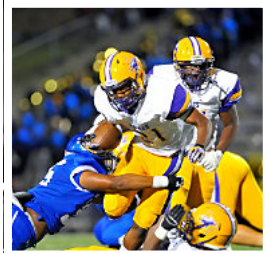


AS HE attempts to stiff-arm a North Mesquite high school player during the first half of the game, senior Armando Washington tries to get a first down on the play. After North Mesquite scored almost 50 points in the first quarter, the Eagles couldn't mount a comeback and lost by a score of 63-17. "When I'm stiff-arming somebody my main focus is to make sure I'm keeping the ball from the defender and that the other player isn't able to get his hands on me so I can continue running," Washington said. [chase karacostas]

AFTER CATCHING the ball, sophomore Jarek Broussard runs for a first down before being tackled by a North Mesquite player shortly after starting the second half of the game. "When I get a first down, there's not much emotion, but I just keep going to the next play," Broussard said. [chase karacostas]



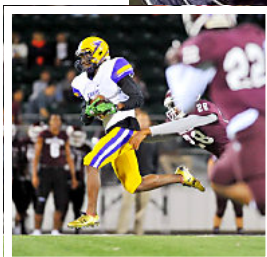
SENIOR OSHEA Murphy laughs while listening to music on his phone during the second lightning delay of the Berkner game. To compensate for bad weather, there were three lightning delays and the game was started an hour and a half early at 6 p.m. "The hardest part of playing in the rain was because we couldn't really pass and it took away a whole dimension of our offense," Murphy said. [chase karacostas]



JUNIOR DARIUS Vann high fives senior Michael Iwuamanam during the first half of the Highland Park football game. The game was senior night, and ended the season with a record of 1-9. "The game felt special because it was the last one for the seniors, and even though it wasn't a successful season, we still had fun and played good," Vann said. [chase karacostas]



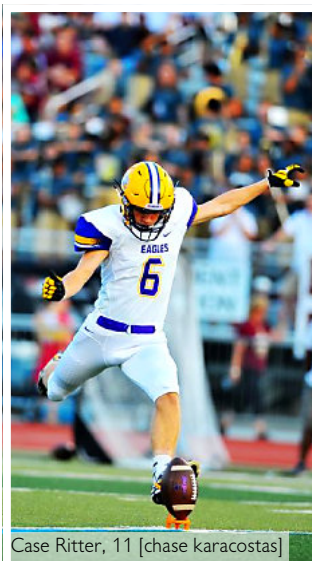
RUNNING FOR a touchdown, senior Khalil Lacy escapes a Mesquite High player attempting to tackle him. "When you score, it kind of feels like you're on top of the world and the best part is everyone getting to see you make that touchdown," Lacy said. [chase karacostas]



NOW YOU know

What is your favorite part about athletic training?

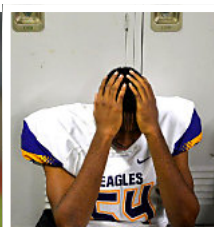
"Getting to see the sports up close and how much teamwork the Eagles have. My weirdest experience was having football game 2-a-days early in the morning and walking to Jason's Deli with Chelsea Ray for lunch at 10 a.m."
-Mily Galindez, 12



Case Ritter, 11 [chase karacostas]



Gabriel Darko, 11 [chase karacostas]



Muhammed Abdulrahman, 12 [chase karacostas]



Khalil Lacy, 12 [chase karacostas]



Jourdan Williams, 12 [chase karacostas]



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.

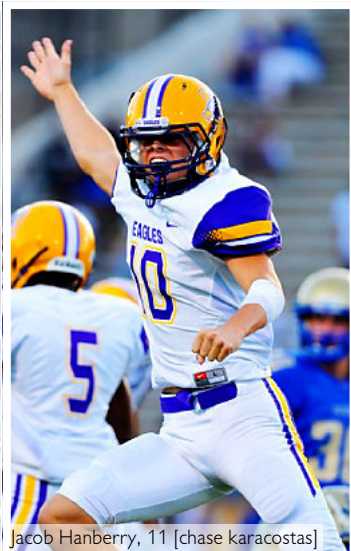
"As a team, we are planning to become a new family with the sophomores who will play amongst us this spring and next season," he said. "The sophomores beat every RISD school last year on JV, and that will make a significant contribution to our team next year."



Devonte Adcock, 12
[chase karacostas]



Michael Johnson, 12 [chase karacostas]



Jacob Hanberry, 11 [chase karacostas]

The Facts

A look at the stats compiled by the football team throughout the course of the season.

1265 RUSHING YARDS– Ave. 4.23 yards per rush	213 TOTAL POINTS Average 21.3 Points per game
PASSING YARDS Avg. 13.01 yards per pass	2042
54-50 FINAL SCORE J.J. Pearce Game	1 HOURS A WEEK Spent practicing for the game