

Spirited Tigers keep focus on their craft

Baseball started for senior Jesus Caldera in Mexico when his uncle took him to practice.

"My uncle was the one that got me into baseball," Caldera said. "I fell in love with the sport."

Once Caldera moved to the States, he joined local leagues to officially get his start into the game.

"I started to do really well in baseball, and I got multiple invitations to join traveling teams," Caldera said.

When high school came around, he used his past experiences to try out for the varsity team.

"We had to wait a week for the results," Caldera said. "I was ecstatic when I found out that I made it onto the team."

Caldera as he knew he earned his place when he won his first game as the varsity pitcher.

"I realized right then that I could do something good for this team," Caldera said. "I know [to] control what you can control because not everything can go your way."

1 Senior Jesus Caldera 2 Junior Koby Kelton 3 Junior Marcos Castillo 4 Senior Jacob McRoberts 5 Senior Sebastian Vasquez 6 Senior Xavier DeLeon 7 Junior Derrick Johnson 8 Senior Cameron Richardson 9 Senior Frank Ancuras 10 Junior Mateo Carranza



From little leagues to **Big Time**

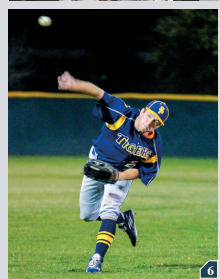
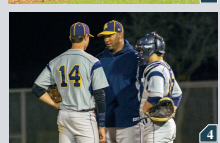
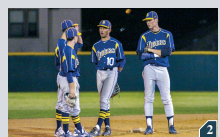


photo by Christiana Peek

Senior signs with St. Edwards

"It was a blessing to be able to sign to a college and play baseball; most importantly to be able to play with my friend next to me. All of my family and friends were there to support me and share that moment together. This moment was memorable and special to me."

- Senior Benjamin Garza



photos by Madison Guyton, Kayle Yingling and Christiana Peek



Watching from the dugout



<p>What was the most profound moment that you've had so far while being in the dugout?</p> <p>Whenever DJ or Cam hit a home run Everybody watching went crazy."</p>	<p>It was the moment when Mateo Carranza hit a walk-off hit that won us the game."</p>	<p>The Cedar Ridge walk-off game. It was really electric, and I had a lot of fun."</p>	<p>Anytime time that we've won a game. It's always fun to be a part of the cheering."</p>
<p>How do you build team spirit while being in the dugout?</p> <p>It's a team thing. Everybody feeds off of each other's energy to build great team spirit."</p>	<p>We usually get hyped by being loud and enthusiastic about the game."</p>	<p>You try to find something wrong with the other team and go off of that. It works wonders."</p>	<p>We cheer each other on and bond with one another. That really helps to get hyped."</p>
<p>What kind of things do you shout at the team players to cheer them on?</p> <p>I usually yell things like come on show me something or get ya a base hit."</p>	<p>We tell them that no one is better and that it's their opportunity to do what they can do."</p>	<p>We always try to yell things that they laugh about. Just things to laugh."</p>	<p>I try to tell them that they're doing a great job and to keep going. It builds good morale."</p>
<p>What is your go-to dugout snack, and how did it become your favorite?</p> <p>It would be sunflower seeds. They're addicting. Once you start, you can't stop."</p>	<p>My favorite are oranges. The booster club includes them with the snacks."</p>	<p>Probably bananas, because everybody laughs when I eat them. It's always great."</p>	<p>Sunflower seeds, because it's a baseball thing. They add to the dugout experience."</p>

photos by Touchstone staff

Perfecting the Swing



At the batting cages, Tigers focus on hitting

"I always make sure to have my mind set right and hit the perfect pitch. Then, I run for my life."

- Senior Jacob McRoberts

"It's not that hard to pick up a bat and swing, but it's really hard to hit the ball well. The key is to prepare until you feel ready mentally and physically."

- Junior Koby Kelton

"I always try to hit the bigger portion of the barrel. I make sure to have a strong stance, and have a good follow through when I swing."

- Senior Cameron Richardson

Intensity shaped 170 athletes' perspectives. Describe your favorite part about watching a baseball game.

What exactly goes through your head when you're on the bases?

"To get to the next base and be safe."
- Sophomore Clayton Montgomery

"I mentally prepare to react to any situation."
- Sophomore Zach Brady

"I think about being safe and taking my lead."
- Sophomore Marcus Despres

Baseball Remember that day? I do. Little leagues to big time
Designed by Mairio Johnston 171