

REELING THEM IN

1 After a big play against Lake Travis on Oct. 24, defensive lineman senior Manolo Gonzalez celebrates on the sideline. "The biggest thrill in football for me is the brotherhood and playing for the guy next to me and knowing that he has got my back," Gonzalez said. 2 Receiver junior Reed Klubnik runs the ball into the end zone against Hays on Oct. 17. Westlake coasted to a 49-7 victory. "It's just a great relief knowing that all the hard work the team has put in had paid off in one short and amazing moment," Klubnik said. 3 After a completion, receiver senior Nick Scott rushes away from Del Valle defenders. Westlake won the Oct. 30 game 54-0. "It's the greatest feeling running from defenders," Scott said. "You always have to be thinking a step ahead to try to avoid getting tackled. I love the rush it gives me in the moment." 4 Speeding downfield after a reception, wide receiver junior Chase Cokley outruns defenders and scores a touchdown against Hays. "It felt like all the hard work I had put in finally paid off," Cokley said. 5 Scrambling away from defenders, quarterback sophomore Sam Ehlinger runs down the field against Southlake Carroll on Aug. 29. "It's exciting to be entrusted with the quarterback position," Ehlinger said, "especially considering all of the other amazingly talented quarterbacks that have come through Westlake."



1. morgan saucier 2. brayden clark 3. morgan saucier 4-5. brayden clark

Coach leads the Chaps to a 7-4 record in the first season of

DODGEBALL

Football hype started early last spring when new head coach Todd Dodge returned to Westlake with 12 days left in spring football. The son-in-law of Ebbie Neptune, the longtime coach and athletic director for whom the field was named, Dodge had served as a student teacher at Westlake in 1985 after playing football at the University of Texas.

"I was around this program as a young coach for many years," Dodge said. "To say this is just any other job is just not true. It's a dream come true."

Dodge brought with him a (mostly) new staff but more importantly, he brought a new style and mentality. Of the many people involved, the players were most affected by the change in head coach.

"Being coached by Dodge after being coached by Allman was so refreshing," defensive lineman senior Daniel Aidman said. "After seeing how much people want to play for Coach Dodge and listen to him, I knew that this was the coach I wanted to play for."

One of the many changes that Dodge made was

that he was able to make the team feel more connected. He put time and effort into trying to unite the team, even going so far as taking the varsity players to see the movie *Unbroken*.

"Our team was more of a family this year than ever. Not only did Coach Dodge teach us how to be better football players but also how to become better men," linebacker senior Hudson Hall said. "He showed us how to take what is learned in the trenches and translate it into everyday life. Coach Salazar, along with all the other defensive coaches, helped me out a lot as well, and I can't thank them enough for everything they have done for me."

Another major change that Dodge made was entrusting sophomore Sam Ehlinger as the starting quarterback. Dodge knew that this depended on the team's ability to overlook his youth and trust him in making the correct decision.

"We had 52 seniors, and they could've very easily resisted the changes I made," Dodge said, "but they embraced me, and I am really grateful for that."



HIT THE GROUND RUNNING
After catching the ball, receiver senior Andrew Laycock sheds a tackle at Lake Travis. "It feels great when the field opens up and you have an opportunity to make a big play," Laycock said.

WALKING THE DOG
Safety junior Mack Kelly tackles a Bowie player on Oct. 5. After a strong effort, the Chaps narrowly lost the game to the Bulldogs 13-19.

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YOU CAN COUNT ON ME



morgan saucier

"Being a quarterback, I was blessed with a position of responsibility and leadership."

Jake Coker, 12



brayden clark

"Every time when I show up, I always try to be my best and push everyone else around me to be better."

Travis Braithwaite, 12



morgan saucier

"I can be counted on to work hard and be a leader."

Canaan Clark-Bateman, 11



brayden clark

"I do what is morally right instead of what is popular in hopes that the young'uns will follow."

Gabe Duran, 12



morgan saucier

"I helped my team by making field goals and kicking the ball out of the end zone."

Rolando Navarro, 12