



## FOOTBALL SUPPORT STAFF IMPACTS COMMUNITY

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Journalism 1 Guest Writers

There are many football community volunteers that people may not know of but that have a huge impact on the team. These people spend many hours working to prepare the team and field for games and/or attend every practice or game to help make them go smoothly.

Assistant Head Varsity Coach John Hierseman said, "There are so many valuable volunteers that help keep things running for the program. It would be impossible to do everything that this Program does without help."

Now, who are all these valuable volunteers?

Jodee Culver has been the manager coordinator for the football program for seven years.

Culver spends countless hours during the season and the offseason preparing for FB. She organizes all the jerseys, pants, girdles, bags, helmets, and shoulder pads. She also assigns, hands out, and collects the jerseys for the military and throw back games; this can be hard for her to get these numbers to line up with their home/away numbers. Heather Davidson is also a volunteer manager for the football program.

Culver also oversees many student managers that help out the team, including Dawn Johnson, Rylee Grace, Connor Davidson, Harper Driscoll, Madelynn Tygrett, and Katey Lenoch.

These managers spend their afternoons helping the football team by holding water, grabbing any equipment, setting up practices and games, and tearing them down. They also play important roles during games.

Dawn Johnson has been a manager for three years. Johnson said, "We have a lot of fun and I feel as if we helped out the players."

Scott Thoma and Brad Heithoff are the medical helpers for the football team. Thoma has been a medical support staff for five years, and Heithoff has been the team physician for 14 years.

Heithoff said, "My role with the support staff is one small piece of the overall puzzle."

Thoma said, "I enjoy being able to help injured athletes get back on the field, as well as playing a part in making sure everyone stays as healthy and safe as possible."

Chad Schutte, Pete Swisher, and Matt Hudson take stats for the football games. Schutte has been keeping stats for 10 years. In his 10 years, he has only

Craig Cochran, Steve O'neil, and Kent Kaufman.

The ball boys, Kason Zuniga, Braxton Thomas, and Beckett Lewis run up and down the field grabbing the tee, they also hold the footballs for the games. Tony Senior volunteers his expertise to make the field ready to go. He spray painted on the big mural of Butch Pedersen. He also just gets the field ready for any game.

One big volunteer that helped

make it to the games rely on these announcers to keep them in the FB loop. Quinlan said his favorite part of announcing for the Bears is simply "the game of football itself and the players and coaches."

Matt Chinander plays a very important role in the football community. He manages and runs all of the technology, which includes filming games, BearCast video and audio broadcasts, Hudl, and the football website and social media.

He's been a part of the support staff since 2008, and he said, "My favorite part about being a part of the football team is staying connected to the community I grew up in and having a creative outlet to try out new technology and other things I wouldn't otherwise have an opportunity to do in my day job or other side projects."

The press box staff includes Jason Miller (PA Announcer), Ron Ewald (Spotter), Steve Kabela (Clock), Amanda Whaley (Music Coordinator) and Nick Goodweiler (Scoreboard). Miller has been a volunteer PA announcer for 18 years.

Miller said, "It has been one of the true joys of my life. Coach Butch Pedersen always made sure the program was more than the game on the field. I was and still am honored and humbled to play a small role."

Kabela has been a volunteer for the clock and play clock for 10 years. He enjoys the view from the press box and chose to be a part of the support staff because he wanted to still be a part of the team.

Eli Klinkkammer and Dalton Kaalberg are up in the press box taking film of the games. All in all, the FB community wouldn't be the same without its many volunteers.

According to Head JV Coach Steven Grace, "Each volunteer has a monumental role, and each one has a great impact for us."



Athletic Trainer Scott Thoma tapes up Max Lodge during a game. Photo By Finley Rushton.

missed one game, JV or Varsity.

Swisher has been helping with the stats crew for three years. His job is to watch the players and report their progress on the field. Swisher was asked to help out by Schutte.

You may see these volunteers working every play on the field. These are the chain gang volunteers. This chain gang includes Andy Corr, Mike Owen,

plan a very important night was David McIlrath. He planned Throwback night and Military night.

There are many volunteers not on the field that still have a huge impact on the football community. For example, there is the BearCast.

Mike Quinlan, Jarod Tylee, and Jerry Fleagle are a part of the BearCast. Many community members who can't



WB ball boys this year helped in numerous ways on the field during the season. Photo By Olivia Naber.



Dawn Johnson carries water for players on and off the field throughout every game. Photo By Sulli Bucknell.

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