



PHOTO BY PEYTON BRADY

RUSHING FOR A FIRST DOWN

Andre White '18 runs with the ball Sept. 1 against Muscatine. "I motivate myself by reminding myself how close we were last year to winning the state championship. We work every day to get back there," White said.

BACK IN *black*

The marching band and twirler, dance team, cheerleaders, and football team all come together for the football season's first Friday night game.

Players, marchers, performers, fans. Together, these aspects shape the experience of Friday Night Lights. At the first football game of the year, the varsity team showed off new all-black uniforms and beat Muscatine, 51-3.

"Friday night's game was special because it was our first home game and our first chance to display all the hard work we've put in since last December," strong safety Cole Mabry '19 said.

The new uniforms made a positive impression on the student section.

"The new all-black uniforms definitely had heads turning in the crowd," Jeff Garbutt '18 said. "From the start, the atmosphere was real good."

The student section got the Trojans

motivated for their first game. The more energy in the crowd, the better, according to Michael Duffy '18.

"Our job as students is to give the team an edge," Duffy said. "When everybody is getting into it in the student section, there's no doubt it influences everybody on that field."

Additionally, the marching band increases the hype of Friday Night Lights during halftime, Emma Gehlbach '19 said.

"It's always stressful to get everyone lined up on the field," she said. "But once the actual performance starts, it pumps up the crowd and prevents halftime from being boring."

Moreover, the dance team contributes to the halftime entertainment.

"Cheering on the Trojans is what makes Friday Night Lights so memorable," Liz Nodia '19 said. "I think this year we are all motivated to work super hard to support the team, have spirit with the crowd and just be in the atmosphere of the game."

And that's what running back Andre White '18 said he appreciates: the fans' energy throughout the game.

"When the crowd gets going, the whole team gets going," he said. "I believe we have the best student section in Iowa."

It takes a village to fuel the experience of Friday Night Lights.

"It takes more than just a couple of good players to win a game," Marshall Blatz '19 said. "Everyone has to be on the same page."

—By Krisha Vyas

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