

the 6th man

Players grateful for fan support

by Will Morse

After playing my last game as part of Westlake basketball, I realize that there is a lot I will miss about it. Over the last four years, the teams at Westlake have had many ups and downs, but what I will miss most is playing at home in front of our crowd.

This past season, all but three of our district games were decided by three points or less. With these close games, the fan section became a huge advantage. This season, our student section came out strong to help give us the key home game wins over our rivals Austin, Lake Travis and Bowie. As a player, having the support of the students during the game is huge in motivating and energizing the team. This support group, self-proclaimed “The Sixth Man,” helped make our season successful.

The Sixth Man — led primarily by rowdy seniors — started chants and occasionally managed to minimize the home court advantages when playing at other schools. It was this support by the fans that we haven’t had in the past. As a football school, other sports often feel like they don’t get the support or fans that they could or should get. And finally, this season, our fans really took to the basketball games and not only provided fun and memories for us, but for the rest of the crowd as well.



sarah guthrie

fan support

Junior Patrick Elliott and senior Jackson Carter high-five their fans after the Austin High game on Jan. 11. The Chaps defeated the Austin High Maroons 49-46.

reach high

On Jan. 11 at the home game against Austin High, senior Will Morse jumps up to block a shot by AHS junior Kendrick Price. The Chaps defeated the Maroons and earned their first district win of the season.



sarah guthrie



casey simmons

game plan

The team listens to varsity coach Tres Ellis during a timeout at the Austin High game. “The timeout helps make sure that all five guys going back in the game are on the same page,” Ellis said.

keep away

Junior Patrick Elliott sets up the offense at the Austin High game on Jan. 11. “My favorite part of the season was running back out of the locker room after the Austin game to thank the amazing crowd we had,” Elliott said.



casey simmons

head in the game

1 At the game against Austin High on Jan. 11, senior guard Chris Murch prepares to take a shot. “A lot of practice goes into shooting,” Murch said, “but it’s the best feeling when I make it.” 2 During the Anderson game on Feb. 12, juniors Jordan Severt and Luke Rowan, sophomore Lucas Goldberg and junior Ben Slaughter support their teammates from the bench. 3 Junior forward Dallen Nelson sets himself up to shoot a layup during warm-up before the Akins game on Feb. 12. “The warm-up is when you get your mind focused and pumped up,” Nelson said. “Even though we’re dancing before the game starts, we’re also serious. Warming up makes you excited to play.”



1-3. casey simmons

extra WORK

“During the off-season we play pick-up games after school at open gym until 6 p.m.”



ben slaughter, 11

“I play AAU club basketball all over the country, and we also do strength and conditioning.”



vincent deblasio, 12

“We play pick-up games in the off-season at the basketball courts by Murch’s house.”



jackson carter, 12

“We run all the way from Westlake to Train 4 the Game with our coaches.”



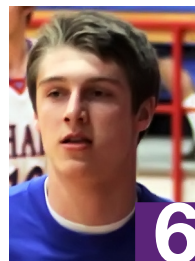
travis brown, 12

“Along with working hard physically, we also work on the mental aspect of the game.”



luke rowan, 11

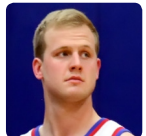
“I work with a personal coach on individual skills and go to open gym at Westlake.”



zach dansby, 11



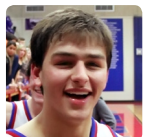
From the field to the court



“Juggling between football and basketball was especially tough this year because of the run we made in the playoffs this season. The hardest part about juggling the two is that during the season I don’t ever touch a basketball, and as soon as it’s over, we have to come right in and get acclimated to differences between the two sports.

Despite the difficulties, I personally love playing both sports, and it’s great to get to know the different guys and coaches that come with each sport.”

jordan severt, 11



“Going back and forth between two sports can be tough, but it is definitely fun and worth it.

During football, I hardly ever touch a basketball, and during basketball, I hardly ever touch a football. Off-season is nice because I have time for both.”

patrick elliot, 11