

"Wearing a uniform fitted just for me made me feel more confident than wearing one made for someone else. I didn't have to worry about it being too tight. It was perfect."
-breanna singleton-10



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NERVES SET IN

Having waited through every band performance at the UIL competition, sophomore Marco Martinez and freshmen Adria Gonzales and Kaylee Romo hope for the best as their rating is announced. "We earned a Division II," Romo said. "We were happy we did that well, but at the same time a little disappointed because we could have done better." The event took place at the Socorro Activities Complex in October.

KEEP THE BEAT

In front of the crowd at the Irvin football game, senior Victoria Torres performs her solo as the drum line keeps rhythm during a halftime show. "Although we were disappointed the team was losing," Torres said, "it really didn't affect us. Win or lose we still showed spirit and did our



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SUN BOWL SURPRISE

Under the bright lights of the Sun Bowl, junior Alejandro Melendez and three members huddle in formation as part of their show. "When my band director first told us that we were going to get to perform there, I almost didn't believe him," Melendez said. "Our school doesn't play at the Sun Bowl every year so it was pretty cool that I got to be part of the group that experienced it all."

playing in style

by celeen atkins

Wrapped in plastic, hers was within reach. Finally. With a smile and teary eyes, she glances at her new black and purple uniform. Senior drum major Jisselle Gallardo had been waiting for what seemed a lifetime. One by one, band director Mike Porras called out names, as Gallardo waited patiently. Their 9-year-old uniforms would be traded in. The new uniforms have buttons instead of zippers, purple capes, and two plates that provides three different looks.

"Mr. Porras told us we were going to get new uniforms since my freshman year," Gallardo said. "It looked like it wasn't going to happen. When we finally got the call from the uniform company in October, we knew we would get to wear them for the little time that we had left in our school year. It was a bittersweet moment for all of us. We were happy because we got to wear them, but also sad because we couldn't wear them longer."

With new uniforms came a sense of pride. Senior Abraham Garcia is grateful for what band taught him.

"It has helped me make friends and got me out of the house for football games," Garcia said. "It has taught me how to properly associate with new people and work well with others. It has also taught me that if you put in the time and effort, the outcome will be great."

The outcome of one competition also proved memorable. Receiving the highest possible score at the Andress Invitational spurred hopes for the remainder of marching season, and changed negative attitudes into positive ones.

"Going into the Andress Invitational, the upperclassmen were already so negative about the score we were going to get," freshman Adria Gonzalez said. "The negative vibe brought our enthusiasm down. It made me second guess everything that I'd done during the performance. I kept thinking, 'Did I stay on beat? Did I mess up our formation?' I didn't want to be the one to get us a lower score than we deserved. Waiting for the score to be announced was like waiting for a busy restaurant to bring the food I'd been waiting for. When they finally announced that we got the highest score, we all jumped up in excitement. From then on, the only words that expressed my feelings was pure confidence."



carlos saenz-12



samantha licon-11



irene parra-9



LOST IN THE MUSIC

Relaxed and ready to perform on his French horn, freshman Emilio Posada plays his favorite song, "Pagliacci." "Honestly, for me, it's like I'm in a trance," Posada said. "It feels natural and calming and almost second nature. When I play, different emotions are coursing through my body, depending on the music. When I'm with the band, I feel a connection to everyone." Posada has been playing French horn since the sixth grade. (photo by annabeth burgress)

TAKE NOTE

Third quarter action off the field includes sophomore Joshua Lechuga and band mates dancing to the drum line beat. "In concert band, we play music sitting down," he said, "so it is a lot more relaxing. In marching band it's always busy, and it means being involved in a group effort."



genesis barraza



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THE WAIT IS OVER

Smiles fill the room as sophomores Alejandra Esquivel and Marco Martinez try on their new uniforms. "It's not every day that we get these," Esquivel said, "so getting to show them off at the homecoming game and the Thanksgiving parade was a unique experience for all of us."