



TAME THE DRAGON

MARCHING BAND MAKES STATE



LEAN TO LEAD / During the homecoming game Oct. 24, senior section leader Armando Gonzales leads the saxophone section in choreography. The marching band performed at the end of the game since halftime was taken by the announcement of the king and queen. "I wanted to be section leader, because I wanted to impact people's lives and help them love band as much as I do," Gonzales said. *Photo by Dana McCurdy*



STRONG FOCUS / Holding her ending pose, freshman Daniela Deleon stares at the crowd. Since there was need for more members in color guard, she joined instead of marching her instrument for the first year in marching band. "I never thought I'd join color guard because of the fear of not knowing anyone," Deleon said. "Joining changed my perspective as I made new friends." *Photo by Hayley Bridges*



SUN DOWN, KNEEL DOWN / As the band takes the shape of a double helix, megaphones and trumpets kneel to send their sound high into the crowd. "My favorite part of choreography was when we made the moving spiral to symbolize the tail of the dragon," sophomore Zachary Reed said. "Choreography lets us make shapes with our bodies that look awesome from the audience's perspective." *Photo by Hayley Bridges*

KEEP THE BEAT / Conducting the back field, junior drum major Allison Wong keeps the beat for the flutes at the beginning of the show. The band used the halftime show during the varsity football game versus Richland Sept. 26 to practice for competitions and entertain the community. "I loved the show this year because it was different than the other shows which made it much more memorable," Wong said. *Photo by Hayley Bridges*

It was a season of hot pavement, sunburns, empty water jugs and sweat soaked shirts. Water dripped down chins as they rushed to get a drink before running back to the last set. The varsity marching band practiced eight hours every day in August. "Summer band was very hard, but absolutely awesome," freshman Giselle Carillo said. "The feeling once you were done performing was breathtaking. I loved it."

In addition to marching and choreography learned in the summer, the show, "Dragon Ritual," incorporated twelve moving dragon body parts that stretched the length of the field during the performance. The props cost the band over \$2,000 and were made possible by the Haltom Area Band Friends. Each piece stood 12 feet high and stretched five yards wide. During the show, they were pushed by band students given the role of "dragon trainer."

"Pushing the heavy dragon parts was definitely a lot of work," freshman Kaetlynn McCurry said. "But being a part of the Pride of Haltom even as a dragon trainer was a great experience."

While performing during halftime of varsity football games entertained the community, the marching band stayed focused on the seven competitions that were in both Texas and Missouri. At the B.O.A St. Louis competition in Missouri, the band advanced to finals where they placed tenth.

"This year was also different because there was an incredible family vibe due to the immense amount of long distance trips, everyone got so close this year," junior brass captain Emma Lamar said.

In the first time since 2010, the marching band also advanced to the UIL state competition in San Antonio where they finished 12 out of the 264 bands.

"Going to state my senior year gave me the ultimate memory of accomplishing something I have dreamed about for three years," senior drum major Hector Ornelas said. "My favorite part of being drum major was getting to represent the Pride of Haltom at the announcement of awards." *Story by Danielle Robinson and Ammysadday Hernandez*