

# Some coaches pull double duty

Coaches give insight on instructing both boys, girls

BY BRIAN HAMILTON  
Staff Writer

Year after year, day after day, they start their job at sunrise and leave at sunset.

Adapting to the personality of student athletes is their specialty, doling out a combination of encouragement, knowledge, and the occasional stern correction.

But at the end of the day, their purpose remains the same: to guide students to be all they can be.

Several Albany coaches take on what some may call “double duty” by having to train both male and female athletes.

“I try and help the boys more with their long game while working on the girls’ short game,” golf coach Ryder Peacock said.

Though golf has fewer athletes than other sports in Albany, winning is still the main priority.

“Tristan Cauble and Felicity Coronado are two of my most competitive golfers,” Peacock said. “They show up wanting to win at every tournament.”

Having motivation is always a good thing when it comes to athletics.

“I feel that boys respond better to a challenge, while girls respond better to encouragement,” pole vault coach Rod Brit-



Coach Paul Johnston (top) coaches the Lady Lion basketball team during a timeout. Johnston also coaches boys and girls in cross country. Coach Jimmy Fuentes (left) makes a defensive call from the sideline during a football game. Fuentes also coaches the Lady Lions softball team. Coaches Rod Britting and Ryder Peacock also coach both boys and girls.

PHOTOS BY  
RACHEL HILL AND BRIAN HAMILTON

ting said.

At the end of the day every athlete, regardless of gender, is trying to improve his or her game. “They are all the same outside of the locker room,” girls’ basketball and cross country coach Paul Johnston said. “The athletes do what they’re told and are motivated to win.”

The occasional uplift-

ing comment is always helpful.

“I try and tell them I love them everyday and give them my very best,” coach Johnston said. “I try not to treat boys differently than I would girls.”

Though coaching two very successful athletic programs these past few years, coach Jimmy Fuentes also sees little difference in coaching

Fuentes said. “However, I somehow ended up with softball.”

Doing the best they can with what is given to them is why these coaches were hired.

“Even though I didn’t get what I thought I was, I still want to be the best at what I do and prove I’m better than the opponent,” Fuentes said.

Coaches enter the profession for various reasons.

“I like getting something out of a kid that they didn’t know they had inside them,” coach Fuentes said.

Athletics isn’t just about physicality.

“An athlete builds their character when they keep competing even though their body doesn’t want to,” Britting said. “I enjoy watching athletes become better people.”

Others voiced different reasons.

“Practice is the best part of coaching for me,” Johnston said. “Any sport with one on one interaction in practice helps me get to know the kids better and see their eagerness to learn.”

His athletes say they love Coach Johnston, but his workouts are notorious for the opposite.

“Coach Johnston is very understanding and always seems to have our backs,” senior Curry Wilson said. “However, I hate his workouts because they always wear us out.”

He says his coaching methods are the same for everyone.

“Coach Johnston has the guys do the same

workout as the girls, and it’s actually really hard,” junior cross-country runner Efen Camacho said. “He never seems to have a bad day and is always encouraging.”

Fuentes is also able to get the best out of his players.

“I really like Coach Fuentes,” junior Jake Green said. “He pushes kids to reach their maximum potential, and I think that is what makes us good at football.”

Girls don’t get any special treatment from Fuentes, though.

“Coach Fuentes gives us tough love,” Wilson said. “You know he loves you, but he still pushes you. He treats us as one of the guys.”

Support from Fuentes is especially uplifting.

“He doesn’t give a lot of compliments, so when he does, you know he means it,” Wilson said.

Golf is a different story considering boys and girls have their individual strengths and weaknesses. However, Peacock strives to treat everyone equal, and does his best to help.

“Coach Peacock is very helpful when it comes to giving instructions on my short game like chipping and putting,” sophomore Kourtnee Waters said.

He uses his knowledge to improve his golfers as they progress throughout their careers.

“He’s always been very helpful and encouraging,” sophomore McLennan Jones said. “He taught me how to read the greens.”

# Students participate in fall hunting

Students tell hunting experiences

BY NEWT KOEMEL  
Staff Writer

Fall is a time that all students enjoy.

The weather is cool, football season is in full swing, and students begin to look forward to the holidays.

There is, however, something else that small town youth love to do during fall: hunt.

In this secluded part of west Texas, full of mesquites and brush, deer thrive, and with the rifle season open since Nov. 7, one of the students’ favorite hunting seasons finally arrived.

“My favorite season is probably deer season,” sophomore Chase Hill said. “I get the opportunity to kill larger animals and it’s cold outside.”

Hill is an avid hunter who said he typically goes hunting three times per week. He enjoys hunting because of the quality time he gets to spend with his father.

“One time my dad, one of his friends and I were hunting,” Hill said. “We shot a deer and thought it was dead, but when we went to field dress the deer, it started kicking.”

Some hunters would rather use archery to down their deer.

“Bow season is my favorite because it is 10 times more fun to use a

bow than a rifle,” freshman Braden Davis said.

Using his bow, Davis has created many memories.

“My favorite hunting experience was my first bow kill,” Davis said. “I downed a 10 point buck.”

One student enjoys going out of state to hunt game that are not found in Texas.

“My favorite hunting season is probably mule deer or elk season in New Mexico because it is different,” sophomore Parker Moon said. “In New Mexico, you are hunting on thousands of acres with sand dunes everywhere. Most of the time when you find a deer it will be a long way away and it will be around a four to five hour stalk.”

Moon describes this type of hunting as one that requires trekking rough terrain to find a trophy.

“Last year, I shot my biggest mule deer and it took a four hour stalk, with about a three-mile hike there and back,” Moon said.

In order to go hunting in Texas, students need an assortment of paperwork to legally hunt. According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual, persons aged nine through 16 are required to have a youth hunting license and must successfully complete a hunter education course or be accompanied by an adult who has completed the course. However, people aged 17 and older must have a license for the specific season and must have

completed the course or purchased a Hunter Education Deferral. To help with the education and paperwork, and to inspire them to hunt, agriculture teacher Chris Beard has worked with students in the classroom.

“I’m teaching a hunter safety course and a boater-angler course in my wildlife management class,” Beard said. “Students have learned patience, fitting procedures, selection of proper deer management, harvesting the deer, and proper field dressing and care of the meat.”

Beard also described facilities at the local ag farm that have educated students on wildlife.

“We have a quail facility and a fish ecosystem at the farm that I use for class,” Beard said. “The information the students learn in this class not only helps them understand how to manage wildlife, but also can be used in the FFA wildlife competition.”

Grant Zeller, youth minister at The Feed Store, has taken several youth on hunting expeditions to spark an interest in the sport.

“I love hunting and fishing, and inviting others into this hobby and passion of mine is a lot of fun,” Zeller said. “It’s also easy because we are fortunate enough to have several adults whose passion is hunting and conservation. They have allowed me to be between them and our high school and junior high



Freshman Jillian Guinn (above) poses with her father after killing a hog using her crossbow. Growing up, Guinn learned all of the rules and precautions to take while hunting, due to the fact that her father is the Shackelford County Game Warden. Sophomore Parker Moon (left) poses with his kill. The two share an interest in hunting. Moon prefers mule deer and elk season in New Mexico because it is different from the local hunting.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY PARKER MOON AND JILLIAN GUINN

students.”

Students say that the best advice to give inexperienced hunters is to be patient. However, one student reminds hunters

the importance of knowing the legalities involved in hunting.

“Make sure you are safe with your gun and also have someone with

you that knows the rules of hunting,” freshman Jillian Guinn said. “Know what you can and can’t shoot, and always have a hunting license.”