

Avoiding a total Shutout

Despite a positive start by beating Pearce 54-50, the varsity football team finished the 2015 season with a 1-9 record.

With hopes of making the playoffs destroyed long before the final game, the varsity football team ended a 1-9 season with a 44-30 loss to Highland Park.

Senior defensive tackle O'Shea Murphy felt that the team didn't live up to its own expectations.

"We played them way badly," Murphy said. "You don't understand the potential we have in this group. And that's all right, you fall short sometimes, but you've got to pick yourself back up, and that's the main focus."

He also said the team should have spent more time realizing their own potential rather than focusing on what people told them.

"We are a much better team than what we think we are, we've just got to know that in our hearts," Murphy said.

The team's only win this season, against district rival Pearce, ended on a touchdown in the last two minutes lifting the Eagles over Pearce 54-50.

"During the game I felt great," junior kicker Case Ritter said. "When we started to come back, the momentum had obviously shifted to our side. We got really hype and started believing that we had the win even when we were down by two touchdowns."

Going into their final game of the season, players said they were determined to stick together and keep fighting.

"Friday's game against Highland Park was our last shot to show what we were made of," Ritter said. "We finished the first half of that game down just a touchdown to the juggernaut of our district, and our plan was to fight to the end regardless of the scoreboard."

Head coach Brian Chandler said the nine losses were the hardest part of the season.

"We practiced at 6:45 every morning," he said. "Long hard days – these young men have given us everything we've asked them to give, and it just hasn't gone our way."

Senior middle linebacker Reagan Smith said staying united as a team was the most important part of making it through the season.

"The season was a little disappointing, but we played as a team this whole season, and that's all that matters," Smith said.

Ritter plans to spend the rest of the year focusing on connecting with sophomores who will be joining them next season on varsity.

"As a team, we are planning to become a new family with the sophomores who will play amongst us this spring and next season," he said. "The sophomores beat every RISD school last year on JV, and that will make a significant contribution to our team next year."