



photos by Austin Iike



On the run, sophomore Connor Weeks breaks ahead to move on the offense with the ball. Week's strong defense in the midfield opened opportunities for Landry Sheridan and Cade Palmer to score, landing Week's two assists within their first game.

Dead sprint, junior Nick McFarland moves up the field to break the opposing team's defense. The Comebacks changed the pace of the game by stepping up the speed to steal the ball and score goals. McFarland's key dribbling skills allowed for a faster pace of the game to move on the field.

MAKING A COMEBACK

Childhood soccer teammates band together to form club soccer team

Cade Palmer
Editor-in-Chief

It started as only a pick-up game, a group of students kicking a soccer ball without cleats or even shin guards. It grew into a movement, a protest, in favor of a school-sponsored soccer team. A student petition for a team containing over 300 signatures was tossed in the trash and the players forbid from playing on the practice field. Outcast and told they would never have a place in the school's athletic program, a rag-tag group of 17 students banded together to form a White Oak club soccer team, the first of its kind. "I tried to get the school to let us have an actual team, but that basically was a bust because I said soccer and they said

no," captain, midfielder Blake Warren said. "[Coach] Joey just suggested the idea of getting a team so I got some people to sign up." The makeshift team gained approval to practice on the school's "sticker field" and has since begun taking part in legitimate practices. "We've always thought of the awesome idea of White Oak getting a soccer team, but it's never happened," midfielder Dax Davis said. "We took the dream into our own hands." Inspiration for the formation of the team came in part from many of the player's previous participation in little league soccer when they were younger. "The team name is significant because we haven't played for years and are coming back to play one last time together," Davis said. "The feeling of playing with my past teammates is indescribable because we all love the

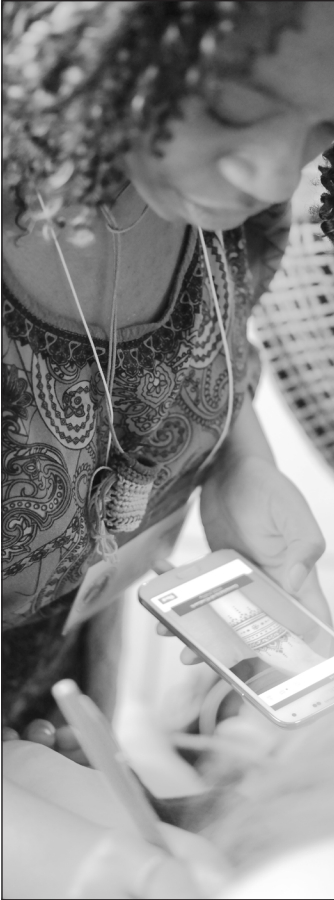
game and love playing together. We're not all close friends but this team has brought us all together as a family." On March 31, the team took the field for the first time against the Wildcats, a team made up of many of Pine Tree's varsity players. The Comebacks lost the game 2-7 with juniors Cade Palmer and Landry Sheridan scoring the team's first goals. "I feel the first game went pretty good in the second half," sweeper Landry Sheridan said. "The first half wasn't very good but that was kind of expected. The fans were awesome, always cheering for you, sometimes yelling at the other team. It was nice to see some people come out and support us. I did score and my celebration was a one-of-a-kind cartwheel in which I almost got carded for excessive celebration but it was worth it." In their debut game, the Comebacks drew a large crowd of students who lined the field in support of what many consider the school's first soccer team.

VASE advances to state

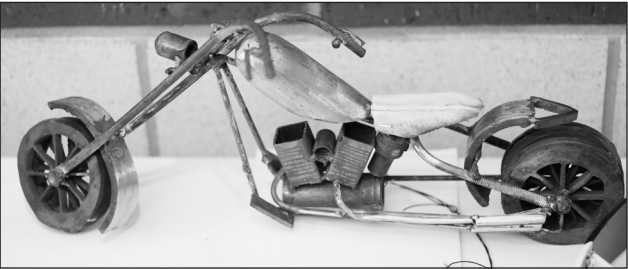
Michelle Holcomb
Staff Writer

After several anxiety-filled hours of presenting pieces to judges and waiting to get results on them, the mass of competitors crowd the entry to the hallways. On the floors, division four pieces and state advancers are displayed haphazardly behind lines of blue tape. It was at the end of this long day that White Oak, with only three years experience in this competition, discovered that three students were advancing to state: seniors Kevin Reed and Dailon Smith and junior Gwen Graves. Several White Oak students made fourth division, earning them 13 gold medals. It was from these that the State pieces were chosen, a certain percentage from each medium. The broad categories included photography, 3-D sculptures, or a 2-D painting or drawing, which had more specialized categories within them.

"I'm so excited having three students advancing," art teacher Mrs. Taylor said. "Especially considering the percentage. Out of 733 students, 37 advanced to state. We are also competing against 5A and 6A who start art in middle and sometimes elementary school." The competition feels fierce, and passion and confidence don't guarantee competitors a spot at State. This is widely acknowledged in the White Oak art department, but this competition in particular emphasizes that there is more to the art world beyond White Oak that aspiring artists need to be exposed to. "At White Oak, there's an expectation to win," Graves said, "but we can't sit back, conceited and complacent, expecting to win if you haven't done anything." Humility has played a big role in everyone's reaction to their success. Against these odds, though, all are hopeful. Most are surprised when they advance and carry the knowledge with quiet joy. "I feel like I lost all feeling in my body," Reed said. "I was so shocked and overwhelmed with joy. I look at metal sculptures all the time and I feel like I can't compare so to know that I did that well in this competition- its just good. It's like everything I've been wanting."



photos by Dailon Smith



For Mrs. Taylor, though, her joy for her student's success is unbridled. "I about plowed him down I was so stinkin' excited!" she said when describing her reaction to the discovery of Kevins advancement. "She cares," Graves said. "I love it when she's into our projects and giving us advice. She loves us. She actually refers to us as HER kids." While VASE is the place to kick back and chit chat, State VASE is the place to gape in awe of what others have pushed themselves to achieve. Only the best of the best make it, and the displaying of the students artwork is more professional and planned out. Instead of being laid on the ground behind tape, they are pinned up on proper display boards. Before the display is opened, students will have the chance to participate in workshops that range in diversity from sculpting to photography to 2D drawings of all kinds. "I get to take this fashion design course and basically we'll be learning how to draw our model and design an outfit," Smith said. "They also have a mask making class where at the end you act out a scene with it. We'll also be going to be touring around a lot of museums." The next stage of competition that takes place at State is much like the first, but there is no interview with a judge.

The top percentages in each medium are awarded a gold seal, which is the highest award in VASE. If you gold seal, your piece goes around the nation to different conferences to be displayed. "Competitions like this give students to express themselves in another way," Graves said. "If a student is good at math then theres a UIL event for that. Students who are more interested in art related stuff now have VASE. We're all different and this is a way to show it." It is unanimously agreed on that the most exciting part of VASE is getting the opportunity to meet not only passionate people, but also ones that have put in incredible amounts of time perfecting their craft. The crowd at State consists of people who come from all different backgrounds who represent a wide range of passions and interests. "The great thing about art is that anyone can be involved," Reed said. "There is no 'look' to an artist, so when people say, 'Whoa you're in art? I never would have guessed!' it makes me feel accomplished. I feel like I'm reaching out and showing people that it doesn't matter what you're involved in or what clique you belong to. You can succeed in anything as long as you just put your mind to it."

OAP continued from page one



photos by Becky Davis

In the opening scene of the play, freshman Jessica Ronning passes out the morning rounds to the clerks in the Records Department of the Ministry of Truth.



Hunched and nervously rocking in the ministry of love, Syme, played by senior Zack Lockridge, awaits his punishment for his thought crime.



In a moment of sincerity, Winston, played by senior Drew Frazier, rests his hand on Julia's shoulder, played by freshman Emma Rolland. The relationship between these characters is the symbol of free choice, and is destroyed.



While O'Brian, played by junior Cody Pressen, stands over Winston and informs him that a new comrade will be replacing Bob Withers.

my entire life now," Fookes said. The unspoken bond between the cast and crew members outside the stage is transferred into the play as the actors and actresses interact with each other, making the intensity and believability of their words that much more relatable. "Spending so much time together at practice has made us all like brothers and sisters," Rolland said. "I feel like I can tell anything to these people, and be myself without getting judged. I don't know what I'd do without them."