

**I've included the cover so you can see how
this layout relates to the theme and the cover.**

Turning the Tides

Raiders Make State Following One-Win Season

After a 1-7 record a year ago, expectations for Raider football were uncertain. But a 2-0 start to 2025 quickly made players and fans realize the season was going to be different.

A big milestone for the Raiders was beating David City, who hadn't lost a single game since switching to 8-man football. This win gave the team a lot of momentum to attack every game with the same intensity for the rest of the season.

"I've heard a lot of seniors talk about this game," said head football coach Brandon Mills. "It was definitely a special moment to them."

After being led by one senior last season, the Raiders had six seniors leading the team. Unfortunately, they would drop to four by the end of the regular season.

Senior Treyce Ferguson suffered a terrible leg injury on homecoming night, breaking his fibula, dislocating his tibia and tearing his deltoid ligament.

"I knew right away it was broken when I heard the snap," Ferguson said. "It was a very emotional moment, because I knew it was the end of my season and football is my main sport."

In the Raiders' last regular season game, a senior Brady Gartner tore his MPFL ligament, dislocated his kneecap, fractured the kneecap and broke cartilage off the knee cap.

"I was crying a lot, because I heard a pop and I knew it was going to be my last game ever," Gartner said.

With two injured players, the Raiders knew they still had to keep

the energy up going into the first round of playoffs. Although Pender was 8-2 and the Raiders were 4-4, they were not going down without a fight.

"With two injured players, Cayde Gartner really stepped up, and the training wheels were pulled off right away," Mills said. "It was a sink or swim kind of situation."

The Raiders ended up losing and finished the season with a record of 4-5. As this was the last season of 8-man, many good memories were made.

"Knowing we beat an unbeaten C-1 size team really helped give me mental boost," Mills said, "and felt like I had added a feather to my cap."

Unleashed-Senior Preston Price flexes against David City. Price had 44.6 receiving yards per game.



Full Effort - Junior Abram Lee dives for the endzone while being tackled from behind. Lee had five catches for 78 yards against David City.



Need for Speed - Senior Tony Engel outruns the McCool Junction defender. Engel had two receiving touchdowns against the Mustangs.



Get Hyped - Junior Oswaldo Cruz and sophomore Austin Kellams celebrate a big play. Kellams scored his first varsity touchdown against Centennial.

Scoreboard

4-5



	22-14 W
	40-33 W
	40-28 L
	48-22 W
	52-36 L
	40-26 L
	56-18 L
	56-30 W
	47-6 L

What is your *Pre-game Ritual?*

James Engel

"I apply IcyHot and take Ibuprofen before games"



Wyatt Engel

"I always listen to music prior to the games"



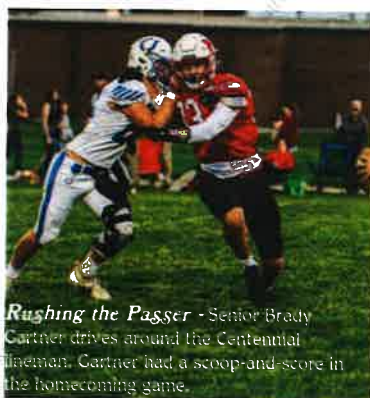
Micah Christiansen

"I take a quick nap before I get ready"



Treyce Ferguson

"I take some pre-workout and put on my eye black"



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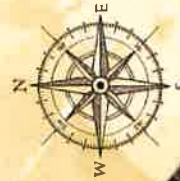
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Football



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