

“THE ABILITY TO RESPOND AND ADAPT IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT FOR FOOTBALL AS WELL AS LIFE.

Fletcher Coblentz ('26) advice that stuck with him from Coach Brown

FALL SPORTS

FIELD FURY. (TOP) SMB Wolfpack faces off against Simley. Quinn Wall ('29) said, "I think we did really good and worked really hard and it was fun." (MIDDLE) The pack offense moves the ball down the field against Simley. Peter Ostrem ('26) said, "It was fun to be apart of a winning culture for the first time." The Wolfpack had a turnover season, winning more games than they have many seasons before. (BOTTOM) CJ Gillman ('28) reflects on the season as it wraps up and said, "I think the season went really well; we won one game last year and this year we did so much better." **PHOTOS: Jocelyn Rog and Zoe Wagner**



BOOST MODE. Cutler Crook ('26) on the SMB wolfpack gets focused for a tough match-up. "I try not to think about it, its just automatic" says Cutler. Cutler trusts the work he has put into this sport and doesn't overthink it. **PHOTO: Caden Deardurff**

8 # OF WEEKS IN THE REGULAR SEASON

4 # OF METRO SCHOOLS IN THE CO-OP

SMB Wolfpack breaks losing streak with 7-3 season

By Gisele Parnell, Ibiid



50-6 SEASON STAT

SMB Wolfpack won their first section game vs. Minneapolis South decisively, even though the Tigers entered playoffs at a higher seed. Read about the game in Shrey Nemani's story at RubicOnline.



KICKIN IT. The Wolfpack is setting up for a play. Bennett Sauer ('26) said success starts with "thinking about what I need to do on the field: and what gaps i need to hit." **PHOTO: Caden Deardurff**



KNOCK THEM DOWN. SMB Wolfpack goes head to head with Simley on Oct. 14 and comes out ahead with a final score of 28-14. **PHOTO: Zoe Wagner**

SMB Wolfpack had an impressive comeback for the 2025 season, winning more games this year than the past three years combined. Bennett Sauer said, "That first win really stuck with me, and just kind of set the tone for the rest of the season and made me and the team really excited going forward."

The team boasted a 7-3 record, including two section playoff appearances. In 2024, the team ended with an overall record of 1-8, and in 2023, the team ended with an overall record of 0-9. The first playoff game of the 2025 season was a major victory against South, 50-6. In the second playoff game, despite strong efforts, the team fell short, losing 20-22 against Benilde-St. Margaret's, ultimately putting an end to the season.

Head Coach Hugh Brown said, "We had great senior leadership, and we benefited from a lot of returners who had gained experience from previous seasons. We had better participation and more depth, which helped make us a more consistent team that was able to respond to adversity throughout the season."

The drastic improvement is due to all of the hard work on behalf of the players, with a combination of off-season training and pre-season practice. "The largest change this year," Cutler Crook ('26) said, "was the team's cohesion. Our coaching staff and players really came together well and were very committed. Additionally, offseason participation was much higher than in previous years, which helped a lot."

The dynamic completely changed this year, resulting in season success. Keian Bietz ('28) said, "We got a new offensive coordinator who brought a bunch of other coaches with him, and he brought in a whole new system of plays. From the beginning of the season in the spring, they talked about changing the culture of the program, for this season to turn things around."

Not only was recruiting the new offensive coordinator crucial to the team, but the culture changed as players were motivated to attend optional practices and workouts in the summer, ready to work hard.

Additionally, the team had great leadership: "Our senior class this year ... were good mentors and leaders for the team. I also think the team was closer this year, from all the time spent together during the summer at practices," Bietz added.

Fletcher Coblentz ('26) said that being a senior added a sense of urgency for him: "Knowing it would be my final year with the guys, I wanted to leave a positive impact. I tried to focus on being the best senior I could by trying to bond with some of the younger guys and encouraging them so they feel seen, and hopefully keep playing regardless of their skill levels."

All in all, it was the strong relationships they built, the hot summer practices, and late-night games that brought the team together, fueled their growth, and led them to a comeback.

Overall team statistics improved, as did individual recognition: ten SPA players were awarded a varsity letter. Cutler Crook was honored with the district "Why We Play" award and an Academic All-State award. John Rog was awarded the Scout Team Player of the Year award.

It was a season that redefined the program and set the stage for the future of SMB Wolfpack.