

**Charley Page**<sup>12</sup> competes in the second day of competition for the consolation bracket in Texarkana. Although, in pain from her back injury, she attempts to finish the breaststroke. Page has been swimming since she was 5 years old and is the heart of the swim team. She gave the school an incentive to start up a swim team and has represented the school with pride, placing in the top 2 in every meet until her back injury sidelined her. Page also is an NHS member as well as maintains a steady job as a lifeguard, where she can swim laps everyday and stay in shape. Page averages about 15 laps in the pool a day.



**Cameron Milligan**<sup>12</sup> paces himself during an early meet in October. Milligan placed 1<sup>st</sup> at district, 7<sup>th</sup> at regional and 20<sup>th</sup> out of 150 at state. With a time of 16:44 at regional, Milligan broke his own school record.



Searching for the last ounce of energy, **Brent Hughes**<sup>12</sup> struggles to reach the finish line at district. Hughes not only runs cross country, he is a 4-year student trainer for football and baseball. Hughes plans to train at TJC in the fall.



With one final burst of energy, **Amber Jackson**<sup>11</sup> crosses the finish line at the district meet Oct. 20 in Canton. Jackson was a transfer student from Van where she ran cross country for the Vandals for two years.



# Rhoads travels to victory

Adrenaline is running through senior Johnathan Rhoads blood stream as he prepares for a serve. His fingers steadily clutch the racquet and he is poised for the toss of the ball. Before a droplet of sweat touches the tip of his nose, with one swift movement of his right arm, the ball is in mid-air.

It wasn't just another serve. After three years of after school practices, bus rides, and tournaments, Johnathan's performance at district tennis earned him a 2nd place spot (6-1, 6-3) and a trip to regional.

"It made me feel one more step closer to my goals in life," Johnathan said. "I know that's weird to say about tennis. I had doubts that I would win, and I pushed and pushed and pushed myself to achieve what I did, and that all ties into my bigger goals of becoming a doctor. I know it's gonna be hard and I know I'll doubt myself then, too, but just as I achieved this goal, it makes my will stronger for the bigger things in my future."

The senior tennis standout says a major factor in his success on the court is a stubborn streak.

"I'm stubborn," Johnathan said. "That's my motivator. My stubborn, unpleasable nature makes me want to push forward to the end - like, I must try my best and if I don't, I have this feeling of utter dissatisfaction with myself."

Even though Johnathan has been a stand-out player all four years, he is a team player.

"My favorite part of playing tennis and just being on the team is the people," Johnathan said. "They're, honestly, the people I'm closest to - they're my best friends, and I just enjoy every minute I get to spend with them, on or off the court. At my lowest and highest points, the rest of the team is there."

Johnathan's journey ended with regionals in Longview, where he faced the number one seed in the tournament and lost, but he has a new quest. Johnathan will enter the University of Texas in the fall as a pre-med student.

"The feeling you get after a win - it's unexplainable," Johnathan said. "I will miss that, I guess. I don't know, I can't say I'm really devastated that it's all over because I have so many bigger things coming up!"

>Alissa Vandergriff

## Bragging RIGHTS

**CHARLEY PAGE** placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in a 100-yard breaststroke at district with a time of 1:19:76. She also placed 5<sup>th</sup> in a 100-yard freestyle at district with a time of 1:00:63. At regionals she placed 10<sup>th</sup> in a 100-yard freestyle with a time of 59:46.

**CAMERON MILLIGAN** advanced in Cross Country to regionals with a 17:10. He advanced from regionals to state with a 16:44:21. He finished 20<sup>th</sup> at state overall with a time of 16:56.

**JOHNATHAN RHOADS** placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Van, 1<sup>st</sup> in the Edgewood tournament and 2<sup>nd</sup> in district, advancing to regionals in tennis.



**Johnathan Rhoads**<sup>12</sup> gets set at the Van tennis tournament with his racket ready, and he wrapped up the tournament with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish. Rhoads took 1<sup>st</sup> at Edgewood and 2<sup>nd</sup> at district, earning a trip to regionals.