

United We Run

Family Atmosphere Produces Results

Hadley Carr
Reporter

Running fast and strong, hard to beat, furrowed brow over determined eyes, cross country runners understand the highest of stakes. Seeing past teams qualify for and win the state meet set the bar sky high.

The cross country girls have been state bound for the past seven years while the boys have been for six years in a row. The athletes chase after success and know that it comes with hard work, passion and most of all practice.

"I actually love practicing because you get to see your improvement everyday," senior **Corrina Navarro** said. "We start at the very beginning of summer and most of us haven't ran since the season ended in November. Every year we start from scratch and work hard to get faster."

The tight knit team spends six days a week together working towards a common goal: to win gold at the state meet. Practices continue to get more and more strenuous every year, yet the entire team perseveres to keep a winning status.

"I don't ever regret starting cross country," said sophomore **Jillian Hlavinka**. "It's hard but worth it in the end. Although practices are tough, I do feel like it makes me better."

A love for the sport is a given among the seventeen members of the 2015



(Photos by Rabius)

Taking One for the Team

As the team gathers before the race, they put their right foot in to pray. The team photographer had taken a picture similar to this at a meet last year and wanted to recapture the moment this year at the SFA invitational. "I like to take everything in at the meets," **Corrina Navarro**¹² said. "If you get too serious, then you aren't having fun."



Running on Empty

Jillian Hlavinka¹⁰ sprints for the finish line. Hlavinka placed eleventh at the SFA meet. "The hardest thing is to keep myself from stopping," Hlavinka said. "I just keep telling myself that the race is almost over."

team. Where their passion truly shines through is at their many competitions, or meets. The cross country members admit they are not easily intimidated. However, the runners always keep a close eye on their most skilled opponents.

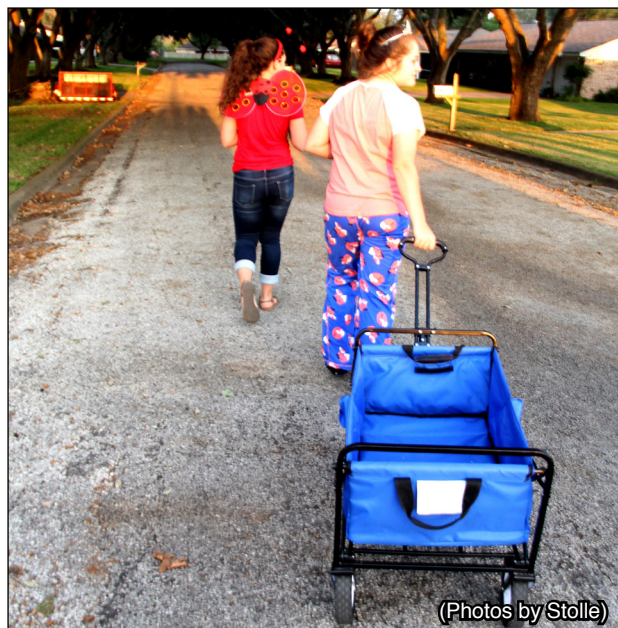
"The only team we have ever worried about is Eustace," Navarro said. "We ran against and beat them at regional meet last year, then took second to them at state. They are who we go after and plan on beating."

In past years, success at the state level was commonplace for cross country. This year, senior **Caleb Moseley** and Navarro have made clear their intent on meeting the expectations.

"I just want to finish this year out strong," Moseley said. "I want to be able to say that I left it all out there my senior year."

The team bonding is at an all time high with this year's team. Every Thursday night they host a group dinner at a different team member's house where they simply enjoy one another's company over dinner and games. The team is continuously united not just by their passion for running but by their love for one another.

"Cross country helped to bring all of us together and made our friendships stronger," Hlavinka said. "I really believe it helped me make friends that will stay with me past high school."



(Photos by Stolle)

Halloween Hay-bells

After collecting cans from around the neighborhood, students ride on the hayride back to the school to drop off their cans. The hayride was only one of the things that the students were able to be involved in during the trick or treat for canned goods. "There was a lot of walking involved, but it was pretty fun," **Cheyenne Novicke**¹¹ said. "It was cool seeing all the people come and donate to the community. This was my first year doing this and it was neat."

No Candy, Just Cans

Walking around town, students go from house to house collecting canned goods for the charity. Both FBLA and FCCLA had over 40 students to come out and trick or treat for cans. "Trick or treating for canned goods was fun," **Cameron Guthman**¹¹ said. "I enjoyed talking and interacting with people while trying to get canned goods."

Crazy for Cans

FBLA, FCCLA Trick-or-Treat For Canned Goods

Travis Cook
Reporter

When hearing the words "trick or treat", the first thing that comes to people's minds is going door-to-door getting candy. For some high school students, trick or treat took on a new meaning.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) teamed up again this year to trick or treat for canned goods. Combined, they had over 40 students come out and trick or treat around town.

"I enjoyed getting to dress up and trick or treat with my friends as a high school student," junior **Cameron**

Guthman said. "I like giving back to the community through these donations."

The cans collected through the trick or treating are sent to the local CARE Center. Together, the two groups collected over 600 canned goods for the center.

"CARE serves a number of families and at this time of year, they really need the canned goods," FBLA sponsor **Karen Riley** said. "We choose to do this event every year and the center really appreciates it."

The two organizations have been donating cans to the charity for over ten years through the trick or treating each year. Even though FBLA and FCCLA have been doing this for such

a long time, not much has changed.

"The only thing that has changed is the method of transportation," Riley said. "We used to let the older kids drive around the others, but we thought it was too risky."

Needing another way to transport students, they tried to think of the next best thing. Then the idea of the hayride was born.

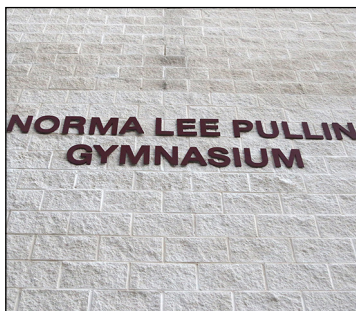
"The hayride was fun but I was nervous at first," junior **Cheyenne Novicke** said. "There were wagons on the ride with us, and we were scared of falling off."

People around the neighborhood donated cans to the charity. Some of them weren't even at their homes when they donated cans.

"There was a soccer game going on when we were walking around the neighborhood," Novicke said. "We were able to watch the games while we were walking. A lot of the people from the soccer game actually donated money, which was pretty cool."

Now that October is over, students wait for what is in store next year. Returning or new, the students enjoy trick or treating with FBLA and FCCLA.

"I've been doing this all three years that I've been in high school," Guthman said. "It was a little slower this year because of the JV game going on, but we still got a lot of donations. I plan participating again next year."



Pullen Power Reunion

Former Brahmarettes gather at the newly named "Norma Lee Pullin Gym" for a picture with the woman herself. Over 60 former players attended the ceremony to relive and rekindle their high school memories. "I can tell you, without a doubt, playing for Mrs. Pullin changed my life," former player, **Donna Schorlemmer** said.

Thumbs Up

As **Norma Pullin** sees her name unveiled she gives the thumbs up with her approval. The high school gym was named after Ms. Pullin's in light of her accomplishments and titles as a coach in EBISD. "Every year was very special, every team was special," Pullin said.

Queen of Thirteen

High School Gym Receives New Name

Claire Coker

Reporter

This symbol of our might is better than the rest. Fight on to victory, forever Brahmarettes.

Former Brahmarettes from three decades came together in song to celebrate their legendary coach, **Norma Lee Pullin**. On Tuesday October 27th, EBISD honored the local legend by renaming the new gym as the "Norma Lee Pullin Gymnasium". The ceremony acknowledged all of Ms. Pullin's achievements as a volleyball coach.

Ms. Pullin came to East Bernard in 1967 and won her first state championship in 1973. She led her teams to 20 state appearances and 13 state titles. Under her

reign, East Bernard is now ranked 3rd in most state appearances and tied for most state tournament titles. After thirty five years she accomplished 937 wins and 209 losses, putting her at the 2nd most winning coach in Texas and 23rd in the nation. In 1999, she was inducted into the Texas Girl's Coaches Association (TGCA) hall of fame and given the UIL Denius-Sponsor Excellence Award in 1991. She was also chosen 10 times to be a TGCA All-Star Coach.

"I really haven't taken it all in yet," Pullin said. "It's an honor that most people don't have until they're gone, so I'm glad I was here to see it."

The statistics are impressive, but being coached under Ms. Pullin has been

more than a record for her former players.

"We didn't have to be amazing athletes," former player **Susan Hlavinka** said. "We just had to have the faith in ourselves that she had in us."

On Tuesday night, sixty six former team members were present, all there to relive the lasting memories of their high school years with Ms. Pullin.

"One thing I remember is that on the weekends, if there were a dance, I'd tell the players I had my spies out and I'd know what they did," Pullin said. "They believed it of course and never knew I was kidding."

Through their years with Ms. Pullin, her players were graced with much more than

the love of the game.

"If you look at the lives of those who had the privilege to play under Ms. Pullin, you will see strong, independent women who are determined in everything they do," former Brahmarette, **Laura Kubena** said.

Through all the jumps, sprints and traditions the Brahmarettes endured, they were all impacted by Ms. Pullin's coaching and dedication. All players past, future and present, have been touched by her words and teachings in their every day life.

"I think my legacy is you should love your friends, your family, and God," Pullin says. "Stand strong in your beliefs. Always be true to yourself and do right."

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Reach for It

During the game against Kountze, **Sara Demny**¹¹ goes up for a block. The teams met in Bi-District. "My favorite moment was making it to regionals," Demny said. "It made me feel good to be a part of the team and it was a big thing since we haven't made it this far in a while."



(Photos by Zahradnik)

Over Too Soon

Rebecca Rabius¹¹, **Amber Adamcik**¹² and **Morgan Swoboda**¹² shed tears after the loss against Jewett Leon. The Brahmarettes lost the hard battle in three games. "I felt heartbroken because volleyball is my passion," Adamcik said. "Our goal was to make it to state and this year we had our chance."

One Step Short

Season Comes to Close with Broken Record

Claudia Zapalac
Reporter

Breaking a record was only one accomplishment of many from this season. From August 3rd to November 14th, the team finished as the 3A undefeated District Champions 12-0, Bi-District Champions, Area Champions, Regional Quarterfinal Champions, Regional Semi-final Champions and played in the Regional finals, which hasn't been done since 1996.

Throughout the season, the team competed in 49 matches including 3 tournaments and 5 playoff rounds, advancing to the regional tournament.

"It felt pretty good knowing everything we went advancing to the regional through and endured as a coach **Allison Brantly** said. team throughout the season.

"To break any record is a special thing especially since it was long overdue for the girls and the work they've put in."

The team fell short in the 5th round of playoff action against Jewett Leon, but relished the team bond that took them to this level.

"It felt amazing to advance this far," junior **Sara Demny** said. "It makes me feel tough

"Success is never owned. It's only rented and the rent is due every day."

-JJ Watt

have made it this far. It's all paid off."

The overall record was 41 wins to 8 losses, but the final loss took out those hopes of a state ring.

"Every time we advanced I saw the state ring," junior

Sarah Fajkus said. "It was exciting when we would advance. You could feel the excitement and everyone knew we were one step closer to state."

The team that consisted of three sophomores, eight juniors and four seniors finished 2nd out of 58 teams in region 3 and in the top 8 out of 196 3A teams in the state of Texas.

"I'm looking forward to returning all but four members for next season," Brantly said. "Even though there are big shoes to fill, we have some great kids coming up. We will still be strong, there won't be a break in the system."



(Courtesy Photos)

Mud Slinger

Running through the mud, **Jackson Barta**⁹ aims to make it to the finish line. This was Barta's first trip to the state meet. "Going to state is an experience that I'll remember for the rest of my life," Barta said. "Even though running in the rain was horrible since it was cold, wet and muddy, I'll never forget it."

Record Breakers

The girl's cross country team poses with the first place trophy they received for being the best 3A team in the state of Texas. This is the first time that the girl's team has placed first at state as a team. "My favorite part wasn't necessarily getting the medals or the first place trophy," coach **Susie Walters** said. "My favorite part was when they officially told us that we were state champions."



(Photo by Rabius)

**"Raining" Queen**

Jessica Rabius¹⁰ runs with the goal of the finish line in mind. Rabius ran through some of the worst possible conditions to take the state title. "Since it was so muddy at regionals, we were prepared for the conditions at state," Rabius said. "It slowed our times down overall, but we ran an okay race."

Muddy Memories

Both Teams Advance to State, Girls Take First

Marissa Macha
Editor-In-Chief

Rain pours down, creating puddles filled with mud and water. The wind blows fiercely, causing the runners to feel a chill, regardless of how fast they're running. This is the state level of cross country.

Both the boy's and girl's cross country teams were able to advance to the state meet that was held in Round Rock on November 7th. The girls brought home a state championship while the boys claimed fourteenth in the state. Sophomore **Jessica Rabius** won first place in the 3A girls division.

"This was a really great way to end our year," Rabius said. "Crossing the finish line made me so excited. I wasn't even sure if it was real at first or not. Once I realized I wasn't dreaming, I was so proud of myself."

The weather was rainy and cold while the teams ran. This slowed down everyone's times because of the increase in puddles and mud.

"I told my kids that times were not going to be as important," coach **Susie Walters** said. "Instead, you had to be mentally tough because the conditions were horrible. I told them that they might fall down, but if they

did they had to pick themselves up as quickly as possible because we needed them up at the front."

Rabius had the fastest time of the entire day. She ran a course time of 12.87 minutes.

"Knowing that I had the fastest time made me feel like I accomplished something," Rabius said. "It made me feel like I accomplished something that day because I wasn't just the fastest time in 3A, but rather out of all of that day's competitors."

For the boys, making it to the state meet itself was an accomplishment. Last year, the team missed out on the chance to compete at state

with a fifth place run at regionals.

"Even though we didn't become state champions, we made it to state which was our main goal," junior **Blaine Whitley** said.

It took a lot of hard work and effort for the teams to get as far as they did.

"The teams are so impressive to me because they have the dedication and discipline to get up early and try hard," Walters said. "It takes a special type of person to do that. I'm proud of them for that in itself and they're just good kids. As a whole, they work hard because they want to be good. That's what makes it all fun for me."