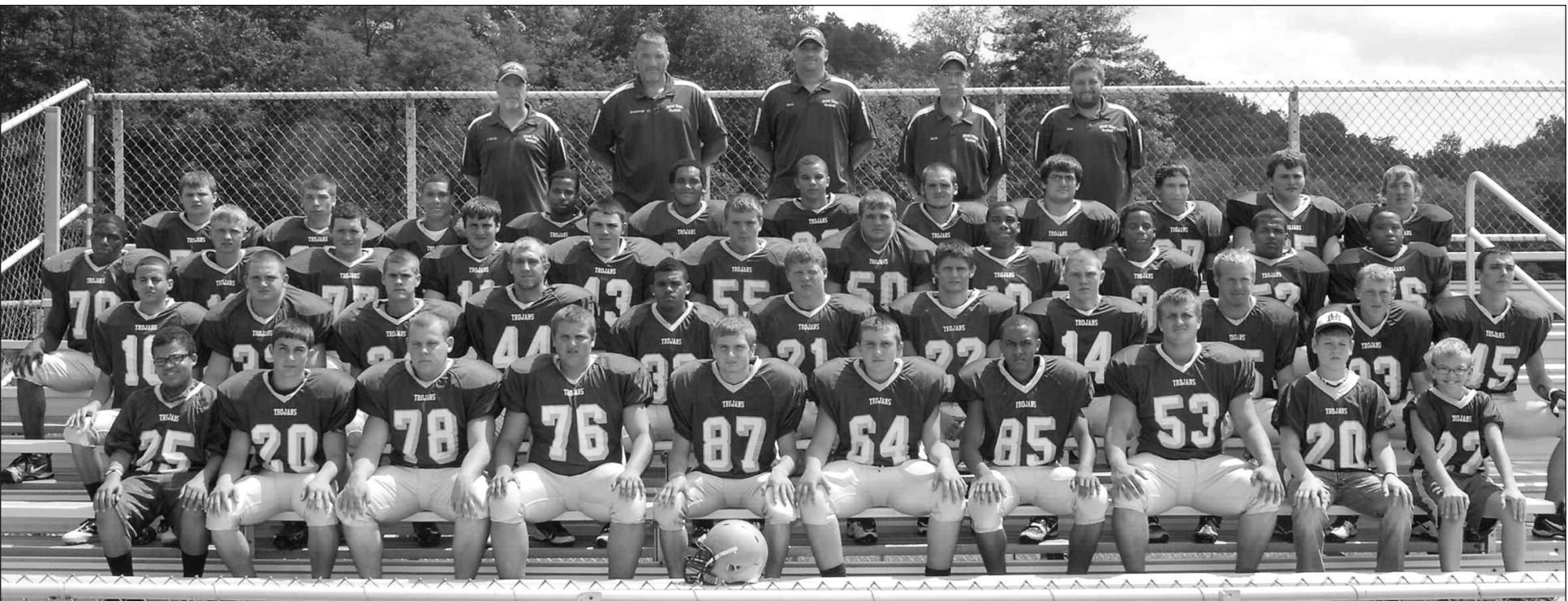


# MOUNT UNION FOOTBALL



Sentinel photo by BUFFIE BOYER

Members of the Mount Union football team are, from left, front, manager B.K. Stennett, Anthony Guiliante, Keith Waite, Zachary Clemens, Jason Hocker, Tyler Vaughn, Juwan Taylor, Zach Snyder, managers Hunter Blair and Griffin Scott; second row, Kole House, Riley Grainey, Bryn Brown, Nate Goodrich, Mike Smith, Dylan Smith, Kord Aurand, Austin Low, Cody Hamman, Austin Roher and Josh Quarry; third row, DaQuane Ellis, Klayton Heffner, John Atherton, Devon Smith, Cory Kylor, Brody Suter, Phil Kyle, Kenney Simmons, Kevin McCallum, Avery Green and Zach Morris; fourth row, Luke Bubb, Joey Imperioli, Trevon Walker, Jamal Smith, Darrian Stapleton, Kahlil Fortson, Alex Varner, McKennon Burns, Nathan Woods, Brandon Shumaker and Nick Henry; back, coaches Jim Smith, Jamie Brumbaugh, Corey Wertz, Bruce Wertz and Kyle Wise.

## Surprise coaching change starts Trojans' season

By **SARAH WHITESEL**

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**MOUNT UNION** — In any scholastic program, the first week of practice can be chaotic. When the program is forced to switch coaches in the midst of that first week of practice, chaotic is a mild way to describe the situation.

Unfortunately for the Mount Union football program, those were the exact circumstances the team was required to deal with for the beginning of the 2012 season.

Mount Union coach Alan Hartman chose to relinquish control of the team for medical reasons just as practice got under way. Corey Wertz took the helm on an interim basis after the team had al-

### AT A GLANCE

#### MOUNT UNION TROJANS

District 6, Class AA

Coach: Corey Wertz, assisted by Bruce Hicks, Trey McClain, Jamie Brumbaugh, Jim Smith, Kyle Wise, Dave Hummel, Brian Lewis, Chuck Hand, Jimmy Smith and Rick Bayer  
2011: 4-6, 3-5 Inter-County Conference

ready completed its first pre-season practice.

"The first couple practices or so were a little bit chaotic," Wertz said as he described his transition into the head coaching position. However, even though it was difficult for both players and coaches to switch

directions so early in the season, Wertz has helped the team in one capacity or another for the past eight years, so the level of familiarity between Wertz and the team has been a help as everyone adjusts to the new arrangement.

"I was helping anyway," Wertz said, explaining that initially he planned to scout from the press box during games to help identify Mount Union's strengths and weaknesses. But when the head coach position opened, Wertz agreed to take on the extra responsibilities, explaining that one of the main reasons he took the job was out of respect for Hartman, who had been his coach when he played in high school.

And so far it has been going well with Wertz at the lead.

The team has already had

one scrimmage, and Wertz was pleased overall by what he saw. Wertz said the scrimmage was a good way for him to see where the players are now, and to look ahead for where they need to improve.

"Like I told the guys during practice, we know where we are right now. Now the goal is to improve for the next scrimmage," Wertz said.

But aside from the fact that the scrimmage gave Wertz a better handle of his team's strengths and weaknesses, he is very excited about what he's seen from the team in terms of attitude and athleticism.

"I just think that with the community and the guys and the coaches that there's a lot of excitement about this team," Wertz said.

This year's team has a

group of seniors who were very successful as a team during junior high, and Wertz thinks they have a lot of potential to repeat that success in their final year of high school.

"This team was pretty successful when they played junior high, and so I think expectations with them when they play at this level are pretty high," Wertz said.

Wertz is excited about the team not only because of its strong senior class — he also is excited by the team's attitude as a whole.

"I like our numbers," Wertz said. "We're almost at 40 kids, and that hasn't happened here since I've been part of the program, coaching-wise."

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