

Freshman steps into Wildcat varsity lineup

By Lauren Callison

Freshman Tate McKinley didn't think he was going to start varsity football this year.

However, as a freshman linebacker, he made an interception to key a second-half rally against Cascade in the second game of the season.

His brother, Tysen, who graduated last year, is not surprised by Tate's early success.

"It takes a lot of special qualities to start varsity football as a freshman, and you rarely ever see a freshman starting, so when one does start, you know they're gonna do great things," Tysen said.

Tysen knows how hard his brother works and thinks his potential is off the charts.

Tate McKinley had been working hard in the weight room over the summer and attended college football camps.

He had a strong mindset for this season but never would've pictured himself starting varsity as a freshman. However, an injury to a key Wildcat player changed that for McKinley.

Junior linebacker Michael Iossi suffered a season-ending knee injury before the Wildcats' first game.

"When someone needed to step

up for Michael, I knew it had to be me," McKinley said.

McKinley found out the day after Iossi was injured that he would be starting varsity in his place, a week before the first game.

With just a short amount of time for that to sink in, he was nervous but had Iossi in his corner.

Iossi mentored McKinley post injury, teaching him the defense and preparing him to start varsity.

At the beginning of his first game, McKinley was nervous and didn't want to mess up as an underclassmen. But after the first play, it all sunk in, and his nerves disappeared.

McKinley had 2.5 tackles against Sigourney-Keota his first game.

McKinley felt much more confident entering his next game against Cascade. He had two team tackles and an interception against the Cougars.

Coaches had sat McKinley most of the third quarter of the Cascade game. He took advantage of this situation on his first play back on the field.

McKinley had an interception on the Wildcat 25-yard line and returned it for 10 yards.

The Cougars were about to score



Photo by Mackenzie Oberlander
Coach Tom Compton talks with Tate McKinley on the sidelines of the Cascade football game. again, and the Wildcats were down 13-8. His interception turned the momentum around and was a key event in the Wildcat win, 26-13.

As the season progresses, McKinley would like to increase his number of sacks and tackles.

McKinley plans to follow in senior Nolan DeLong's footsteps and eventually become a varsity running back as well.

"I hope for next year to be the year I break out as an offensive threat and fill Nolan's spot," McKinley stated.

"In Tate's case, I think if he masters reading offensive line holes and how to

judge a defense, he will be very good," his brother added.

Tate McKinley has always watched and learned from his brother. Tysen is four years older than him and graduated last year.

"I've always looked up to my brother in football due to him being an all-conference defensive end," Tate said.

Tysen was a quarterback growing up as well, and naturally, Tate gravitated towards that position too.

"It was nice knowing that he wanted to be like me in a way," Tysen said.

In Tysen's opinion, as Tate got older, he developed into more of a running back.

"He perfectly fits that mold in my opinion, so I wasn't really bummed out when he made the switch from quarterback to running back," Tysen said.

Growing up, Tate and Tysen had the typical brotherly competition.

"Being brothers, we spent most of our time competing in physical combat and beating each other up," Tysen said.

Tysen believes that their drive to outdo each other in almost everything has made them better athletes.

"I know that when Tate is out in the field Friday night, one of his goals is to be better than I was and leave a bigger impact than I could have ever hoped," Tysen said.

The wave best college tradition

By Isabelle DeLong

I've been going to Iowa Hawkeye football games ever since I was young, and I have been fortunate enough to participate in the number one tradition in college football: the wave.

No matter if you have witnessed the wave once or a hundred times, it is still breathtaking every time.

Starting its sixth year in Kinnick Stadium, the wave takes place in between the first and second quarter of every home Hawkeye football game.

Everyone in the stands, players, and referees stop and wave at the children in the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital

My aunt, Durant school board member Tara Lindsey, participated in the first wave at Kinnick. She says that it's the most amazing thing she's ever been a part of.

"As a true sports fanatic, I love everything that you truly experience at sporting events," said Mrs. Lindsey.

She has played in a pro-am golf event, attended a Super Bowl, watched basketball at Allen Fieldhouse at the University of Kansas, and been to a women's and men's Final Four game.

"But nothing has touched me more

than being at that 'first wave' at Kinnick! Every home game my husband Rick and I attend, I am inspired and reminded of the true heroes who are looking down at us!"

The wave is rated the number one tradition in college football for a reason. It brings people together and allows people to show the children that they aren't alone in their battle.

"It occurs at a sporting event with two opposing teams and 70,000 fans who for a few minutes focus only on those who are fighting a tougher battle than anything on the field," said Mrs. Lindsey.

She said that it is "such a great moment of being unified and putting life into a more humble perspective!"

When I am watching the wave, I understand how amazing and touching it is for me, but I know that it means even more to the children who are sick in the hospital. Logan Meincke, a Durant sixth grader, and Brady Daufeldt, a tenth grader, have both been on the other side of the wave.

"Logan has been admitted to the Children's Hospital dozens of times for treatment/complications with his kidney transplant," said Logan's mom Jenny Meincke.

"Each stay varies in length based on what is making him sick at the time."

The wave has brought many children like Logan happiness during such a hard time.

"It is almost like you can feel the love coming through from all of the fans," said Mrs. Meincke.

"Experiencing the wave as a patient/family is something I wish no one ever has to experience, but it fills your heart during a very challenging and stressful time."

Brady was in the Children's Hospital for a month due to a brain infection. He is very thankful for the way the wave helped him get through that dark time.

"The wave made me happy even with everything going on," said Brady. "It will be something that I will never forget."

Brady also was featured on the Iowa Football Jumbotron for his birthday while he was in the hospital.

The wave has truly been the best thing I've ever participated in, and I am blessed to have been able to help the children who are sick to make their life a little brighter.

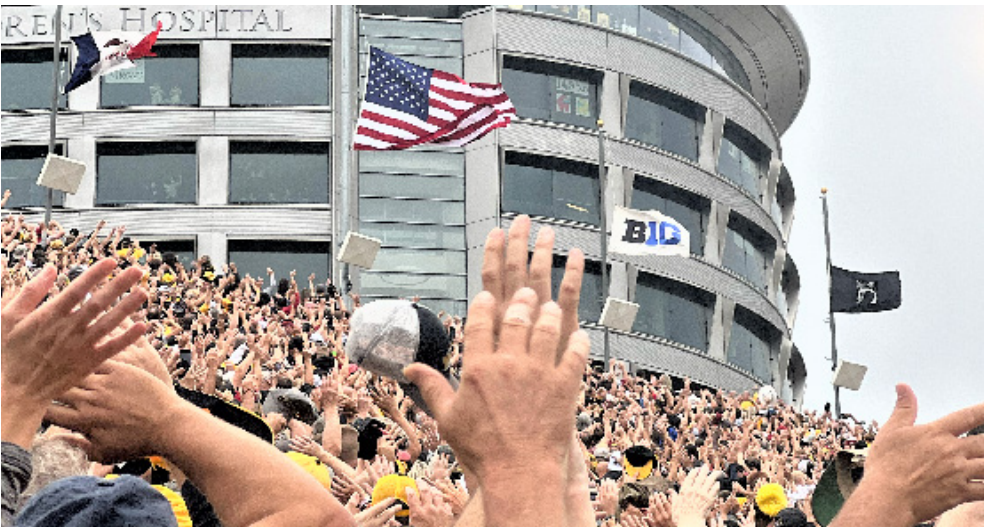


Photo by Michael Iossi
Fans participate in the wave at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on September 10.

Arty's Ice Cream and Grill's football player of the month



609 W. 5th St.
Wilton, IA 52778
563-732-2222

Junior Caden Meyer is playing wide receiver and free safety for the Durant Wildcats this fall. Meyer said, "I think the season is going very well, and with us going into the tougher part of our schedule, hopefully we can keep up the success we're having." Being with his friends and teammates and having success as a team keeps him motivated.



Meyer

Wendy's cross country runner of the month



755 W. Iowa 80 Road
Walcott, IA 52773
(563) 468-5365

Sophomore Kady Kraklio is running for the Durant Wildcats this fall and went out for cross country to get in shape for wrestling. He wrestled at the weight class of 152 pounds and made the varsity team as a freshman. Kraklio says he stays motivated to keep running because his cross country coach, Tracy Tappendorf, said she would buy him doughnuts. His goal is to beat the leading boys' runner, Race Starr, in a race.



Kraklio



502 9th Ave.
Durant, IA 52747
(563) 785-4541

Today's Dentistry manager of the month

Junior Michael Iossi has filled in as a manager for the football team after he suffered a season-ending injury during practices leading up to the first game. During games, he is filling up waters and writing down defensive calls. Iossi said, "It's really hard sometimes to still feel a part of the team with being injured, but watching them get to win while coaching some of the younger guys is rewarding enough."



Iossi

Apex Ink and Apparel's girls' volleyball player of the month



708 5th St., Durant, IA 52747
563-785-6223

Sophomore Rilynn Buesing is a setter and right side hitter for the Durant Wildcats this fall. Buesing said that "being a sophomore on varsity makes me feel very accomplished. It makes me want to work harder because I want to keep the spot I earned."



Buesing