



From the Cydline

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CYCLONE GRIDIRON CLUB

The 2025 Season is Here!

Ireland Game Kicks Off College Football

A message from the President - *Jay Chapman*

Hello Gridiron!

A few thank yous are in order. First, thanks to the CGC members who were able to make it our all-member meeting/game watch in February. We raised almost \$3,500 to support Cyclone Football. Second, thank you to **Rylan Barnes, Tashawn James, Cael Brezina, Alex Manske, and Zaimir Hawk**. These current Cyclones joined us at the event, mingled with the CGC members, and even got some groups photos with the Pop-Tarts Bowl Trophy. Finally thank you to **Mitch Amundson, Mike Bearden, Lori Day, Chad Gammon, Terry Ryan, and Susan Zulk** your newest elected Board of Directors. These loyal Cyclones have volunteered their time to serve on the board and help do their best to ensure ISU Football has the resources to be the best program it can be.

As we pass the mid-point of March, it's time to get serious about the 2025 Cyclone Football season. Word has it this spring has been pretty calm so far. A five-week practice schedule started March 18th, followed by much-needed new indoor turf.

Travel to Ireland will bump up the program's summer schedule significantly when it comes to camps, report day, and shortens players vacation times. But overall the team is excited for the experience. If you haven't already finalized your own plans for Ireland, now's the time to do it! Look for more info in the coming weeks about other potential away football travel with the CGC as well. It should be an exCYting season.

I guess one last THANK YOU goes to you our Gridiron Club members. Thanks for your unwavering support of the Club and Cyclone Football!!

Go Cyclones!
Jay

Member Benefits

2025 Member Benefits Finalized

Our Membership Committee has finalized member benefits for 2025. Check them out here:
cyclonegridironclub.com.

THANK YOU to everyone who has already renewed!

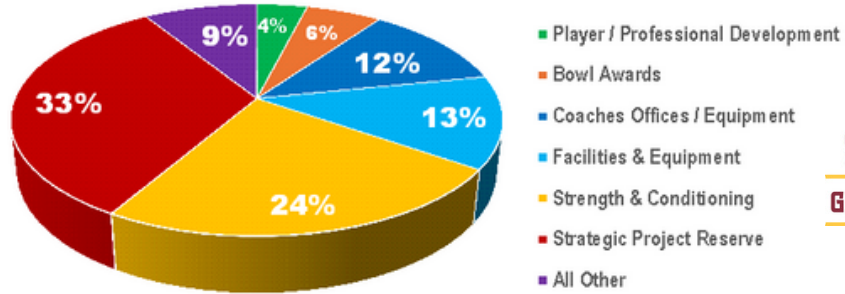
2025 FB Schedule

Opponent	Date	Location
Kansas State	Aug 23	Dublin, Ireland
South Dakota	Aug 30	Ames, IA
Iowa	Sep 6	Ames, IA
Arkansas State	Sep 13	Jonesboro, AK
Arizona	Sep 27	Ames, IA
Cincinnati	Oct 4	Cincinnati, OH
Colorado	Oct 11	Boulder, CO
BYU	Oct 25	Ames, IA
Arizona State	Nov 1	Ames, IA
TCU	Nov 8	Fort Worth, TX
Kansas	Nov 22	Ames, IA
Oklahoma State	Nov 29	Stillwater, OK
Big 12 Championship	Dec 6	Arlington, TX

Tell your fellow Cyclone fans to help support Cyclone football by becoming a member of the Cyclone Gridiron Club (CGC).

The CGC is the official support organization recognized by Iowa State University Athletics. All contributions are **tax-deductible** and go directly to the Iowa State football program. Standard membership is only \$100. [Join today!](#)

The mission is to contribute to the advancement of Cyclone football in a method consistent with the parameters set by the NCAA, the Big 12 Conference, and Iowa State University. Use of Cyclone Gridiron Club Funds is shown below.



2025 Will Be Busy!

A lot of CGC action upcoming

The Cyclone Gridiron Club plans to be active again this season. Check out some of our planned activities for 2025:

- Mike Lacey Gridiron Golf Classic & Summer Social
- Online Auctions
- Home Pre-Game Gathering
- Away Game Receptions
- Away Game Travel
- CGC Big Raffle
- Bowl Game Reception

Stay tuned to cyclonegridironclub.com/events for all the current info!

Where Are They Now...?

Gridiron Club Co-Founder Dan McCarney

Who is Dan McCarney? He is an Iowa native that has never forgotten his roots and insists that he never will. If you have had the opportunity to spend any time around the former ISU football coach, you can appreciate his words of wisdom. This classic coach draws you in and you cannot wait for his next word.

McCarney grew up in a blue-collar family in Iowa City. His dad was Chief of Police and his mother worked at the University of Iowa Dental School. Along with McCarney, his brother and two sisters were raised in a home where hard work, loyalty, and the premise of never letting anyone limit your dreams was the norm.



Dan McCarney and Family

By Lynn Marr Moore



Where are they now? - Dan McCarney

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"Some of my dreams were denied and some of my dreams were fulfilled, but I always tried to bring a sense of hope, strength of my conviction and unmatched energy to my work," McCarney commented.

There are a lot of similarities and some differences from the 12 years that McCarney was in Ames compared to now.

"The similarities are the pride, the passion, the loyalty, and the inspiration that drives all of us at Iowa State, through the years. The DNA that I tried to build many years ago is alive and well today. That DNA is to always have a chip on your shoulder, fight for your brother or sister, make no excuses and make history. No matter how much success the Cyclones have in any sport, the similarities are the national perception still, that we really are not that special. It simply adds to the motivation that we have every day and with games to play. We have an absolutely elite group of administrators, coaches, and student athletes at Iowa State right now and our future looks immensely bright.

Loving the fact about Iowa State football and how the coaches master things that take no talent like mental toughness, ability to communicate and always playing with maximum, relentless effort.

"In recruiting and developing our players we wanted young men that wanted to chase their dreams, contribute to history making seasons, bring honor and respect to the Cyclone program. If you did not really care about getting a fabulous degree and preparing for the rest of your life, then Iowa State was not for you. We wanted our guys to never accept losing and to understand that average and ordinary was not an option. When you walked into our facilities, we wanted every coach and player to do their part on living up to the goals and expectations we had set."

McCarney said that when considering a career in coaching, you should not worry about how many hours you have to work. He said that the days are long, and the hours of sleep are short, but it is an incredible profession.

"There is not a lot of off time or vacation time in Division 1 football. The few times we were not working throughout the year, I was always trying to spend time with my family," he explained. McCarney said that he grew up being a huge fan of the Green Bay Packers. "Vince Lombardi, Bart Starr, Jerry Kramer, Ray Nitschke, Forrest Gregg, Willie Davis and so many more. Since getting into coaching decades ago, I simply try to follow all the teams in the NFL that had players I coached or coaches that I knew. I do not have many players left that I coached, but numerous coaches that I coached with are still active in the NFL and I closely follow those teams and stay in touch with all of them."

Cyclone fans are in a league of their own. McCarney feels that they are special people in many ways.

"Cyclone fans really appreciate people that bring their lunch bucket to work every day and try to build a better Cyclone team than the day before. The vast majority of them exude loyalty that is unconditional and unconventional. They have unique energy, passion and enthusiasm for their school and have shown tremendous generosity to help build the facilities and atmosphere throughout the athletic complexes. They show respect for the opposing teams, and they provide lots of inspiration for all the Cyclone teams that compete in the Big 12 Conference."

McCarney and his wife Margy live in Sarasota, Florida. He said that they miss the people of Iowa, but not the winters. They have children and grandchildren spread out over the United States and feels fortunate to see all as often as he can. Like everyone, that can be tough at times. Heroes in his life includes his parents who raised a family of six and instilled so many positive attributes in their lives growing up.

"My parents made it to 84 years old before passing and I think and talk to them still every day. My older brother Mike, passed away a few years ago and he too, was a hero of mine. He was a Lt. Colonel in the Air Force and spent his entire career protecting the freedom of our country. I was always driven, inspired, and motivated by my entire family and countless players and coaches that were a part of journey in life."

In closing McCarney had these words for Cyclones:

"Always hold your head high, shoulders back and truly be proud to call yourself a Cyclone. If you want to be elite, do not let adversity become your burden. The world is full of unsuccessful people with talent because they have no persistence or consistency. You are part of magical times in Ames. To the Cyclone Nation, whatever time I have left before I ride off into the sunset, from the bottom of my heart, thanks for your love, your support and for the memories. You are simply the best."

"God gave me two ears and one mouth so that I would listen twice as much as talking."

-- Former ISU Head Football Coach Dan McCarney

Talking Football

By Lynn Marr-Moore, Gridiron Newsletter Writer

The first time that Coach Matt Campbell stepped onto the green grass at Jack Trice field in 2014 something special happened.

It was the first time Campbell brought his Toledo football team to Iowa State. They arrived early so he walked to the visitor side of the field, walked through the tailgate pre-game celebrations, and decided to call his wife and told her that something strong was pulling him to ISU. Something called "fate".

You must agree, it is a pretty impressive scene. Cyclone Nation knows how to support its team. Embracing players, coaches and other fans is something that Cyclone fans are known for and are proud of.

On November 29, 2015, Campbell committed to become Iowa State University's 33rd head football coach. He wasted no time as he began to rebuild the program in 2016. The home opener September 3 saw ISU hosting in-state rival University of Northern Iowa. The game did not turn out what everyone had hoped, UNI won 25-20.

The season progressed and Texas Tech came to town not expecting what would happen.

Patrick Mahomes meets the Cyclones!

On November 19, 2016, a year from when Campbell committed to ISU, the "fate" that he felt came alive. Mahomes was the QB for Texas Tech and threw for 219 yards, one touchdown and 2 interceptions. Not a great day for the Red Raiders.

On the other hand, ISU's Jacob Park was 14/18 for 285 yards and two touchdowns. Joel Lanning, lead the rushing team with 17 carries for 171 yards and five touchdowns. Alan Lazard had seven receptions for 137 yards and one touchdown. Lanning tied the school record with five rushing touchdowns. Something that Coach Campbell has often said over the years to his team, "You can't measure soul but you sure can feel it."

Yes, indeed it was a great day to be a Cyclone. Players and coaches come, and they go, but they will always be a Cyclone and always be in the heart of Cyclone Nation. The 2025-26 season will mark 10 years for Coach to be with ISU and we all say a huge thank you for staying with us Coach. You are appreciated, respected, admired and one of our village.

Let's hear from you!

Are you a former Cyclone Football Player?

Did you don the Cardinal & Gold on the gridiron for the Cyclones? Do you want to let Cyclone football fans know what you have been up to? If so, just let us know by emailing us at info@cyclonegridironclub.com and we'll see if we can't get your story out to our membership.



Thank you for reading!

Check out our CGC Merchandise at <https://cyclonegridironclub.com/merchandise/>