. Then Kyler found Tucker on the next possession for a 60 yard touchdown.

The two teams exchanged scores throughout the entire first half, and Prairie Ridge was winning 28-21 at half.

The Barbs slowed down in the second half, but Prairie Ridge didn't stop scoring. The Barbs only scored twice in the second half. Sometimes they went for it on fourth down, and when they didn't convert they put Prairie Ridge in great position to score and enlarge the lead. Sadly, the Barbs lost 54-35.

The Barbs had a fantastic season. They played amazing football all year and made the town proud. Great season, Barbs. Here's to another great one next year!



*Zach Donahue and Ben Roelfsema fighting in the trenches
Photo taken by Cris Rojo*