

From Glory to Growth

Coach Stoddard and his team embrace the challenge of rebuilding, one play, one lesson, at a time

By: Senior Ethan Haig

After back-to-back State Championship appearances, the Stanton Mustangs are rebuilding their program with some new faces on the varsity lineup, with Seniors Ethan Schwartz, Hunter

Robinette, Carson Tomasek, and the running back duo of Senior Taenen Kettelsen and Junior Austin Clausen.

The 2025 Football season

misses the 2024 seniors: Barrett Wilke, Becker Pohlman, Garrett Hansen, Jaron Blum, Ryan Locke, Parker Bickley, and Ren Brown. "They were starters for three or four years who did everything," Coach David Stoddard said. "It's good to provide some new opportunities, new faces, and commitment to this program."

Davidson was on the line-up in the 2023 State Championship game when the Mustangs beat EMF. Davidson returned to the line a year later in the State Championship game against Sandy Creek, when the Mustangs fell short by 44-42. "I want to be remembered from both opportunities, and it's how we keep on working this season and earning it," Davidson said.

The Mustangs fell during the first four games of the 2025 season. The Mustangs have not seen four consecutive losses since the 2019 season, when they were still an 11-man team. "We continue to believe in the process with the kids and community, and work to get a win and build off of that," Stoddard said.

"The offensive struggle is upon us, which shocks the community," Stoddard said, "With the change of first-string Quarterback from Wilke last season, to Robinette filling that spot."

"It's a lot of pressure, and big shoes to fill," Robinette said. "Despite the losses, we are just trying to keep this team moving forward, and it's not how you start, but how you finish."

Although the Mustangs began the year in a rough position, the team has continued to work hard and do the little things right. "I try to provide opportunities for student athletes to grow," Stoddard said. "Grow as a person, student, and football player, while showing them that every day is a chance to become a better version of yourself." Stoddard continues to create positive habits that lead to growth. "I'm very happy with how this team continues to work hard," Stoddard said.

"When we continue to do the little things right, we'll win games," Robinette said. "When things are not going our way, we want to keep punching until that final whistle blows."



Hustle and Hit. Seniors Gatlin Davidson and Carson Tomasek hold the line for the Mustangs against the Vikings. The boys fell to Wausa-Osmond 14-30. "Starting the season with a couple of losses was tough, but it gave us the drive to turn things around," Tomasek



Looking Downfield. Senior Quarterback Hunter Robinette looks for an open pass down the field. Robinette had 25 carries and 76 rushing yards against Wausa-Osmond. "That defeat could have broken us, but instead it made us stronger as a team," Robinette said.