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THE TRENCHES

"Basically, to be an offensive lineman you have to do more stuff than everyone. You have to work harder than everyone, and you get absolutely no credit for it — you have to be okay with that. The only people that give you credit are people that really know football. I have pride in being an offensive lineman, and I love it."

Sam Freireich, 12





run free On Oct. 21, senior running back Brice Dolezal sprints for the first down at home against Del Valle. "I liked helping out my team the best I could," Dolezal said. "I owe a lot of my thanks to the offensive line."

let it fly Senior Blake Box throws a perfect touchdown pass on Oct. 21 against Del Valle at Chaparral Stadium. "Being a QB is an exciting chance that puts me in a position to set an example for other players," Box said.



Chris Canter, 11

"I lay down and listen to the song *Hey Jude* by the Beatles. The song helps me calm down and allows me to focus on the game." Kyle Kimery, 12

prepare yourself

"I close my eyes and

sandwich."

listen to music. I try to visualize myself going through the plays and I eat a Jimmy Johns

"Before every game, I would watch the Any Given Sunday speech off YouTube."

John Dodd, 11

"I start off by eating a small snack and playing iPad games. When it gets near time for us to go warm up, I take a shower because it helps me wake up. The very last two things I do is listen to Lose Yourself by Eminem and then I pray."

Canyon Manske, 11



get ready Senior Brayven Hager warms up for the Bowie game on Nov. 4 at Chaparral Stadium.

rom working out in 55 straight days of record-breaking heat to losing more than 80 percent of last year's team and playing tough opponents from the start, the 64 varsity football players knew it was going to be a challenging year.

The season opened with a loss to Lake Travis on Aug. 27. "It was evident that we were replacing 55 seniors," offensive line coach Ted Willmann said, "but our kids never back down from a challenge, and that's why we schedule tough opponents."

The team rebounded by demolishing Abilene Cooper, A&M Consolidated and Pflugerville, making its way to the last nondistrict foe, New Braunfels. Amid controversy, time ran out and left Westlake with a disappointing loss.

"We had chances to win the game and still should've," junior defensive lineman Anthony Patino said, "but the referees affected the outcome of the game way more than they should have."

After the 21-24 loss, they faced Anderson in the district opener. Two touchdowns later and seven minutes into the game, all doubt was gone. A 52-0 win over Austin High, a 55-7 win over Del Valle and a 70-0 shutout over Akins led the Chaps to the district finals on Nov. 19 against Bowie.

"It was really quiet in the locker room — everyone was doing their pre-game rituals and putting on their lucky pieces of clothing," junior defensive back Duncan Brown said. "This was our most important game so far."

They dominated. As the scoreboard beamed a 35-0 victory, the stadium exploded. Finally, the Chaps were undefeated District Champions. Although they lost in the second round of playoffs, players appreciated the progress they had made.

"I wouldn't give up a single second of this season or trade a single person off this team," senior defensive lineman Spencer Smith said. "There was just something special about this team and the people who were on it. This team and these people — I will never forget."







make a play 1 Sprinting down the field, junior

Brandon Irick intercepts a pass on Oct. 14 against Austin High at House Park. "Before I knew it," Irick said, "I was running like a madman and had the biggest adrenaline rush I've ever had." 2 A three-year varsity starter, senior receiver Lewis Guilbeau stiff-arms an Austin High player on Oct. 14 at House Park. 3 Against A&M Consolidated on Sept. 9, senior tight-end Web Elliott catches a touchdown pass. "Scoring is the result of every single player doing their job," Elliott said. 4 Junior Jacob Mansour tackles an A&M Consolidated player on Oct. 14.

