

• middle school football | september 4, 2014

changing THE TEMPO

Starting the year with a 2-1 record, the seventh grade football team, led by head coach Tim Mank '87, implemented a new strategy.

Instead of traditional running based offense, the team shifted to a passing oriented playbook, mimicking that of the varsity team.

The eighth grade football team had a shaky start, losing both of their first two games; 8-29 against ESD and 6-21 against Fort Worth Country Day.



BOYS OF FALL Built on discipline and hustle, this year's eighth grade Lions have found success by wearing opponents out with their staunch, run-to-the-football defensive scheme and lighting the scoreboard up with a high-octane spread attack.

• pep rallies | september 5, 2014



NO FLY ZONE Superfan men Justin Jones and "Space Commander" Jack Fojtasek emphasize the importance of a loud crowd during a pep rally as they teach Upper School students chants to spur the Lions on to victory against this week's rival opponent, ESD.

DOING OUR HAPPY dance

Upperclassmen tell what pep rallies mean to them and how they help them get ready for the upcoming games.

Cameron Clark, junior

"My favorite part about pep rallies is being able to see the spirit levels of the student body raise while we get fired up for the game."

Boyd Howard, sophomore

"My favorite part about pep rallies is hyping up for the game later that night. They get everybody sikrd and it's great!"

Aditya Inaganti, senior

"I like the way all the students come together and show their school spirit and pride for St. Mark's."

Ellie Bush, junior cheerleader

"My favorite part about pep rallies is when we do class yells at the beginning of them because it adds a competitive and spirited aspect to the atmosphere of the morning, which is what pep rallies are all about."

Sam Daniels, senior football player

"Pep rallies are great because they're a great way to get the team pumped for the game and to make sure everyone knows to get there early and be loud."



PERFORMING one of their more popular cheers, Hockaday junior Christina Archer gets lifted to the top of the pyramid routine.



LET IT GLOW Senior cheerleaders (left) fire up the student body with their dance, synchronizing their moves for maximum reaction. Getting in the groove, seniors Anesu Nyatanga and Justin Jones (right) set the pep rally in motion.



• football | september 12, 2014



SIDELINED Practice didn't make perfect for varsity quarterback Walter Johnson who tore his MCL during a routine practice session the week after the Lions' opening season win against Cistercian. The injury forced the signal-caller to sit out for most of his senior season.

OUTSIDE THE lines

An injury during practice cost senior QB Walter Johnson lots of playing time — but support for teammates never failed

After tearing his MCL, senior quarterback Walter Johnson had to change the way he led the football team. Instead of leading the team on the field, Johnson began mentoring younger team members on the sidelines and advising them on strategy. Leading with his fellow captains and upperclassmen, he coached sophomore Hyer Thomas, the new starting quarterback. Despite his injury, Johnson remained an active member of his team.

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