



just out of reach
Junior running back Brice Dolezal sprints for a touchdown against the Austin High Maroons on Oct. 15. The Chaps won 52-13. "It feels great to know that all the hard work I put in paid off in the best way possible," Dolezal said.

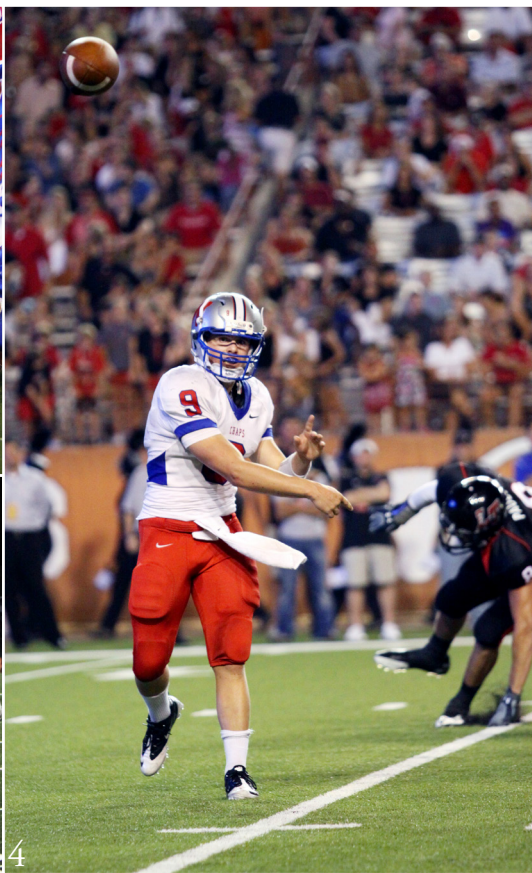
paul mathieson

beyond the whistle

Varsity players build camaraderie and become a team by wide receiver
jackson smith

It was something we all shared. No one spoke a word in the locker room at the Round Rock ISD Reeves Athletic Complex on Nov. 16. Sweat and tears ran down familiar faces. Coaches stood in silence to watch our reactions, and shoulder pads crunched as players slid to the floor and curled into balls. But it hadn't started that way for the varsity football team. From the start of spring training, there had been a sense of excitement. Starting practice as a senior-based team, leadership could be felt surging through our team. The previous season had ended with us going all the way to the State game, and we were preparing to do it again. Although the training schedule was rigorous, we were all willing to put in our hearts and souls for our final year of high school football. For most, it was our last year playing at all. Our team transitioned smoothly from the spring into the summer workouts. Every Monday through Thursday, we gave up our summer nights and the chance to sleep in so that we could run drills with the thought of a whistle blowing in our ears. Beyond the whistle, we practiced to become better. But the first game didn't go as planned. After a strong first half, we lost to Lake Travis 21-32, opening our season with a disappointing loss and throwing us into a slump that seemed

almost impossible to recover from. Our team was explosive enough, quick enough and intelligent enough to win; we just couldn't click. It seemed like only a touchdown or an extra point was what would keep us from a win — it seemed that simple. But after losing our third game in a row 21-26 against A&M Consolidated, realization set in. We weren't yet a team. That's when things changed. We started to win. Everything and everyone started to come together. We worked out together. We went to meetings together. We ate together. We practiced together. We even created our own language that we yelled during school. We were becoming a team. In the first round of playoffs, we faced Stony Point. As the game proceeded, our fighting team seemed to fall short play after play, bringing us to a point of no return. There wasn't a play we didn't put every ounce of effort into; we were too good to quit. But the scoreboard buzzer sounded, and the score stood 10-35. It was over. A season shattered in seconds. It was something we all shared. At the end of our season, the standings, the hardships and the pain we endured was a shared experience. Leaving the locker room, we left football behind but took with us a sense of brotherhood and unity we would never forget.



1. david oliver 2. paul mathieson 3. paul mathieson 4. chris bull

the Chaps unleashed
1 At the first home game of the year, on Sept. 17, the players continue the tradition of breaking through the banner. The Chaps went on to defeat the Pflugerville Panthers 59-35, earning the season's first win.
killer defense
2 Senior safety Sean Potter celebrates stopping the Stony Point Tigers on fourth down during the home game on Nov. 12. "When I was younger, I used to look up to the Westlake football players with envy," Potter said. "These past years playing for Coach Allman have far exceeded my expectations and will be something I remember for the rest of my life."
leap of faith
3 Leaping for the ball, senior tight end Daniel Sharplin puts up a fight against the Bowie Bulldogs on Nov. 4. Despite his efforts, the Chaps lost 7-30. "If you go full speed every time, there are no bad plays," Sharplin said.
commanding the troops
4 On Aug. 28, junior quarterback Lewis Guilbeau drops back to throw, trying to break Lake Travis' 48-game winning streak. After trailing at halftime, the Cavaliers came back to win 21-32. "I want to set a good example for the winning tradition at Westlake," Guilbeau said.

what motivates you?



paul mathieson



paul mathieson



brandon mckee

The defensive coaches worked us so hard every day, making us better players and harder workers, and I will always respect them for that.

Westlake's winning tradition and the ability to play at the highest high school level.

I get motivated having a team of guys that I depend on to leave all they have on the field for a win; in return I give all I have. The sense of brotherhood and team motivates me.



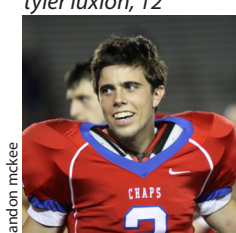
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david oliver



chris bull



brandon mckee

van gramann, 12

jason prideaux, 12

tyler luxion, 12

matt ferguson, 12

My team motivates me. I want to be the best that I can be for my team and try as hard as I can for my team.

When you put on that Westlake uniform, not only are you representing your brothers, but you're representing an entire community who are all backing you up.

The parents motivated me by always standing behind us through our tough season and hosting delicious team dinners.

My coaches pushed me to play confidently and passionately, making me a better player and student.