



FURRY FRENZY

Shirt off and lying across the salon bed of Delux Nails and Spa, football captain and senior Tristan Walker watched in fear as the esthetician rubbed wax on his chest. She smeared hot wax with a popsicle stick, took out a strip of paper and placed it in the middle of his chest, then ripped.

Tristan winced in pain as the stylist, senior Jaylan Cruz and junior Chris Meyer doubled over laughing. The action, repeated about 20 times, made Tristan's chest red and smooth. The only trace of hair left was a patch shaped into a buffalo.

Pressured by the cheers of student body, Tristan revealed his masterpiece at the Richland rivalry pep rally Sept. 26. Despite a rough start to the football season, he showed the symbol without a trace of embarrassment.

"At first at the pep rally I was just standing there in the middle, and everyone on the football team was yelling at me to show

it," Tristan said. "So I looked at the APs, then I looked at the coaches, and I was just like, 'Okay, might as well.'"

In fact, a majority vote by the football team in the locker room his sophomore year pre-determined the waxing tribute because Tristan's chest bared the most hair of all the other team members, even then.

"Everyone on the team talked about it for two years," Tristan said. "I told them I would do it my senior year because I wanted to go all out for my final season."

As the season progressed, the buffalo on his chest started to grow out and itch; however, Tristan refused to shave it.

"I finally shaved off the buffalo after the last game," Tristan said. "It was the end of the season, and the buffalo was for the football team, so it just had to end with the season." *Story by Marissa Valdez Photo by Cindara Souvanna*