

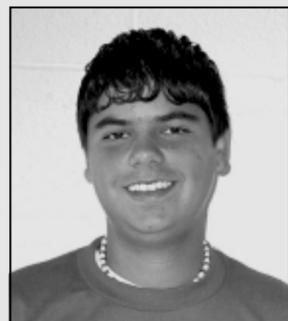
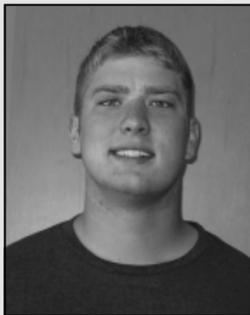
LIONS' PRIDE

BY MAYURI BHAKTA

Football

Joey Ellis

2nd Team All-State, Offensive line
 "an outstanding representative of our program both on the field and in the classroom. His current and future accomplishments will bode well of his character,"
 -Coach Mitch Stovall



Tennis

Stephen Salazar

Singles: 7-0 Doubles: 5-2
 "a very solid player. He has a great attitude on and off of the court,"
 -Coach Jayson Everett

Volleyball

Erin Gabaree

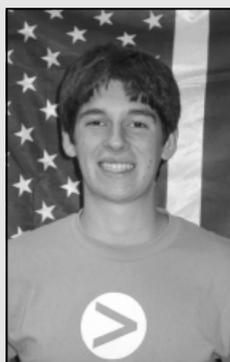
"has quickly developed into an outstanding left front hitter/left back defensive player. She is highly intelligent, very athletic, and the epitome of a "coachable athlete." She is a shining example for all athletes,"
 -Coach Mary Steed



Cross Country

Ben Humeniuk

"has been a positive role-model for our team by demonstrating great leadership skills,"
 -Coach Shane Perkins



Straining For the Goal: Cross Country Begins New Season

It's been said that Cross Country runners have no love for sleep. After all, who in their right minds would want to get to the school at 6 in the morning just to exhaust themselves by running three miles?

But, since the first week of school, the Lion Cross Country team has been doing just that. With new leadership from Coach Shane Perkins and a new training regimen, the small group of runners is going the distance for their new season.

Thus far, the group has participated in meets at Huckabay and Mason, continually seeing their times improve. Their next run will be through the streets of downtown Brownwood during Saturday's Reunion 5K run.



Senior Kirby Freeman charges down the field in the Permian game

Photo by Terrell Fulton

Varsity football eases through preseason

BY MAYURI BHAKTA

As the regular season approaches, the Lions are looking good with three wins under their belt.

"Preseason is a great way to show how our team is doing for when it really matters--district and playoffs," quarterback Kirby Freeman said.

Last Saturday, the Lions were able to step foot on the new Bloom Field during the highly notable Gordon Wood Texas Classic. Showing the home fans what they have done in the two previous away games, the Lions came home to win 40-35 against 5-A Odessa Permian. Freeman rushed for 297 yards putting up five touchdowns on his own including 123 passing yards. Forty of those yards were to fullback Daniel Denton who put up some points before the end of the first half. With an excellent first half by the Lions, the Panthers made a shot to catch up, but it wasn't enough as the team closed up another win with a score of 40-35.

On September 5, the Lions came out with another victorious win against San Angelo Central, 28-13. Only allowing 137 total yards, the Lion defense stopped the Bobcat offense to soncert only three pass completions and had five sacks.

"[The defensive line] all have a senior mentality, and they're all varsity...it doesn't

matter...they go and do what they've gotta' do," senior Leslie Adams said.

The Brownwood offense, however, established 185 passing yards and 211 rushing yards. Freeman threw 10/19 giving wide receiver Keith Howey and Denton a touchdown each. Sophomore Jamal Organ rushed a total of 101 yards giving the visitors two more touchdowns to seal the game.

Brownwood High was lucky enough to play Fort Worth Dunbar at the Dallas Cowboys' Texas Stadium. Not holding anything back, the Lions were able to shut out the Wildcats 49-0. Freeman threw 12/17 for 201 passing yards and rushed for two touchdowns. One of those passes fell into the hands of sophomore Kye Darden for a 35-yard touchdown run. Running back Jason Behler had a total of 53 yards including six points of his own, while J.D. Johnson, Organ, and Adams took in a touchdown each in the high scoring game.

Offensive lineman Joey Ellis brings assurance that the Lions great progress will improve each week, continuing to have the success we have had in the preseason in the regular season," Ellis said.

The Lions will kick off district play next Friday, September 26 against Fort Worth Brewer at 7:30 PM in the White Settlement.

Tennis team prepares for district play

BY TERRELL FULTON

Since winning district this past year, the BHS tennis team is very fired up about this season and how they stand against other teams.

The new tennis coaches Jayson Everett and David Cunha have shown up early every day to make sure our tennis team will be ready to go up against whatever comes at them. With both new coaches having football backgrounds, our team is getting a run for their money.

Our tennis team has been working ruthlessly since August 5. Coach Everett believes that, "the

progress of the team this year completely depends on them and how hard they work."

When asked about district play, he quickly answered that "the preseason games are not what matters as much as district play."

After playing Abilene Wiley, the 3A state champions, with a score of 6 to 13, the tennis team is looking very confident in where they stand., "the games were very competitive," Coach Everett said.

A man of few words. This weekend our team faces North Crowley here at 10:00 A.M.

Coach Courington accepts position at Stony Point

BY BENJAMIN HUMENIUK

We all know the feeling. The empty hole that climbs under your skin and into your gut when someone close to you has to leave, maybe for a while, maybe for good. For many BHS tennis players, past and present, this feeling is now connected to former coach Sammie Courington, who gained a new position as head coach at Stony Point High School in Round Rock at the year's start.

This is a big move for Courington. Stony Point High is among the newest 5A high schools in Texas, and as he describes it, "...is much bigger than most shopping malls that I have been in, except maybe (the Galleria."

But, the road to get there has been a winding one.

After updating and sending out his resume, Courington was contacted by Stony Point, but found that they didn't have an available teaching position for his qualifications.

"I just shrugged it off and thought to myself, 'oh well, I guess the Lord just wanted me to stay put'." Courington said.

However, plans changed. After returning from a tournament in Mason, Courington and his wife found a message waiting on their machine.

"After that, things started going really fast." Courington said.

And thus, Courington found himself at Stony Point, with a new mix of blessings and challenges. While the job offers good pay and benefits, the campus is

spread out over a large distance, presenting a challenge to the classroom-less Courington, who must tote his materials to and fro. But as it turns out, this challenge actually aids his battle with skin cancer.

"Since I am teaching in the classroom more now... I am out in the sun a lot less, which will probably increase my life-expectancy." Courington said.

But, the hardest adjustment for Courington is having to live apart from his wife, who continues to live and teach in Brown County

"...Her being in Brownwood and my being here is the toughest challenge. I miss her the most of all. But one day, God willing, that will change." Courington said.

Until that day, however, Courington continues to press on. After all, he has a new crop of players to work with... and a group of old ones to remember.

"I miss my formers very much, the same as I would a child that had moved away or even died." Courington said.

Coach Courington knows that feeling. That empty hole that gnaws at your gut, mixed with a hope and optimism gained from standing on the brink of a new adventure. And while not everything is perfect, Courington knows where he stands.

"I am totally convinced that all of the events surrounding the situation were all the hand of God. He has a very good reason why I am supposed to be here. I don't know just what the reason is yet, but it is obvious to me that His hand was in it all."



Photo by Terrell Fulton

Gordon Wood Facilities Officially Dedicated

BY BENJAMIN HUMENIUK

After undergoing several months of much-anticipated renovation, Gordon Wood Stadium officially opened for business last Friday with a ceremony designed to dedicate the arena's new facilities.

Half an hour before Aledo and Abilene Wylie were to play the first game on the new turf, Lion football players, cheerleaders, dance team members, and Crew members assembled with various dignitaries to celebrate the redone stadium and to honor those who made the work possible.

The most buzz, however, came from the remarks of two other living legends and friends of Coach Wood.

Former Baylor coach Grant Teaff and former Texas Tech coach Spike Dykes shared memories of the lauded Brownwood coach, and gave their blessing to the new field and the people who were the driving force behind getting it in place.

The Bloom brothers of Dallas, major contributors to the new

turf, were present as the field was officially dedicated and named in their memory. Other dedications included the renovated Bill Jamar Press Box and the redone Brownwood Ford Field House. In addition, a bronze statue of Coach Wood was unveiled at the stadium's home entrance earlier in the afternoon.

Also, with local evangelist Richard Jackson acting as emcee, state representatives Jim Keffer and Troy Fraiser had an opportunity to say their piece about the stadium and the city of Brownwood. Fraiser noted that while redistricting was a prickly issue in the state Congress, he was glad that it put Brownwood in his district.

Finally, Gordon Wood himself took the mic, stating that he would never have imagined the impact of his coaching career and how it led to the ceremonies of the day. He made a special point to praise the people of Brownwood, noting that no other city in the United States of their size would have been able to accomplish the renovation without tax dollars.