

taste of re·demp·tion

Major injury prompts freshmen to step up
 Just weeks away from the District 25-6A meet, the varsity boys cross country team looked to redeem itself after the previous year's performance.

Then the team's No. 5 runner fractured his leg. Junior Jacob Pickron's fracture blindsided the team, and with the district meet in the near future, the team's chances were in the air.

"At first, we didn't know what would happen, but three freshmen stepped it up when we needed it," senior Isaac Perez said.

Freshmen Andres Engle, Clayton Wilkerson and Jackson Davis filled the gap created after Pickron's injury.

"They have been an incredible addition to this team and when I was running, I was the fifth man and our gap between the first to fifth runner was pretty small," Pickron said, "When I got injured, Andres, Clayton and Jackson all jumped in and really worked super hard; and now they are all doing amazing."

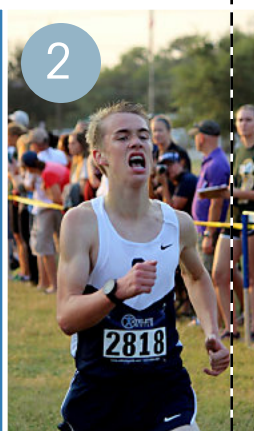
At district the boys team placed second with a score of 45, right behind New Braunfels high school, who won with a score of 48. The boys went on to defeat New Braunfels for the Region IV-6A title.

"At district, they definitely showed off all the hard work they have put in," senior Aleck Hernandez said. "I do not think we would have been able to place as high as we did had it not been for them stepping it up."

Story by Mauricio Aguilar



1. End of the Line In the last 50 meters of the race, junior Jacob Pickron sprints to help the team beat Reagan on Aug. 31 at the Unicorn Invitational. The varsity boys took first place at the meet with a score 49. Pickron finished with a time of 10:39. "I am just thinking about how many people I can pass and how I can score as many points for my team as possible," Pickron said.



2. Final Stretch Tearing through competition to the finish line, junior Chase Bracher helps push the team to first place on Aug. 31 at the Unicorn Invitational. The varsity boys took first place with a score of 49.

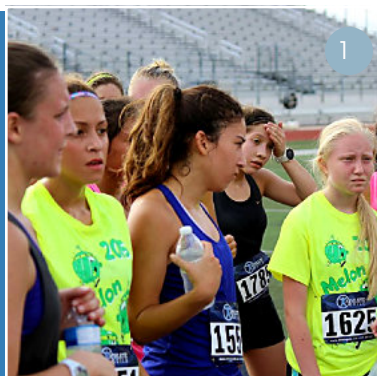


Kerri Welch, Richard Galarza, Carson Meyers 10, Marisa Ibarra 11, Cassidy Clark, Jacob Emmons, Grace Hanneman, Reagan Bachman, Cody Miller, Isaac Perez, Aleck Hernandez 12.

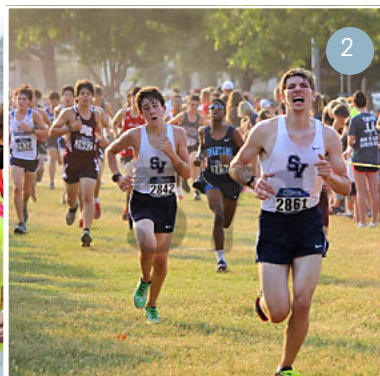
by the numbers

7 meets
 miles **32,000+**
5 varsity boys
5 wins
 varsity boys
losses 2
 varsity girls
6 wins
 varsity girls
losses 1

1. Listen Up During their post-race pep talk, senior Marissa Cavazos, junior Ashley Carrillo and freshmen Leighanna Glover, Alyssa Rivera, and Riley Stirm cool down on Aug. 22 after the Melon Run in Ranger Stadium, Cody Miller finished the 5k with a time of 15:41.



2. The Final Mile At the Unicorn Invitational Aug 31, freshman Ethan Katz, and junior Bradley Wersterfer push themselves to the finish. The JV boys took first place overall. "I try to focus on passing the other runners and sprinting towards the finish," Katz said.



3. Chalk Talk Waiting to receive their awards, freshmen Sydney Jensen, Alyssa Rivera, and Gretchen Wersterfer share a post-race chat at the Unicorn Invitational Aug.31. The junior varsity girls finished in second place overall.



4. One Uppin' In one of his first high school races, freshman Isaiah Mitchell stays ahead of his competitors to help the team score at the Unicorn Invitational Aug. 31. The JV boys took first place overall.



photos by Mauricio Aguilar



photos by Mauricio Aguilier

leaders of the pack

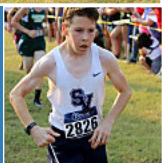
Front runners push team forward

3. Friendly Competition Neck and neck, sophomores Tyler Keranen and Richard Galarza push each other during the on Aug. 22 at the Annual Melon Run

4. Hard as Nails With eyes on the runner ahead of him, senior Jacob Emmons pushes himself to run faster at the Unicorn Invitational Aug. 31. "I just want to collapse but more from exhaustion" Emmons said.

5. Zero in Braid flying behind her, junior Ashley Carrillo finishes strong for her team at the Unicorn Invitational Aug. 31. The JV girls took second place.

6. Focused to Finish On Aug. 31 at the Unicorn Invitational, freshman Hunter Ruff runs toward the finish line to help the JV boys take first place overall.



Corvin Eberle, 9



Jessica Overstreet, 10



5



6

photos by Mauricio Aguilier



Triple Threat Leading the pack, sophomores Kylie and Kerri Welch, and junior Marisa Ibarra sprint to defeat New Braunfels. The girls took first place at the Unicorn Invitational on Aug. 31. "We create great competition between each other," Kerri Welch said.



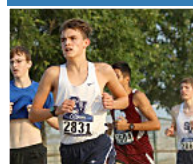
Tipping scales As he keeps pace with his pack, senior Cody Miller scores low enough for the team to take first place on Aug. 31. Miller finished in sixth place individually. "There's always someone who's willing to work harder or push through a little more pain in order to be the best," he said Miller said.



Riley Stirn, 9



Full Speed Ahead While pushing herself to the limits, freshman Sydney Jensen moves the team closer to the win on Aug. 31 at the Unicorn Invitational. The JV girls finished in second place overall.

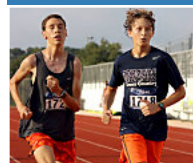


Logan Garner, 10

Never Look Back In the chase for first place, freshman Andres Engle sets the tone for a successful season at the Unicorn Invitational. The JV boys team took first place. "Andres has done a superb job at stepping up to the plate, doing what was needed to be done for the team, to keep improving," sophomore Tyler Keranen said.



Jianni McDole, 11



Carson Meyer 10, Tyler Miles, 9

pushing onward Runners work to get out in front



Leading the Stampede Getting ahead of the pack, senior Reagan Bachman and junior Mackenzie Jensen move the team closer to the win Aug. 31. At the Unicorn Invitational, the varsity girls took first place with a score of 29, ahead of their long-time rivals New Braunfels and without highly decorated graduate Devin Clark. "We miss Devin a lot, but we don't need one really fast runner to win meets," Bachman said.



Chasing the Clean Sweep Challenging each other during the last 200 meters of the Unicorn Invitational, freshman Cambria Clark and senior Grace Hannemann lead the way for the team and its first place win. The varsity girls took first place over Dripping Springs and New Braunfels.



Spurting Through As they emerging from the stampede, juniors Jacob Pickron and Chase Bracher, and seniors Aleck Hernandez and Isaac Perez set the pace for the varsity boys team, which placed first with a score of 49 points. Senior Cody Miller finished the two mile race in sixth place with a time of 9:29.



True Grit Focusing on the finish line to help the team win the meet is senior Zachary Zuber at the Unicorn Invitational Aug. 31. The varsity boys took first place overall with a score of 49.

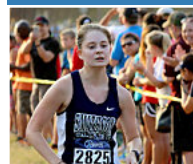
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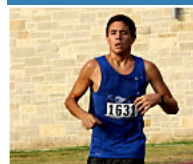
Gretchen Wersterfer, 9



Clayton Wilkerson, 9



Carly Dugosh, 10



Nicholas Gonzalez, 11

photos by Mauricio Aguilier