

Running past an opponent that fell on purpose, **Landry Sheridan** [12] runs through the play with the ball while **Arthur Nakai** [11] runs ahead to offer a pass. The boys were known for playing more physical than other teams in their league.

Bent over, **Arthur Nakai** [11] rests his elbows on his knees in the middle of the game to catch his breath. Many of the players on FC Blancos considered Nakai to be one of their star players.

Rushing towards the ball, **Jeremy Patak** [12] attempts to push past the offensive player to defend the ball during the game. Patak normally played defense. "We didn't have as much skill as the teams we played, it was important for us to be more physical than them," Patak said.

Waiting for the ball to settle, **Dax Davis** [12] preps to kick the ball as **Landry Sheridan** [12] backs away. Sheridan ended the season with two yellow cards and one red, the highest of anyone else on the team. "This team was an amazing experience I'll never forget," Davis said. "It stands as one of my favorite memories in high school."



Focused on the ball, **Conner Weeks** [11] rushes down the field towards the other team's goal. Weeks was known to use his speed to get down the field and advance the ball.



Pulling out of the play at the end of the field, **Adrian Diaz** [12] runs from the play to open up for one of his teammates and receive a pass. The team this year improved largely compared to last year.



Watching them play the game, **Seth Lassiter** [12] stops to see where to move next. Hard work led to the team's success this year. "We proved we were capable of having fun and winning at the same time," Lassiter said.

# Back En Blanco

Boys return to make run for championship

Headbands, leggings and loud music graced the Greater Longview Soccer League's fields as the White Oak select soccer team walked up, clad head to toe in white. Drawing in the largest crowds of any team the FC Blancos competed for the second year as a member of this league.

Forming initially in response to the administration's refusal to form a school sponsored soccer team, the picked their own coaches, players and found their own sponsors so that they could play the game.

After a disappointing first season, this year's team went 2-1-1 and when they had a full roster and made an appearance in the championship.

"This year we had a lot more speed and stamina and we brought a lot more energy to each game," **Dax Davis** [12] said. "Our coaches really did a good job of giving us opportunities to win."

Competing against varsity squads in the area, the team, entirely formed of amateurs with the exception of foreign exchange student **Arthur Nakai** [11], placed 2nd in the league.

"After last years winless season the team felt determined to make a change," Michael Maly [12] said. "We practiced more often and harder, and that made us play harder."

# NO Comeback NEEDED

Students join other leagues

Hands on her hips, **Andrea Carter** [9] takes a moment to catch her breath in the middle of the play. Carter played right forward and midfielder, working on her own to improve her ball control and interpretation of the game. "It's one of the greatest feelings when I help my team out," Carter said. "I feel really accomplished when we win."



Blocking the ball, **Luisa Soto** [10] throws her leg in the way beside one of her teammates to keep the ball from going into the net. Soto normally played right defender, midfielder and forward, depending on the team. "It was such a great experience being able to play with FC Dallas," Soto said. "I hope to continue to do so in the future."



Pushing the ball down the field, **Harrison Ormes** [9] dribbles through the center of the field. Ormes normally play forward and helped the team score and move the ball. "I feel good dribbling the ball because I feel free," Ormes said. "There aren't any rules."

Resting on her knees, **Sabrina Smith** [10] sits the bench during halftime. Smith played for the FC Dallas club team with Soto and Carter. "They turned into this second family for me," Smith said. "We all got along and laughed together."

Every Moment Counts: "I was sitting down and I was crying and the fence was halfway broken. My horse broke through the rest of the fence and laid beside me. She gave me a kiss and she started licking my face." **Whitni Rayson** [5]

"Coach [Billy] Brown gave me Cheez-it's and I hadn't eaten that morning. It was really sweet and it made my day." **Olivia Sipes** [9]

"It was really cool when Coach [Clifford] Barnes gave me a cookie because I was really hungry before track practice. It was really good." **Shayneez Tyl** [10]