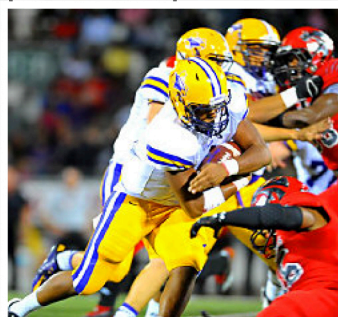


**SENIORS MUKUND** Gajera, Zac Smith, Tyler Humphreys, Aaron Aguilar and Jayrie Bundage walk onto the Wylie football field together for the coin toss. "That game really helped lead us in the right direction," Smith said. [chase karacostas]



**JUNIOR JOURDAN** Williams attempts to gain a first down with 10:45 left in the 1st half of the game vs Mesquite Horn. [chase karacostas]



**SENIOR SAM** Dillon blocks a Lake Highlands player during the 1st quarter of the game. [elise garcia]



Looking to make a first down, junior Cade Corey tries to get around a Mesquite Horn defender while senior Harrison Shamburger tries to hang on to a block. [chase karacostas]



## Getting Ready for the Game

Varsity football players discuss their favorite pre-game rituals.

"Listening to music. Then going out before everyone with Andrew and Coach Duke to warm up."

**-Chad Harberson, 11**



"Before every game I would clear my mind and get hyped up with some Migos. Also, we would pray as a team before every game, and then tap the 'I play for Richardson' sign before we go out."

**-Cade Corey, 11**



"I focus on my responsibilities that I'm going to have to accomplish, and start relaxing and clear my mind of doubts and fears, most of all I just try to remember to have fun."

**-Manasseh Osei, 11**



"Spending time in prayer with my teammates. Thinking about what my job is that game, with music."

**-Logan Lorimer, 11**



"Before every game starting from my sophomore year my teammate Jayrie Bundage would help me put on my jersey."

**-Trevor Wolfe, 12**



"Get focused on the game ahead by getting hyped with some 2 chains."

**-Cody Lorimer, 12**



"Blasting Migos and eating Arby's sandwiches. The way of champions. #chilligotorichardson."

**-Oshea Murphy, 11**



**SENIOR ZAC** Smith jumps over a North Mesquite player while senior Daevon Woods runs the ball in an attempt to gain a first down. "My teammates are important to me in my life because without them I wouldn't be as good as I am now," Woods said. [chase karacostas]

AFTER ATTEMPTING to block a Pearce player and prevent them from making the extra point after a touchdown, junior Khalil Lacy watches the kick during the second half of the game. [chase karacostas]

TOGETHER, SENIOR Jackson Townsend and junior Armando Washington tackle a Mesquite High player during the Homecoming game. [chase karacostas]

SENIOR ANDREW Gomez kicks off to start the game vs. Highland Park. "I ended up getting a tackle, so it was really a bittersweet feeling at the end of the game," Gomez said. [chase karacostas]

AS HE warm up before the Lakeview Centennial game, junior Edrees Mohammed reaches out to catch a ball. [ryan durbin]



# Fighting in the Trenches

With the season over, the team discussed positives to take from the year and decide what they must do to prepare for the next season.

With hopes for a playoff spot shattered, Richardson's football season came to a close with a 43-0 loss to Highland Park.

Senior quarterback Zac Smith said he didn't feel like the team reached its full potential.

"Our record didn't say how good we were," Smith said. "We should've pulled out at least two more wins – the Lake Highlands game and the North Mesquite Game. We should've been in the playoffs rather than Pearce since we beat Pearce. But I hope next year they can help learn from our mistakes. We messed up in a lot of ways, but the juniors have a lot of heart and they'll for sure make playoffs next year if they just stick to it and just become a unit like we did this year."

Players said though their record could have been better, they worked well as a unit.

"Our season had its ups and downs, but what really matters is how well we played as a team," senior Jackson Townsend said.

Although the loss ended the

season, the players said they still found positives to take from the season.

"Football was a blast," senior Clay Wilkinson said. "It was disappointing coming so close to making the playoffs. The best moment this season was beating Pearce 48-30 at our Homecoming game."

The team reached the last game of the year with the possibility of a playoff spot.

"I am very proud of the way the team competed this year," coach Brian Chandler said. "We made it to the last game of the year with playoff possibilities. The seniors showed great leadership, and the juniors followed their lead."

With a long off-season coming, players reflected on the bonds created over the year.

"When we lost, we lost as a team and didn't point fingers," Townsend said. "When we won, we celebrated as a family. I wouldn't have wanted to put on the pads with anyone else except for my teammates."

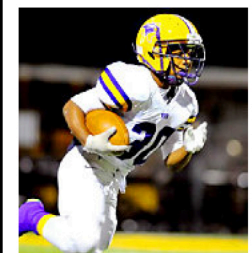
*"When we won, we celebrated as a family. I wouldn't have wanted to put on the pads with anyone else except for my teammates."*

**–Jackson Townsend, 11**

design by chase karacostas  
story by mubarrat choudhury

## size doesn't matter

Freshman Jarek Broussard tells how he started off the season on the freshman team and ended it on varsity.



"Pretty much the whole team was like just do what you do. Being on varsity was more advanced, and it was a lot faster. A lot of the

other players were big, but size doesn't really matter. My coach told me about being on varsity during my 4th week in the season. I practiced in the morning with varsity, and I was really tired, but when you have a coach like coach Rushing blurring out sounds at like 6 in the morning, you'll wake up pretty fast. We started practice at like 6:45 a.m. The Berkner game was my first game on varsity, first game going up and you win, you are just happy. And when you start at corner, being a Freshman playing against those seniors and juniors and your doing good, it's a fun experience." [chase karacostas]



TOP LEFT: Junior Devonte Adcock looks ahead before a play starts in the first quarter of the Mesquite Horn game. [chase karacostas] BOTTOM LEFT: Senior Michael Iwuamanam tackles a Mesquite Horn High School player during the 2nd quarter of the game. [ryan durbin] TOP RIGHT: Seniors Michael Opoku and Tyler Humphreys tackle a Highland Park High School player attempting to get a first down. "We really didn't have a good chance to win the game, but we knew that we were hard workers and whatever happened, happened," Opoku said. [chase karacostas] BOTTOM RIGHT: While senior Zac Smith rushes the ball during the 2nd half of the game, senior Aaron Aguilar blocks a Highland Park player. "We weren't the biggest or the baddest, but we stood in and fought in the trenches like a team," Aguilar said. [chase karacostas]