

Prep football: Bombers set their sights on section title

After falling one game shy of a trip to the state tournament last season, the Bombers have their sights set on a deeper run behind a talented mix of newcomers and veterans.



Hayden Charboneau, (19) of Barnum passes the ball against Deer River during the Section 7A football final on Friday, Nov. 5, 2021, at Egerdahl Field in Proctor. Clint Austin / File / Duluth News Tribune

By Staff reports
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 We are part of The Trust Project.

Head coach: Bob Minkkinen

Assistant coaches: Brady Youngberg, Dave Carlson, Josh Earlywine, Matt Hosmer and Paul Riihilauma

Returning starters: Seniors: Brady Coughlin (OL/DL), Devon Jones (RB/DB), Braden Parzy (OL/DL), Alec Sparks (OL/LB); juniors: Hayden Charboneau (QB/LB), Mark Hall (OL/DL), Jacob Liimatainen (OL/DL), Caden Sheff (WR/LB), Gabe Tvrduk (OL/DL)

New Faces: Seniors: Ryan Manahan (TE/LB), Thatcher Nelson (TE/DB), Christian Olson (OL/LB), Layne Wickstrom (TE/DB); juniors: Gavin Anderson (RB/DB), Carlos Beckstrand (RB/LB), Brayden Carlson (OL/DL), Cole Laitinen (FB/LB)

Team Strengths: "Several contributors from last year's team are returning with valuable experience," coach Bob Minkkinen shared. "Barnum football is aiming at being a physical football team, and consistently competing at a high level."

Team Weaknesses: "Barnum football graduated some student athletes that brought a consistent, high-level of leadership, energy and physicality from a year ago. The team will need players to step up and fill those roles," Minkkinen said.

Biggest Challenge: "Barnum football will need to focus on getting better week by week and day by day in order to reach their goal of competing for a section championship in what has been a competitive section," Minkkinen said.

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Evan Erspermer was the highest finisher for the CEC boys in fourth place, while Layla Hagelin led the CEC girls with a sixth place finish.

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