

sideline spirit

why they do it



sam copa, 12

"Being on the sidelines is awesome. Why? Because I like being up close and personal and seeing injuries happen and getting to attend to the player."



anthony price, 12

"Doing pushups in front of cheerleaders validates my existence."



jake murphy, 12

"I loved being at Westlake games with my friends and yelling as loud as I can to distract the other team."



natalia russell, 12

"It was fun being closer to the field. We might be in giant bird suits, but the only people who paid attention to us were the kids. They were good and bad and very annoying, but their love for nachos was the best part of the football game."

energized
Screaming at the camera, the pushup squad pumps up the crowd at the Cibolo Steele game. The squad, along with the student section, wore white to the game in memory of Ben Breedlove.

rally the troops
In the season opener against Cedar Park on Aug. 31, senior mascot Natalia Russell gets the Chap crowd excited. Russell and her mascot partner Queso, sophomore Obie Jones, encouraged school spirit.



david oliver



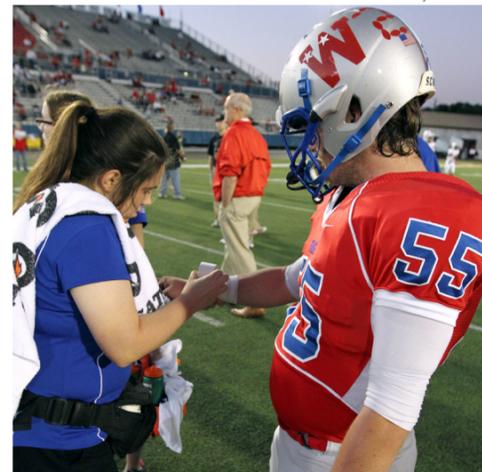
casey simmons



casey simmons

wrapped up
Trainer James Allen wraps varsity football player sophomore Hudson Hall's knee during the Hendrickson game on Nov. 16. "The trainers were really helpful," Hall said. "Whenever I got hurt, they wrapped me up and sent me back into the game."

pre-game
On Nov. 2, trainer senior Camille Cravey tapes up varsity offensive lineman senior Skyler Curtis' wrist before the game against Lake Travis. "Having the trainers on staff was great because when anyone got injured, they were there to help," Curtis said.



david oliver

pointstopushups

An arm-throbbing Westlake tradition keeps fans fired up

After senior kicker Michael Barden's extra-point kick went through the uprights, the pushup squad picked up their flags, ran across the field, got down and began doing pushups. Over and over again. Every time the Chaps scored.

"I really enjoyed being on pushup squad this year," senior Andrew Timmins said. "It gave me a great opportunity to build several strong friendships with some awesome guys as well as a chance to give something back to Westlake — primarily, perfectly formed pushups."

Last year, senior Anthony Price was the only junior and was ready to lead the pushup squad as a senior this year.

"Being on pushup squad as a junior was an exciting way to be a part of the football production at Westlake, which is why this year I invited my buddy [junior] Carter Smith to help carry on a great Westlake tradition just as I have," Price said.

The pushup squad was very busy this year, doing more than 1,300 pushups at the varsity football games. The most pushups they did was the night when the Chaps beat Akins High School 68-7.

"What a fun night. When we scored 34 points in the first four minutes, we knew we were in for a long night," senior Jacob Zodikoff said. "By the time we were done with one set of pushups, we had to run the flags because we scored again. By the 68th point, we were dead tired, hoping that we would stop scoring. It was rough."

Smith said he enjoyed being on the squad and hoped to do some more pushups next year.

"It is such an honor to be the only junior on the squad this year," Smith said. "The other seniors became some of my closest friends, and we really took our job to heart, which made it all the more enjoyable when cheering at the games. I wouldn't trade it for the world."



david oliver

fired up
Keeping the beat, freshman Pierce Waldrop, along with the rest of Drumline, fires up the crowd at the rainy first district game of the season against Bowie on Sept. 28. "I had a lot of fun playing on Drumline this year," Waldrop said. "It was fun playing at football games and getting the crowd excited."

What's happening on the sidelines?

"I'm so glad that Westlake has competition and football cheerleading. Cheering at football is really fun, and competition allows us to showcase our athletic ability."
sofia mitre, 12

"Drumline was one of my favorite things at football games because it kept me pumped up through the game."
ethan pocher, 9

"Cheering at the football games is fun because everyone cheers along with us and we get to show off our skills and pump up the crowd!"
sierra loarte, 11

"Pushup squad is always super energetic and helpful during the football games."
brittany pearson, 11

"Pushup squad is always one of my favorite things to watch during the football games."
jose olguin, 11