

**1. Preparation for Battle:** Quarterback and captain Max Perez ('18) stands with his team during the national anthem before the Lehman game. "Before we go out on the field for the coin toss and the national anthem, we have someone [Brandon Wooley] say a prayer to get us ready and in the right mind-set," Perez said.



**2. Practice Makes Perfect:** Leaping beyond the reach of a fully extended Lehman defender, Day'lon Byrd ('17) catches a touchdown pass after running a fade route. "The routes I run in practice are the hardest routes," Byrd said. "That's why we constantly run them; we want to be consistent and make successful plays."



**3. Break Away:** Fighting for extra punt-return yardage, wide receiver Davis Roe ('18) stiff arms a Crockett opponent at Burger Stadium on Oct. 14.



**4. Breaking Free:** Running back Alexander Julian ('18) goes to the outside to break a tackle during a 28-14 victory over the Crockett Cougars. "I saw an opening on the outside and took it," Julian said. "I broke the tackle. A face mask was called, so we received an extra 15 yards."



**5. Celebrate Good Times:** Darian Fisher ('17) and Brandon Wooley ('17) celebrate after a special-teams play. "Someone had just made a big hit, and everyone on the special teams got excited and ran out to celebrate," Fisher said. "We always want to practice hard at game speed so when we're in a game, we can make those exciting effective plays."



Photos by Adrian Peña.

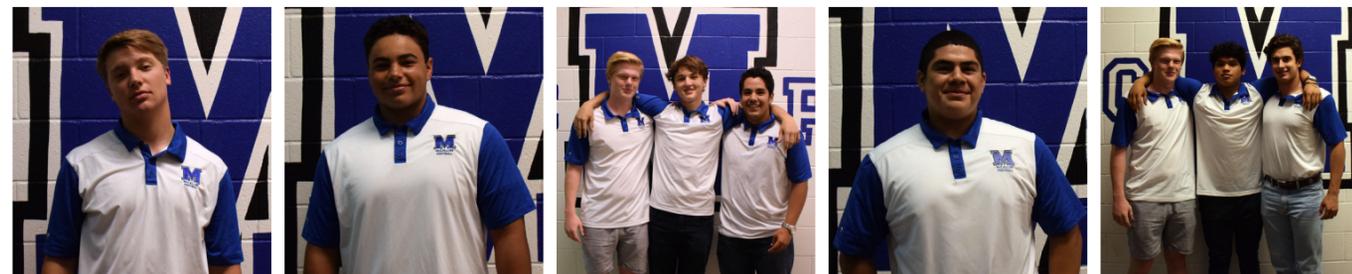


**Scoop and Score**

Defensive lineman Prince Tyler (18) reaches the end zone after recovering a fumble and rambling 70 yards for the game-winning touchdown in the 17-14 bi-district playoff win over Kerrville Tivy on Oct. 11 at House Park. The fumble occurred after Tivy's Nathan Ramsey botched a handoff. "What fueled me to keep running was thinking about my grandma who passed away in 2011," Tyler said. "She is my inspiration because we were so close and shared so many great memories." Photo by Dave Winter.



**MEET THE O-LINE** offensive line keys team success by protecting quarterback and opening holes for running backs



**LEFT TACKLE**  
The left tackle opens up passing lanes for the quarterback to throw through and the running back to run through. He also protects the right-handed quarterback's blind side. "The best feeling is getting to pancake someone into the ground," Judah Copeland ('18) said.

**LEFT GUARD**  
Unlike the left tackle, the left guards is more likely to work in double-team assignments, such as with the center against a nose tackle. "The best part of being left guard is seeing all your hard work pay off when someone scores a touchdown," Max Perkins ('18) said.

**CENTER**  
The center snaps the ball to the quarterback and calls out blocking assignments. The Knights started the season with Jackson Haynes ('17) at center until he was injured against LBJ. Carter Tims ('17) played center until he was injured against Travis, yielding the center spot to Kegan Aleman ('18).

**RIGHT GUARD**  
The right guard moves quickly down the line of scrimmage in order to deliver a crucial block to create or seal a running lane. "Playing right guard is a lot harder than any other positions because you have to know all the plays unlike the other positions," Cesar Cedillo ('18) said.

**RIGHT TACKLE**  
Right tackle requires tall linemen with long arms in order to deal with one-on-one with pass rushers. The team had three right tackles: first, Carter Tims ('17), who was moved to center; then, Estevan Hernandez ('18), who suffered an injury and finally defender turned O-lineman, Jack Switzer ('18).

**50 YEARS IN THE MAKING**

varsity enjoys 4-0 start for first time since 1966, wins 10 games

With the varsity football team going 4-6 in 2015, the stakes were high but uncertain for the 2016 season. The team started off strong with wins against Anderson, Lehman, Seguin and Akins to begin 4-0 for the first time in 50 years. After four games, the team had already matched the previous year's win total.

"This year, the guys are a little older; they have been in the program for four years and are strong guys who have stepped up," head coach Charles Taylor said.

The varsity team consisted of 13 seniors, 20 juniors and two sophomores. Having a team dominated by upperclassmen created a much different team dynamic than was the case the previous year.

"This is my second year on varsity, and this year we have a stronger senior class, and having a successful football team consists of a strong senior class," JB Faught ('18) said. "Having strong leaders is also a big part of that; last year, we had a lot of younger guys, and now that we

have been together for two years, we have a strong bond and are better teammates and better friends, which makes playing football so much more fun, and that is exactly what we do: have fun on the field."

The only loss the Knights suffered during the regular season was a 14-3 setback at the hands of archrival LBJ during the homecoming game on Sept. 23.

"The loss against LBJ really hurt the team, but it humbled us to go with a deeper drive into the next game," Brandon Wooley ('17) said. "The offense was weak in the LBJ game, but we had to overcome it by keeping our spirits high and keep working just as hard in practice for the next game and not letting the loss against LBJ keep us down."

The loss cost the team a district title, but the team rebounded from the disappointment to reel off six straight wins, including a 17-14 bi-district playoff win over Kerrville Tivy on Nov. 11. Having secured a 10-win season, the Knights just missed a shot to play in the Alamo Dome when they lost a 31-30 nail-biter to Victoria East at Floresville.