



## Boys team hopes to prove themselves

by **CONNOR BROOKS**  
staff writer

After having a rough start on their record, the boys soccer team is ready to prove themselves once the district season starts. After going to a tournament near Dallas, they came back with three losses but also benefited from this.

"I feel like the competition is more difficult than what we are used to," junior Alex Hernandez said. "On and off of the field, I feel like we grew closer as a team and this will help us in future games."

The boys first district game was a cat fight as they played the Mount Pleasant Tigers. They have always been tough competition for both junior varsity and varsity. Both teams suffered losses, but they still improved on their teamwork. Varsity is confident they can have many wins this season.

"I want to be able to win more games than we did last year, and with the game we played tonight, I feel like we will be able to," senior Roger Moreno said. "Even though we lost tonight [against Mount Pleasant], I felt like we got better as a team with our touches and passes."

The junior varsity team suffered a more detrimental loss but are still confident to be able to achieve success throughout the rest of the season.

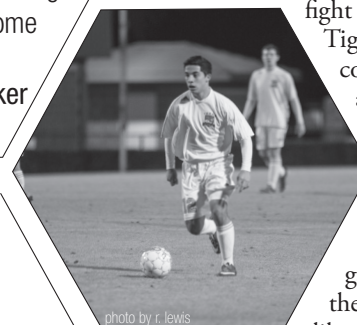
"I expect that we will win a lot of games while developing more as a team and how we operate together," freshman John Powell said. "We need to work on passing and keeping our space, but we have definitely improved on it."

Head coach Clint Toon has been working vigorously with the team at practices to get them prepared and to hopefully help them make it to playoffs.

"As long as the team plays together as a unit, rather than individuals, we should do pretty good," senior Braden Sellers said. "I think by talking, it'll [get] us closer as more than just a team, but as a family which will then help our passing."

The boys will be playing a home game today with junior varsity at 5:30 p.m. and varsity at 7 p.m. against Sulphur Springs.

"I've had to step up for my team and be someone they can count on. If we keep working together we will become stronger."  
-Rachael Shewmaker



"We are going to be working hard as a team and improving our game, and hopefully, we'll be better than last year."  
-Alex Hernandez

## Girls team aims to continue improving

by **ELEANOR SCHROEDER**  
staff writer

They stand with heads held high in line. They walk out when their names and numbers are called. They put their hands to their hearts when the melody they know so well begins to play. They huddle together as the crowd cheers. "1, 2, 3, Family!" and the game is on.

After a hard fought battle against their cross-town rival, Pleasant Grove, the varsity Lady Tigers lost 0-1 in a scrimmage. This loss has driven the team to work harder during practice and their other scrimmages.

"Our loss against PG has served as motivation to work hard in every practice," senior Shaleigh Chandler said. "It was a tough loss because we fought every second, but unfortunately, we were just unlucky."

After recuperating and improving on the issues that came about during their first game, the Lady Tigers travelled to Sherman and came home victorious with a score of 1-0.

"Our first win really helped us play together as a team and connect," sophomore Summer Stussy said. "We used our speed to beat a really physical team."

The first week back from Christmas break, the team competed in the Whataburger Terrell Winterblast Tournament in Terrell, Texas. They came home from the tournament with a record of

2-0-2.

"The competition in this tournament will help us later on when we get into our district where every game will be a battle," Coach Dustin Holly said. "The best part about us getting away for a tournament was the bonding our team goes through. I think the girls really got to know each other, and we came back more of a family than we were."

The Lady Tigers travelled to Carthage and won with a score of 8-0.

In a rematch of last year's bi-district playoff match, the Lady Tigers beat John Tyler again 3-0 at home. The Tigers then went on to outshot the John Tyler Lions 18-2.

"Our game against John Tyler was a great first home game," freshman Sarah Rogers said. "It was a really physical game in which a red card was given to one of the girls on the other team."

In their last scrimmage before district, the team tied Nacogdoches 0-0. With a goal for the Lady Tigers that was called offsides, Holly was proud of their performance against the most athletic team they have played this season.

"I am looking forward to this season because I think if we play as a team we will do well," sophomore Chloe Coake said. "We have become a family, and now everyone is going to do their best because we do not want to let each other down."

The Lady Tigers travel to Sulphur Springs tonight to compete in their fifth district game.