



FOCUSING HARD, sophomore **Lauren Mallette** assists her teammates. "I think it will kind of start a domino effect of getting teams together that are inspired by us," Mallette said.

girl power

all-girl Solar Car program grows

WITH THE FIRST all-girl Solar Car team in the country, engineering teacher **Mike Yakubovsky** started the program to encourage more girls to participate.

"I wanted to form an all-girls team because this is neat stuff we are doing and this is a unique opportunity," Yakubovsky said. "We would have a girl on the team here or there, but they would be overshadowed by so many boys. This gives them a chance to really take ownership and do it."

"I'm excited about it because it's pretty cool to be the first team in Texas and the only team running right now."
-Mike Yakubovsky

With 11 girls on the team, the prospects for growth continued.

"Girl commitment can be difficult because we are a minority, so it's hard to get a bunch of us together," Mackenzie Becker said. "Also, having a solar car team in general is just difficult. We've been up and running for a while, but it's really hard to start one because cost and time."

"As this was the first year in existence, the team's primary goal was to get the car built and tested.

"Hopefully we will make it to the race, but it's okay if we don't because it's one of those things," senior **Ruth Fernandes** said. "It is a long process of getting a brand new car up with a brand new team."

Despite the low number of girls in engineering, more females get involved each year.

"The team is important because it has nothing to do with being a girl or not, it just tells people that they shouldn't be afraid and it's okay to get involved even though they are the minority in this," sophomore **Lauren Mallette** said. "We will eventually see a lot more girls in the engineering program because of teams like these that show that girls can do it."

by gaby mungo



photo by gaby mungo

BY TAKING INITIATIVE, senior **Ruth Fernandes** makes a plan to finish the solar car. Fernandes was a part of the engineering program for the past four years. "If I see this project come from an idea to real life, then that's what's going to stick with me," Fernandes said. "And this is me leaving my legacy before I leave high school."

spring style *by natalie henderson*



blake bond, 11



sai hardiker, 10



raleigh simmonds, 12



kyra holmstrup, 9