

HEADING TO STATE

CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS MAKE THE CUT, ADVANCE PAST DISTRICT

With the first buzz over the back of his head, senior Grayson Terrell felt a slight chill. On the second pass, there was a tingle. By the third time across the top, his head was completely bare, and a pile of hair surrounded him. "We decided to shave our heads outside because it would be an easier clean up than doing it inside," Grayson said.

Ending the season with a trip to regionals, the girls' team set new records. Freshman Carleigh Turney found her first trip bittersweet. "It was a bummer not making it to state," Carleigh said. "But I'm glad that I didn't have to shave my head." At regionals, senior Chelsea Cole ran her best time of the season but missed state by one spot.

"This has been the best roller coaster ride in Texas." – Kendrick Smith

The bald heads came after the cross country team got their ticket to state with a third place finish at the regional meet.

"This was my first year on the cross country team, so I didn't know what to expect going into the regional meet," Chelsea said. "I gave it my all and improved my best time by a minute, but I am so competitive that it was disappointing to get that far and not make it."

Senior Chase Denson put the plan into action on the bus on the way to regionals. "The idea came up two years ago that if we made it to state then we were shaving our heads," he said.

At state, the boys placed 13th, with Salsa Sanchez placing 16th individually.

Coach Kendrick Smith wanted his to be done right, so he passed up Chase's house and went to a professional. "I knew it was a matter of time before I lost it anyway," he said, "so I took the chance to do it now."

After the roller coaster ride of the season, the boys still had their buzz cuts to remind them of the goals they had set and accomplished.

The road to baldness started in September when the boys' team won their first three meets. After a set back at the Mt. Pleasant meet against three district teams, the boys came back to win the district meet and a trip to regionals.

Page by Hannah Griffin



CHICKENED OUT

WHEN THE PHONE RANG, junior Grayson Kirk knew it was time. He had been avoiding this conversation since the team made the deal. He didn't want to admit the fear of cutting his hair, so he just made up an excuse. "I didn't want to cut my hair because I knew it would look weird and it would take a while to grow back," he said. "So when they asked me, I told them I had to baby sit." [KMcCorkle]

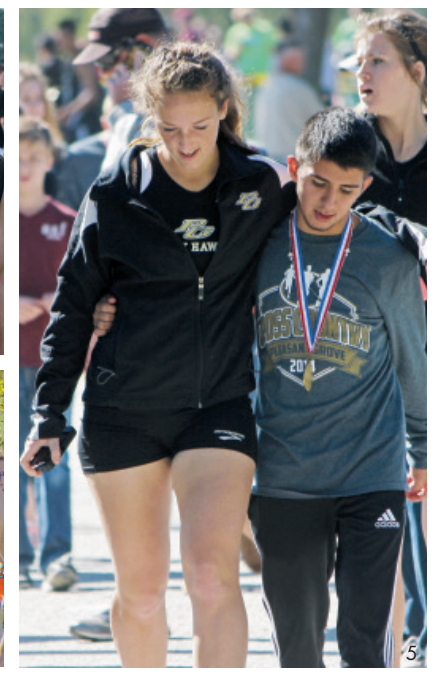


FULL CIRCLE



WITH ARMS CROSSED, the girls' team prays before the Trinity race. "We always pray before every race," sophomore Kiki McClure said. "It's important to thank God for the opportunity to run." [KMcCorkle]

1. UTILIZING THE DUSTY BUS WINDOW, freshman Carleigh Turney writes the team names after the regional meet to let everyone know that they made it to state. [KMcCorkle]
2. WHILE WAITING FOR THE STARTING GUN, the boys' team set their watches and prepare to run in the state meet. [AKirk]
3. AFTER THE RACE, brothers Juan and Salsa Sanchez recuperate from the run at Hallsville. "It's special running with my brother," Juan said. "There's not any competition because he's faster than me, but he always pushes me to do my best." [THurst]
4. PREPARING FOR THE RACE, the boys pray for a safe and well-run race. "Praying before the meet always got me prepared and helped me remember who got me there in the first place," Salsa Sanchez said. [AKirk]
5. WALKING ARM AND ARM, senior Brenda Heminger congratulates senior Salsa Sanchez on the race that sent him to state. "My favorite thing about cross county is the family aspect. We are all happy when someone does well," Brenda said. [KMcCorkle]



COACH SMITH



Standing near the finish line at the Hallsville meet, coach Kendrick Smith encourages his team to finish strong. "I'm proud of the number of boys and girls who came out and ran this year," he said. "The team has reached every goal we set so far and we are on schedule to keep doing the same." [KMcCorkle]

AUSTIN HUNNICUTT



Reaching the midpoint of the Trinity meet, senior Austin Hunnicutt paces himself through the difficult part of the race. "Trinity has the most challenging course," he said. "The race seemed even harder because the trail is caked in mud-covered hills." Even through the difficult conditions, Austin finished the race with his fastest time ever. [KMcCorkle]

MICHALA TERRELL (12) "We're like a big family. We all pushed each other to get better and work harder."

BOYS		GIRLS	
Redwater	1st	Redwater	8th
Hallsville	2nd	Hallsville	19th
Trinity	1st	Trinity	5th
Mt. Pleasant	7th	Mt. Pleasant	13th
Round Rock	15th	Round Rock	37th
North Lamar	1st	North Lamar	3rd
DISTRICT FINISH: 1st		DISTRICT FINISH: 3rd	
REGION FINISH: 3rd		REGION FINISH: 16th	
STATE FINISH: 13th			

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