

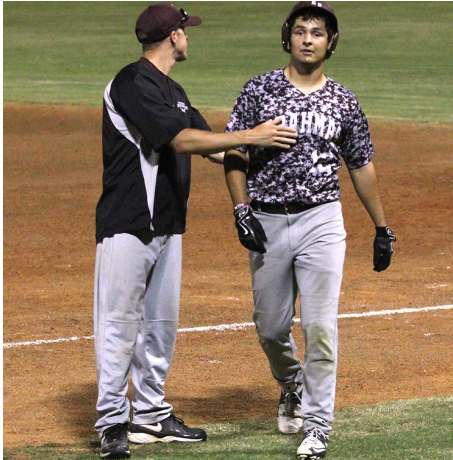
ON THE BALL

Whether it was a swing of the arm or of the bat, they made an appearance during district. Finishing with a district record of 8-4 and placing third, the team moved on to playoffs. "This year I learned that it's not about hitting the ball to the fence every time; it's about getting a single, and if a double or triple happens, then that's even more special," junior **Travis Hlavinka** (Photos by Ashley Harris, Sara Marie Berrett, and Rebecca Rabius)

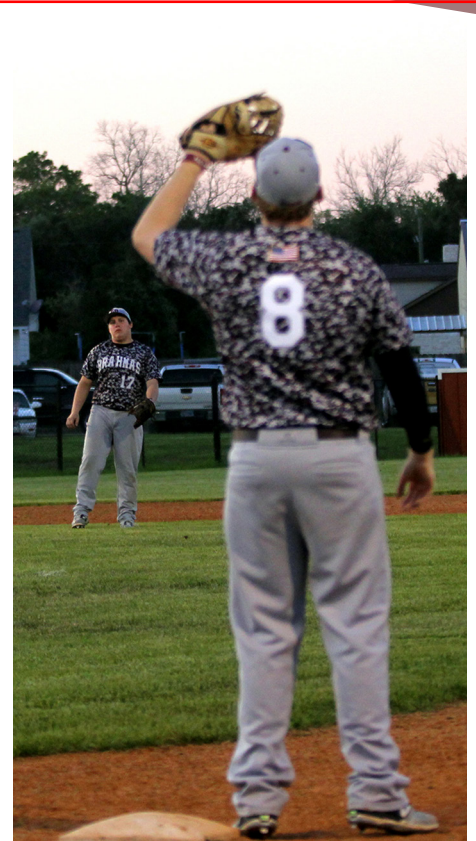
junior **Jake Zurek**, senior **Korren Robinson**, junior **Edward Garza**, junior **Lane Kolafa**, junior **Austin Henry**, junior **Travis Hlavinka**, sophomore **JJ Talas**

CANDY MAN. All smiles in the dugout, the team laughs while eating some sweets. Coach **Jeremy Sapp** handed out jellybeans to players who either scored or hit an RBI. "Our team played best when we were having fun, so we always tried to make each other laugh in the dugout to keep each other loose," junior **Tyler Vasut** said. (Photo by Sara Marie Berrett)

GOOD OLE BOYS. With a slap on the back, Coach **Jeremy Sapp** gives junior **Matthew Tovar** a small pep talk after the inning is over. "I always had a good time with Coach Sapp by my side," Tovar said. "It made the game fun to be able to get serious, but then turn around and crack jokes with him between plays." (Photo by Rebecca Rabius)



COVERING GROUND. As the ball comes closer, junior **Blake Whitley** gets down to scoop it up to make a play. Whitley was one of thirteen juniors on the team. "During warm up, I never thought about the game itself to prevent myself from over-thinking anything," Whitley said. (Photo by Ashley Harris)



THROW DOWN. Before the inning, junior **Jordan Hoegemeyer** warms up with junior **Travis Hlavinka**. Hlavinka was the starting first baseman, and Hoegemeyer played third for some of the season. "What got me going was that if I made a play that benefited us, I was doing my job," Hlavinka said. (Photo by Sara Marie Berrett)

FISHY FISHY. Waiting on deck, junior **Edward Garza** talks to coach **Nick Jones** as he "fishes for runs." "Every time that Coach Jones sat on his bucket seat, I knew that something interesting would happen," Garza said. (Photo by Sara Marie Berrett)

DUGOUT STARTER PACK



VARSITY HITS UP PLAYOFFS YET AGAIN



1. With junior **Travis Hlavinka** on first, junior **Allen Anderson** watches the play from the mound. "I stayed pumped for every play in case someone needed backup," Anderson said. (Photo by Sara Marie Berrett) 2. Going in for the catch, junior **Lane Kolafa** finishes the inning. "When I played in the infield, I had to make sure to talk to my teammates to let them know what needed to be done to get the out," Kolafa said. (Photo by Rebecca Rabius)



PEP TALK. With words of encouragement, junior **Austin Henry** talks strategy with junior **Jared Resjek**. "Before each pitch, I just took a deep breath and focused on Austin," Resjek said. (Photo by Rebecca Rabius)

Among the various bats, balls and gloves, something stood out to Coach **Tony Cruz** at the game against rival Brazos. It seemed that along with the balls in the ball bucket, a friend had ventured inside. On the way to the game, the team had found a small turtle and brought it to the game with them. They called it their "Rally Turtle" and kept it alive with the jelly beans that Coach **Jeremy Sapp** gave to players when they scored or hit an RBI.

"Coach Cruz was really confused when he found the turtle in the ball bucket because he thought that it was mine," junior trainer **Bailey Hlavinka** said.

Behind the shenanigans of the team off the field, there were many superstitions and traditions that they upheld on the field. For example, when traveling to away games, the team would attempt to stick a branch in the grill of the bus to 'intimidate' their opponents.

The coaches also got into the superstitions of the game. Spectator in stands watched as Coach **Nick Jones** sat on his bucket seat with bat in hand. While appearing to be casting his 'fishing pole,' Jones was actually 'fishing for hits'. On the other side of the dugout, Sapp took shoe laces from the players, tied them together and was said to be 'crabbing for runs'. These superstitions seemed to work as they loosened the players and lead the team to another year in playoffs.

Van Vleck @ EB (8-3)

Hitchcock @ EB (16-0)

Boling vs EB (0-1)

Warren vs EB(2-4), (2-0), (4-5)

Danbury vs EB (3-4)

Hempstead vs EB (6-3)

Brazos @ EB (12-2)