# INPACT

The Varsity football team finished with a final record of 5-6 despite the impacts of injuries on the team.

#### The first football game of the

year filled the stands of Legacy Stadium to watch an emotional moment unfold for their wide receiver.

Momentum of the game eventually brought an unlocked fear most did not expect. During the second half of the game, Peyton Sommers caught a pass and broke a tackle making his way down the field. Ultimately, Sommers took a hit to his shoulder from the other team's safety, causing him to be out for the majority of the season.

"I will always remember walking into my sister's arms and just breaking down," Sommers said. He was projected to be one of the top athletes this year, so the injury was a blow to the team.

"From my standpoint, we lost a lot of speed and someone that is a reliable receiver," Trainer Ryan Hooke said.

Even though it was only the first game of the season, many changes are being made to move forward. Isaiah Jones, another wide receiver has taken the position.

"I have to fill a big role but working towards this for four years, I can bring my own strengths to the team just like he could," Jones said. A loss of one valuable player opened new opportunities for another.

Despite his injury, Sommers came to support his team at every game that season, demonstrating a special kind of sportsmanship it takes to bring a player from 'good', to 'great.'

"The thing that kept me going was knowing that everything happens for a reason." Sommers said. By the end of the season, he worked his way back to play in their final playoff game.

#### WORK FOR WHAT YOU LOVE The team

spent their summer training hard for the season under the hot sun. "After all the work during summer, we are finally getting a reward, walking on to that field again," Alex Guthrie said. The crowd cheered and the lights came on, solidifying their achievements. Photo by E. Roberts

team plays Chatfield in the first game of the season, Huldah Belaye fills up the water bottles for all the football players, which is just a small part of her responsibility. "We go to all the practices, stay the whole time and then we even have to be there a little bit longer than the guys because we have to wash up after," Belaye aid. At all of the home and away ames, she was responsible for tting out the jerseys, helmets, amera equipment, and getting Gatorade and water for all the layers. Photo by E. Roberts

**CRAZY BUSY** As the varsity football

TACKLING BATTLES While on the field, football players have many strategies to help them play their best. "We talk about the play a lot and what's going on. That prevents us from messing up," Caleb Larson said. The support within

the team brought on celebration

of others wins, and is one of many



examples of the connection the players have built. Photo by A. Flores



field of DREAMS







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### HELPING HANDS

Team managers help support the football team

CONNECTORY

MANAGING THE FUTURE Josephine Mahonda hands water out to the football players during their big game. She became a football manager because she wanted to do something with athletic training and physical therapy in the future. "I think it's good to know what I'm doing before I get into it at an even bigger and higher level," Mahonda said. Photo by E. Roberts



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ALL TOGETHER For students in the stands and athletes on the field, football season was a good way for the community to come together. "My favorite thing about the school is the way students and teachers come together, especially during events like football games," Cade Brook said. The team felt the support from students at every game. Photo by E. Roberts



ROOM TO GROW The first game of the season brings a loss, but this does not mean the players lost their mind. It came as a learning opportunity, for the players to find what to work on. "This was an ideal first game because the team knows we have some work to put in," Marcus Adams said. Moving forward the team held their heads high to take on the next challenge. Photo by A. K. Larson

**DRIVE IS POWER** Each player has a reason why they continue to stand on the field, win or loss. For Jaden Smith, he continues to push himself to work toward a better future. "I want to become the team of our dreams," Smith said. They pushed and fought at every game to make a dent in their legacy. Photo by E. Roberts



COUGAR SPIRIT Alexander Kadi, a player on the JV Football team speaks about the connection that's built in a team dynamic. "We joke around during warm ups and it helps us connect," Kadi said. This helped build the teams spirit and connections. "I would say the brotherhood you build is most important," Kadi said. Photo by A. Flores

## taking TITLES

All of the playoffs were long and we worked extra hard at every practice for three weeks straight just preparing.

Logan Reid

That day's outcomes were largely not perfect. Although I exceeded my personal expectations, there is always opportunity for development.

#### Kaelan Kombo

It was electric and surreal putting our name out there like that. Nobody really expected it.

#### AKOI Burton

varsity & jy football.football managers.track titles.baseball state

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