

PATRICIO PORRAS

His eyes widened as the doctor explained the seriousness of his staff infection. If sophomore Patricio Porras would have waited another week, the infection could have easily spread to his bones and led to the amputation of his left leg.

In the past year, Porras was diagnosed and cleared twice of a serious staff infection on the shin of his leg. A small cut from playing a game of baseball with his friends became infected when he went swimming after.

"I was devastated after the surgery to remove the staff infection because I wasn't even able to walk for a while, let alone play football," Porras said. "But I wasn't going to let anything overwhelm me, not even the fear of the staff infection coming back for a third time."

While the staff infection threatened

his leg, Porras feared losing the opportunity to play football even more.

"I do really enjoy the sport of football, and I didn't want to give it up," Porras said.

Throughout the beginning of the season, Porras went to every JV football game and practice to watch other athletes playing his positions like center, defensive tackle, strong guard and strong tackle to see what he needed to do to come back to the game stronger and ready to play. After the first three games, Porras received news clearing him to play.

"I played the fourth game of the year without any physical practice," Porras said. "I didn't want to waste any time off the field. After I recovered, my team pushed me to keep working to make sure I stayed strong and didn't give up because they know my love of the game."

Story by Kayla Starnes



Kadin Thomas
Kaya Thomas
Lance Thomas
Makayla Thomas
Savannah Thomas
Corey Treadaway

Alexis Truesdell
Schipma Tshidibi
Jeffry Ulloa Mendoza
Natalie Uribe
Fatima Valadez
Gonzalo Valle

Agapito Vasquez
Juan Vazquez
Marisol Velador
Leslie Verde
Jailynne Verett
Janet Villa

Tyler Villa
Erick Villarreal
Isaac Villarreal
Lucero Villela
Darlena Vu
Samantha Wagner

Micah Walker
Morgan Waltman
Kaliye Ward
Marcos Watanave
Derick Welch
Zoe Wellman

Seth Wester
Dayton Wheeler
Kaine Whitworth
James Wilbanks
Ariel Wilder
Delrontrez Williams

Marcelle Williams
Falon Willson
Trenton Wilson
Shannon Wingrove
Christina Wood
Erin Wood

Madison Wood
Izaak Woodruff
Dorian Yard
Faith Young
Jessica Zamarripa
Juan Zamudio

Roxana Saucedo
Nathaniel Savell
Jackie Schaefer
Logan Schoville
Paige Scott
Neo Serrano
James Shipka

Nischal Shrestha
Joshua Shue
Lena Siefkas
Luna Fey Simmons
Brittany Skinner
Christopher Skinner
Augusta Sleeper

Dylan Smith
Zachaeus Smith
Jaime Soto Barraza
Yamilette Soto Gonzalez
Jose Soto Herrera
Autumn Sparks
Seely Stewart

Stacie Stone
Andrea Suarez
Emmanuel Suarez
Luis Suarez
Anthony Tandy
Chandler Thomas
Chanie Thomas