

# MINDSET MADE THE SEASON

// With each matchup, freshmen Aztecs earn perfect season and JV coaches prep players for varsity team

Some say football is just a game. Players step onto the field, sweat during the warm-up and bleed during the plays. The freshmen team had a different mindset as they headed into a new battle each Saturday. The whole team shared the love of the game and was passionate about putting on the football pads.

"I don't think there was a worst part of my season," freshman wide receiver Joshua Ramirez said. "It was great from beginning to end. The season is something to remember in general. I love to play and will remain dedicated to football."

The team not only shared thoughts of the sport, but goals for the season as well. The team and coaches worked during the season as if it were a lifestyle rather than just a game that anybody could play. It paid off. They ended with a record of 8-0.

"The season has gone good," freshman corner Salvador Avila said. "We went undefeated, and we had planned to keep it that way since the beginning. We played with the skill and heart to finish the season undefeated."

Freshman quarterback Cedarius Barfield had full confidence in his team.

"We're trying to achieve something ED9 never has," Barfield said.

Not one team could stop them as they plowed through opponents to the perfect season.

"I think we hoped for the best and realized that if we wanted to become district champs, we would have to work harder than everyone else," coach Miguel Trevizo said. "We stressed the importance of being in better shape than other teams so we could sustain our energy and intensity for four quarters so, we had the goal of going undefeated and accomplished our goal through hard work and focus. It was very exciting to lead those young men to an undefeated season."

The players on the team felt just as proud and satisfied with their coach as their coach felt with them. From continuous practice to halftime speeches that would set their minds back to game mode, the players knew Coach Trevizo had what it took to take the team through a winning season.

"Coach Trevizo has treated us like family," freshman wide receiver Cameron Hill said. "He would fix us up if we would get off track whether it was inside the class or on the field. He gave us an idea of how high school football is going to be."

## 'SEASON OF IMPROVEMENT, EXECUTION' FOR JV TEAM

This season was one of improvement for the JV team. Taken every step of the way by head coaches Sam Gallegos and Manolo Taylor, the instructors knew they were charged with a very important task

— preparing their players for varsity play.

"What drives us football coaches is but one goal — win," Taylor said. "As the season went on and we happened to fall in defeat, we would get back to work and improved on what had gone wrong. (It was) a season of improvement and execution."

The team finished with a record of 3-6 but withstood each loss as one unit. The team acknowledged the intensity they would face in order to become the players they needed to make varsity next year.

"Action-packed, thriller movie' would describe our season," sophomore wide receiver Tyler Berry said. "It was a pretty intense season."

According to Taylor, the team faced obstacles due to lack of experience and an abundance of injuries at key positions.

"It was a rocky season but we keep fighting for it," said junior wide receiver Guillermo Hernandez.

// Princesleah Aguilera and Kelsey Gibson

**ONE MORE YARD.** Swiftly diving through the pile of defenders, junior running back Aaron Gonzalez makes his way to get the extra yards. The dives helped him complete another touchdown for the Aztecs. "I was already getting tackled, so I was reaching for more yards," he said. "I got some good yards and I got a touchdown." Photo by Anekin Cruz.



**TOOK ONE FOR THE CALL.** Flagged for a facemask grab by his Franklin opponent, freshman corner Salvador Avila wins the call. The freshman team ended their winning season against Franklin 56-16. "I was taking the Franklin runner," he said. "I felt kind of nervous because they had only lost one game before us." Photo by Princesleah Aguilera.



**THROUGH THE MESS.** A successful rush down the field by sophomore running back Isaiah Dominguez completes another touchdown for the JV team. The Aztecs still lost 19-27 against Americas. "I drove to get the touchdown and feel what I felt the last time I scored," he said. "Scoring a touchdown is amazing, like I won the lottery." Photo by Dominic Hernandez.

**THE PRESSURE IS ON.** Skills put to the test, freshman kicker Ruben Melendez makes the extra point after a touchdown. The freshman team defeated Franklin 56-16, progressing in their winning season. "I grew up kicking a soccer ball everywhere I went," he said. "Football was a way of expanding my abilities." Photo by Princesleah Aguilera.



**AZTEC FIRST DOWN.** An out-of-bound run made by junior quarterback Elijah Dominguez leads to a first down for the Aztecs. The JV team lost 27-0 against Centennial High School. "I kept the ball and just tried to get out of the way as fast as possible," he said. "They were coming toward me, and I was just trying to get the first down." Photo by Princesleah Aguilera.

@ohdang\_dallas

"Saturday's game got a 70 yard run. Can't wait to play on Saturday" #pumped



@aztec perspective



GUILLERMO HERNANDEZ

## FAST FACTS

GRADE: Junior  
POSITION: Wide Receiver  
32 Receptions  
4 Touchdowns  
458 Receiving Yards

## ON THE RISE

"In order to be moved up or recognized by the coaches, you need to put in the work and be committed and dedicated to something that you have a passion for, in my case it was football."