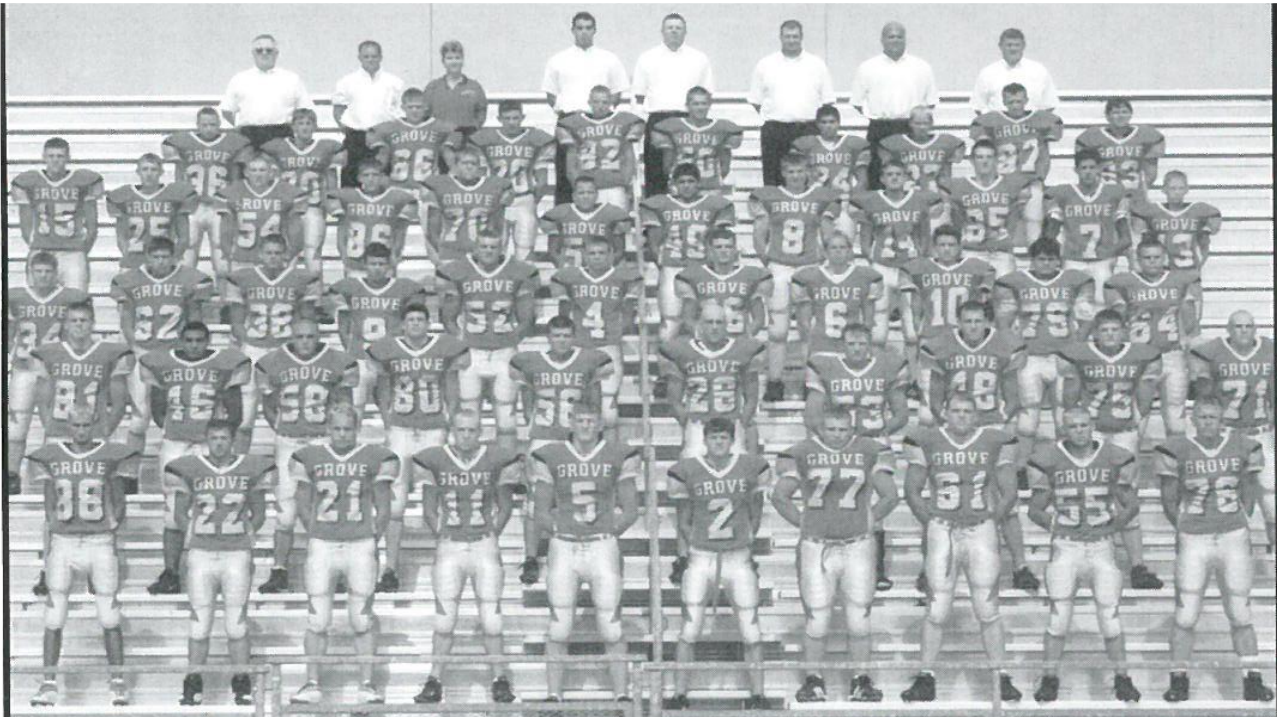


Columbus Grove 2003 15 - 0

State Champions of Ohio!



Front row, left to right - Eric Altstaetter, Phil Sautter, Nate Rieman, Brandon Brubaker, Brandon Baxter, Ben Stechschulte, Mike Young, David Karhoff, Ryan Donaldson and Scott Birkemeier. 2nd row - Curt Meuleman, Bobby Barraza, Mike Bowers, Taylor Jesko, Steve Cooper, Blaine Maag, Adam Garberson, Matt Heffner, Tyler Vorst and Brady Maag. 3rd row - Matt McAdams, Derak Vance, Josh Tuttle, Jacob Rigg, Jeremy Wyant, Nick Roeder, Ryan Keck, Jordan Darbyshire, Levi Stechschulte, Mike Utrup and Brent Schroeder. 4th row - Kyle Meyer, Todd Meyer, Aaron Koch, Andy Stechschulte, Andy Kohls, Alex Hughes, J. J. Harris, Chad Lindeman, Eric Maag, Cory Meuleman, Derek Neu and Aaron Lamb. 5th row - Tim Riemund, Mike Schroeder, Jeht Russer, Jeremy Harnishfeger, Logan Rieman, Nick McCluer, Zach Gerdeman, Bryce Luginbill, Tyler Kohls and Austin Luginbill. 6th row - Coach Foltz, Coach Grothaus, Trainer Jody Benda, Coach King, Coach Palte, Coach Wright, Coach Russer and Coach Cooper.

The man of the afternoon was Maag who heard his number being called over and over. The talented All-Ohio running back didn't disappoint as he found seams where there didn't appear to be any on his way to a 287 yard afternoon.

During the Bulldogs' playoff run, Maag finished with 972 yards on 138 carries for an average of just over seven yards a carry. He finished the season with 2,703 total yards on 350 carries and 45 touchdowns. He now has over 4,300 yards in his career.

"We told Blaine, if he needed to get the ball 40 times for us to win, he'd get it 40 times. And if he needed to get 50 times, even 90, we'd get him the ball," Cooper said. "He's a great back, but let's give credit to those guys up front."

"He'll be the first to tell you those guys up front have worked their tails off all season. They block as hard as they can on every play and some of the credit for his success goes to them as well."

And while the Bulldogs accomplished their dream, they weren't quite sure how to celebrate the moment. "It was a dream come true," senior quarterback Ben Stechschulte said. "You work so hard, but you never expect to get here. We talked about it all season, but it was always something in the future."

"This really feels good, especially after the last two years," Young said. "We wanted to get back and prove we could play with Marion Local. We did and we got it done. It felt great when Ben kneed the ball just to know we were State Champions."

"I think the football state championship sounds a lot better than being state track champions," Maag said.

Columbus Grove 15 - 0					
Coach Jerry Cooper					
NWC 8 - 0 1st					
State Champions					
CG	Opponents		CG	Opponents	
44	Pandora-Gilboa	6	63	*Paulding	20
41	*Allen East	7	33	*Bluffton	14
32	*Ada	0	52	#Hicksville	6
62	*Perry	0	27	#Northwood	0
41	*Spencerville	0	21	#Cory-Rawson	6
42	Troy Christian	0	27	#Monroeville	24
13	*Crestview	0	28	#Marion Local	26
19	*Delphos Jefferson	13			