

Sports Story

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Dutch Fork rides perfect season to state title

As the wins continued to come, history was in the back of the minds of the Dutch Fork football team. That thought motivated the team to their second South Carolina state championship in four years.

“I’m a whole lot of things, especially excited! To win a championship with teammates that I've played with since we were eight would be more than remarkable. I'm definitely ready to tell people, ‘Yes, I was a part of the undefeated State Championship team at Dutch Fork,’” senior Braxton Carr said.

Not only are varsity players eager to play, but JV players who have been asked to play with varsity for the remainder of the season are excited to have the chance to participate in the first undefeated season in the school's history.

“To be asked to play with the varsity team who is undefeated is something I will never forget and is honestly one of the best feelings at the end of the JV season,” junior Elijah N’gugi said.

Each victory by the Silver Foxes was not easy; there are many factors involved in the success of the team. It took not just talent, but hard work and determination on each of the player's part. Also, the encouragement of Coach Knotts and the Dutch Fork community motivated them to reach their maximum potential.

“The seniors this year are without a doubt the most talented group that's come through Dutch Fork as a whole. Then you add the rigorous training we did throughout the offseason to prepare us for this season. That's just the recipe for an undefeated season,” Elijah said.

However, not everyone encouraged Dutch Fork nor expected them to do nearly as well as they are.

“The State Newspaper and other ‘experts’ of South Carolina high school football, didn't have us ranked very high and that was motivation within itself,” Braxton said.

The astounding success of the varsity football team this year leaves concerns for how next year's team will do. However, the players feel confident that they will be able to live up to the expectations this year's team leaves them with.

“The juniors on this year’s team are poised, motivated, and mature, so they'll have no problem with it,” Braxton said.

The rising seniors also feel that they are ready to prove themselves next year.

“I’m not even going to lie, I’ve thought about next year and the high standards that is going to be set for us, but talking with other teammates and coaches, I’ve just realized the high bar is something to aim for, but myself and other rising seniors are dedicated to do whatever we can do to write our own legacy and to have the legacy of this years seniors live on,” Elijah said.

As the season comes to a close, each player is satisfied with the legacy they left at Dutch Fork.

“It feels great knowing that my team’s goal to an undefeated season is now accomplished,” Braxton said. “Even though an even greater goal, winning state, hasn’t been

accomplished yet, it's nice to have a team that's willing to sacrifice things to accomplish the same goal as you."