

big cleats to fill

Families' legacies live on through Westlake football

Some freshmen played football to prove themselves to their teammates. Others had family traditions to uphold.

Safety/running back Michael Severt had to live up to the expectations of a dad who played college football at Toledo and his brother sophomore Jordan Severt, quarterback on the JV red team.

"It's a lot to live up to, but it's fun because the coaches already like me. My dad expects me to be like my brother," Michael Severt said. "Jordan critiques me, too."

Middle linebacker and tight end Breckyn Hager also had to follow his dad and brothers. His dad held the record at the University of Texas for the most tackles and then went on to play in the NFL for the Philadelphia Eagles, the St. Louis Rams and the Denver Broncos. His brothers had played at Baylor and North Texas, and his brother senior Brayven Hager committed to Blinn College.

"Football is all we know," Breckyn Hager said. "I definitely plan on playing college football and maybe even professional."

Running back Gabe Duran had his brother in front of him in the Westlake football program as well. His brother, senior middle linebacker Lance Duran, on varsity since his sophomore year, broke a Westlake tackle record.

"He has more skills, and I have more instinct," Gabe Duran said. "Because Lance works hard, I have to work hard, too."

Center Michael Morrill's dad played Division I football at Baylor University.

"It's kind of hard sometimes because he knows a lot about it," Morrill said, "But it's also good because he can help me a lot with getting better as I prepare and hope to play college football one day."

All four of these freshman football players, following in the footsteps of those who came before them, were committed to making their own name for themselves.

"They expect me to be at a certain level because of my brother, but it's not that easy," Duran said. "The coaches and players say I have big shoes to fill."



ready to play
1 Running back Travis Braithwaite breaks a tackle against Vandergrift on Sept. 1. The Chaps went on to win 13-0. 2 Red team halfback Daniel Aidman runs the ball against Del Valle on Oct. 20. "We came out ready to play and with a lot of intensity," Aidman said, "and I think the score showed that." 3 On Aug. 25, the freshman red team runs onto the field against Lake Travis. "You have that pumped-up-ready-to-play feeling, and you have butterflies in your system," middle line-backer Hudson Hall said. "You're nervous, but you are ready to play some football."

THE CHEAT SHEET

play music

"My favorite pre-game song is *Above the Law* by Bad Meets Evil."
Mike Haneman

"I listen to *Human* by The Killers before every game getting off the bus."
Hudson Petersen

"I listen to Kenny Chesney's *The Boys of Fall* before my games."
Devyn Sieck

"*A Milli* by Lil Wayne gets me ready for the game."
Gunner Ochoa

"I listen to *We Are the Champions* by Queen to get in the mindset of winning."
Brian Beasley

"*The Show Goes On* by Lupe Fiasco really gets me in the zone."
Gavin Woodard



drive to catch
Against A&M Consolidated, freshman red team receiver Harrison Hackney goes up for the catch. "A&M Consolidated was the best team we played all year," Hackney said. "We couldn't quite get a good enough drive to win the game."



fight back
Passing down the field, freshman red team quarterback Sean Rollings makes an effort to come back against Lake Travis. "We came into the game with a great amount of intensity," Rollings said. "But we were not prepared to be in a situation where we were down by three touchdowns."

dodge a bullet
As red team running back Malek Jacobs gets a block from receiver Harrison Hackney, he looks for a running lane against Lake Travis. "Thanks to the offensive line, I was able to read the blocks and hit the gap the best I could," Jacobs said.



catch me if you can
1 Running the ball, freshman red team running back Gabe Duran looks for space against A&M Consolidated on Sept. 8. The Chaps went on to lose the game 13-17. 2 Blue team quarterback Joseph Richard runs the ball against Vandergrift. "If I saw the receivers covered," Richard said, "I would just run through the gap as far as I could." 3 Against Del Valle, red team quarterback Sean Rollings runs for the first down. The red team went on to an 8-2 record and a District Championship.