

## Football Awards Banquet

The Riverdale Chieftain Football team wrapped up a great 2013 football season with their Awards Night on Tuesday November 12<sup>th</sup>. A great crowd turned out for the banquet as we had the privilege of recognizing the 2013 team that gave us a ton of great moments.

The night started with a pot-luck dinner followed by a great slide show that captured the excitement of the 2013 season. Coach Mckay then recognized a JV team that worked extremely hard and gained a lot of valuable playing time this year. The JV team has a number of players who will be counted on to make major contributions on the varsity team next year.

Coach Johnson then followed as he presented the Bob Chitwood Award which goes to a JV player who exhibits leadership and a team first attitude. There were a number of great candidates but it would be sophomore Trevor Troxel who won the award. Trevor was a great choice and I am sure Bob would be proud of the choice.

Coach Thompson then took a look back at an amazing football season as the Chieftains led by a great group of seniors fought their way back to the play-offs for the first time in eight years.

Highlights of the 2013 season:

- 23-14 Homecoming win over Southwestern. In front of a huge Homecoming day crowd the Chieftains held off a big and strong Wildcat squad that had defeated us in the previous two Homecoming games. It was our first conference win of the season and improved our overall record to 2-3. The confidence that we had gained the week before in a loss at Fennimore was now beginning to take hold.
- 24-6 win over Boscobel. The following week we traveled to Boscobel and played great defensively in keeping the **Paddle** for the third straight year. We were now 3-3 on the season and 2-1 in conference and we started to set our sights on a possible play-off appearance but the road would be tough.
- 26-14 win over Mineral Point. After a set back against Cuba City we played our best football of the year. In the rain the defense had a tremendous game forcing six Pointer turn overs. However, the key to the game was the tremendous play of the offensive line as we dominated the Pointer front and opened numerous holes to pull away to the win. We were now 3-2 in the conference and needed one more win to make the play-offs. With State-Semi-Finalist Iowa-Grant and powerhouse Darlington as the final two games we were faced with a tough task but one we believed we could accomplish.
- Thursday Night before the Iowa-Grant game as we shared a special moment as a team.
- 18-15 triple overtime win over Iowa-Grant, in what has to be one of the greatest games played by a Riverdale Football team. Led by the inspired backing of Maroon Mayhem we shocked the Panthers at IG. Playing with great heart, passion and desire and drawing on inner strength and mental toughness we fought our way to the win. Every player on the

team did something that allowed us to win the game. To me personally it was one of the greatest moments that I have experienced in sports. With the win the team had qualified for the play-offs.

- Team of the Week. As a result of the dramatic win over Iowa-Grant we were voted the Wisconsin High School Team of the Week. We nudged out Hortonville 5124-5104. It was not just a football award but a school and community award as everyone rallied to their computers to help Riverdale High School win this award.
- To me the greatest highlight of the season was the opportunity to coach such a great group of kids. They came to practice with great energy and enthusiasm every single day. They believed in themselves and their teammates and they were able to accept their role on the football team and placed the team above all else. This was just such a fun and rewarding season to be a part of.

Unfortunately the season came to an end with a 28-7 play-off loss to a very fast and talented Brookwood Falcon team. With that the Chieftains watched nine outstanding seniors see their football careers come to an end. They were **# 89 William Roen**—it was his first year out for football but he brought energy and enthusiasm to the team. **#88 Nick Wiederholt**—who played **SE and Safety**. Nick had a great season and was solid on both-sides of the ball. He averaged 31.9 yards per catch and was a key member of a very tough defense. Not sure if he was the inspiration behind the homecoming head shaving but it that was a surprise. **# 72 Matt Koch-Tackle**—Matt has been an anchor on the defensive line for three years and was always drawing a double team. Matt's quiet but determined play was a key to our success. **# 71 Michael Hanson-DE-T**—was an explosive player on both sides of the ball and really developed into a leader on this team down the stretch. He played with great emotion and enthusiasm. **# 61 Austin Imhoff-DE-T-One of our Captains—Jon Pichotta Award Winner—Outstanding senior lineman**. Austin developed into our emotional leader and was our hardest hitter and enforcer on the field. His energy and relentless attitude drove this team. Also his famous “hump day” quotes will not be forgotten. **#54 Brady Conner—T-T**—his hard work and dedication in the weight room should be something that all our players should follow. He built himself into a solid football player and his energy in games and on the practice field was tremendous. We will always remember Brady as the first to practice and then “quietly?” encouraging the rest of the team to get there. **# 42 Travis Louis-HB-LB—One of our Captains--**Travis led by example. You can count on him to do the right thing on and off the field. He is always looking out for the younger kids on the team and in school. Travis had a great senior season and was an excellent role model for all the younger players. **# 38 Tyler Wanek—FB**—Tyler was the type of player you wanted at FB as he could take a lot of hits and deliver a lot of hits. He had a very solid season that was unfortunately cut short by a late season knee injury. He delivered a number of key carries and blocks this season including a very gutty performance at IG. **#8 Alex Meister-QB-CB—Team MVP**—Alex is an outstanding young man who leads by example, just like Travis he was always looking out for the younger players as did the rest of the seniors. He was our leader on offense

and his ability to audible and make the correct reads on the option were keys to our success. He is a great person who all students should look up to and model themselves after.

So this senior class saw their careers on the football field come to an end but there contributions to Riverdale Football and to the Riverdale School District will not be forgotten.

We would like to thank everyone who helped us again this year. A special thanks to all the parents who backed us this year and helped to make the meals for Tuesday night film and the post game meals on Monday and Friday nights. Your support is a key to our success. We would also like to thank Davina Meckley and Stacie Roen for all the pictures and help through-out the football season. A special thanks to Stacie for also designing the Parent's Night program and all the other help during the season. Also Dennis Brown who donated 18-pizzas to the football team. Finally a huge thank you to all the fans, staff and to the student body who turned out to support us again this year. Your spirit and enthusiasm played a big part in our success.

Another season has passed and just taking a quick glimpse ahead we are hoping for big things next year as we will return 16 juniors who will now become our seniors. I think they all know what it will take to get back to the play-offs and I would expect them to start moving in that direction as soon as possible. For now we will bottle up the great memories from the football season and turn our attention to our winter sports. We should have a great and exciting year of wrestling and basketball and I am looking forward to seeing everyone at these events.

Thanks,  
Coach Thompson