



Dirty Birds race out of the tunnel, exciting the home game crowd for the football game against Clover High School on Sept. 28. Falcons won with a score of 23-20. Photo by Joi Nelson.

Let's Get Rowdy!

Dirty Birds Excite Crowd

by Ashley Jordan

Remember me for being wild and crazy," Dirty Bird captain Paul Barone ('19) says.

A senior, Barone has been a part of the Dirty Birds for two years now. The group of boys paint up for football and basketball games and hype up the crowds. Barone had the opportunity to hand pick this years guys.

"The Birds are chosen during Spirit Week, and we look to see who gets the most hype," he said.

The tradition started in 2007 the year the school opened. "We had some of Fort Mill High Schools kids transfer and come here when Nation Ford opened. We decided to copy Fort Mill and use their idea of 'Dog Pound' and change the name to 'Dirty Birds' for the football games", said Assistant Principal, Ernest Poag.

"Yes, this year's group of birds is so much better than past years. We now work more as a unit rather than being individuals," Barone said.

The crowd follows the chants that the Dirty Birds start, and get the student section pumped up.

"The Dirty Birds are picked based off of how spirit they have during Spirit Week and school assemblies," Barone said.

The birds at the pep rally and scout out birds for next years team.

The pep rallies are important because they bring the school together to celebrate one cause and the schools hard work.

"I was picked by the graduate Thomas Welch who was the captain last year," he said. "I have been a part of this team of guys for two years now, and hope to pass it down to someone who brings the same attributes as I did to the team."

How did they get their famous name the "Dirty Birds"? "It was because of the 1999 Atlanta Falcons. The "Dirty Bird" is the celebratory touchdown dance that became popular, because of the Atlanta Falcons' running back Jamal Anderson, who introduced it during the Falcons Super bowl run in 1998.

"The Dirty Birds have impacted these group of guys in some incredible ways. "It's an awesome way to join young men together to have fun for a good cause, making bonds that will last a lifetime," Gaines Michaels ('19) said.

What's the seniors' legacy?

"I hope the Dirty Bird selection stays fair, and they continue to be leaders for not only the games but the school," Barone said.

Michaels has a similar hope: "I hope that next year's birds feel included and have the same respect and kindness towards each other as we did this year."