

SHATTERED SILENCE

The student section erupts into chaos after the basketball team scores their tenth point against ESD.



EXPLOSION Led by seniors Jackson Cole, Mahir Karim, JT Graass, Alden James and Tim Skapek, the student section erupts in cheering after the tenth point. The celebration, known as Silent Night, was anything but silent at one of the most intense sporting events of the year, the ESD-St. Mark's basketball game Feb. 5.

The student sections, usually roaring with boisterous activity and sporadic cheering, remained silent. The parents awkwardly cheered from the other side of the basketball court, wondering why all of the students were sitting down.

Even ESD's fans cheered halfheartedly, the suppressed atmosphere downing their spirits.

The Lions scored quickly and efficiently, earning an early lead, but the student section remained still, quietly displaying their white shirts.

Senior Brannon Rouse released a jump shot from within the paint, and it flew through the net, increasing the Lion's score to double digits.

Then the room erupted.

I don't think I've ever lost my voice so quickly and completely as I did that night.

— senior MAHIR KARIM

The cheering tactic, known as silent night, was orchestrated by superfans Graham Kirstein and Philip Smart.

"The plan was for the student section to remain silent until the Lions scored double

digits," senior Bradford Beck said. "Then we would cheer as loud as we could for as long as we could."

Senior Mahir Karim was skeptical of the strategy at first.

"I thought the silent night was a great idea," Karim said. "But I was a little skeptical about it working right up until it happened because we couldn't get the gym completely quiet."

All fears and doubts about the silent night were swept away when Rouse's basket fell.

"It was incredible," Karim said. "I don't think I've ever lost my voice so quickly and completely as I did that night."

As well as a great way to show school spirit, the unorthodox cheer may have helped the players.

"ESD had no idea what was going on, senior Bradford Beck said. "I think it really surprised their team and actually made an impact on the game."

While Lions fans usually show up to rival games and cheer loudly, the silent night added a fun, unifying aspect to passionate cheering.

"It really brought the fans together," senior Bradford Beck said. "I thought it was a great twist on traditional school spirit."



CALM BEFORE THE STORM Wearing a Captain Phasma helmet from Star Wars VII, senior Graham Kirstein stands guard as Lion fans sit quietly, waiting expectantly for the 11th point.

super fans



INNOVATION Dressing up as Steve Jobs, seniors Philip Smart and Graham Kirstein announce sports via the reveal of their new product, the "Easle," at a Friday assembly.

WHO SUPERFANS
PHILIP SMART
GRAHAM KIRSTEIN

WHAT ANNOUNCING SPORTS BEFORE THE GREENHILL GAMES

WHEN 10:30 ASSEMBLY JANUARY 15



BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL: LIFE, ACADEMICS

44 45

SILENT NIGHT: SUPER BOWL, SUPER FANS

BLUE | PANTHERS

Even though Las Vegas gave the Panthers the advantage, you never know. Film doesn't show how fast the teams actually are. I'm surprised that, given a 30 minute halftime, the coaches weren't able to create a new strategy to change something. They were too wedded to their successful season to tamper with what had worked all along. But it didn't work.

— Panthers fan CURTIS SMITH

ORANGE | BRONCOS

When you grow up with Peyton Manning as your superman, it's hard to see him play not-super. I was pessimistic all season. I loved him to death, but I could hardly watch his games anymore. But, in the end, he ended up on top. After watching my idol for the past ten years of my life win a Super Bowl, lose a Super Bowl, have dominant seasons, and struggle through seasons, seeing him finish on top was incredible.

— Broncos fan junior WHIT PAYNE



SUPERBOWL FAN FACEOFF BLUE VS. ORANGE

60 MINUTES OF RELENTLESS CHAOS

Die-hard Panther's fan Curtis Smith and Peyton Manning fanatic Whit Payne (far left) jump toward a loose football. Payne and Smith (left) reenact the struggles between the Broncos and Panthers. Smith has been a Panthers fan since the team's establishment in 1995. Payne has loved Peyton Manning ever since he started watching football almost ten years ago.