

THE HOOKER HAPPENINGS

Bulldogs Triumph Over Lynx

by Flor Mesta



Photo courtesy of Aaron Witt Photography

The Hooker Bulldogs traveled down to Spearman, TX for the first time on Friday, September 13. The Bulldogs pulled out a win of 28-21 over the Lynx.

Sophomore Justin Palacios rushed for 193 yards and got two touchdowns while picking up 11.4 yards per carry. He turned on the jets for a run of 65 yards. Hooker also got a big boost from senior QB Kleat Martens, who ran away from the competition to the tune of 80 yards. Junior Ayden Woolridge had a total of 18 tackles this game. Senior Trace Duncan received for a total of 106 yards. Landon Lee, senior, rushed for a total of 111 yards.

Hooker finished the game with 326 total rushing yards. That's the most they've posted since back in October of 2023. This game's victory made it two in a row for Hooker and bumps their season record up to 2-1. Hooker will have some time to savor their win, as Friday September 20th is a bye week. They will travel just under three hours to the south east to take on Sayre on Friday, September 27th. Come cheer on your Bulldogs in person or catch the game on the Hooker Bulldog Network.

Homecoming Court Announced for Oct. 4 Game

Hooker's Homecoming game will be played Friday, October 4 versus the Hinton Comets, with kickoff at 7:00 PM. The Hooker Bulldogs proudly announced their homecoming candidates this week, celebrating a wonderful group of students. The crowning ceremony will take place at 6:30, prior to the Homecoming game.

Alondra Rios, the 2023 Queen, will return to pass on her crown to the next Bulldog royal. Jaelynn Avalos will represent the freshman class,

Josie Davis the sophomores, Allie Metcalf the juniors, and Devry Metcalf will proudly represent the seniors for their final year. Senior members of the Bulldog football team in the race for King include Kleat Martens, Cale Metcalf, Rhett Nunley, Alfonso Ortiz, Daniel Quezada, Trace Duncan, and Peyton Parker. Kindergarten escorts for this year's festivities are Dax Trimble and Addilynn Fox.





Flag Football Kicks Off Season

The Future Bulldogs flag football season kicked off on September 12th. Students in grades Pre-K through 4th are excited to get out on the gridiron, compete, and have fun with their friends. Games are played each Thursday evening at 6 and 7 on the high school football field. The 5-week season will go through October 10th. Family and friends meet to have a great time and cheer on the children that are participating.

Gridiron Updates:

Junior High and Elementary

The Junior High Bulldogs have begun their season with games against Guymon and Texhoma. They currently have a record of 2-1 with a win against Texhoma and both losses against Guymon. The elementary began their season with a blowout win against Guymon, then followed it up with another runaway victory over the Tigers, leaving them with a record of 2-0.

According to coaches, both teams have been practicing hard and have the best numbers they have ever been at Hooker. The next couple weeks will be very busy for the junior high team, who has four games on their schedule in that time.



Photo courtesy of [Aaron Witt Photography](#)

Inside the Huddle: Interview with Coach EY

What made you choose Hooker?
 “I had one of the older football coaches come up to me and ask me if I would be interested in helping him out. It took me a while to come around and help, but I took a liking to the community and players so I ended up helping out.”
 Who do you think the team leader is?

“I would say the Adams boys.” (Daniel, Raul, Ayden) “Then you got your Peyton Parker and Nate Hidalgo keeping it together on the line. Then you got Kleat and T-rae(Trace Duncan) that go hard everyday.”

What are Hooker football's greatest strengths and weaknesses?

Definitely our conditioning and the fact that we take every play like it's our last. To be honest I don't see any weakness in our program.

How do you always have a positive attitude?

Just going to work gets tiring, but then coming out here being with y'all puts me and keeps me in a good mood.

What made you want to start coaching?

Me playing football and having knowledge and just enjoying spending time with the kids.

What game are you looking forward to the most this season?

State championship, no doubt. What is your goal for the season?
 Bring home the Gold Ball this year.

What is your favorite field to coach on?

Hooker's field by far. I just love Hooker's atmosphere.



Photo Courtesy of Rhonda Baird

Lady Dogs Head to Playoffs

The Lady Dogs took on Texhoma/Goodwell, Seiling, Vici, and Canute at the Shattuck tournament on September 12 and 14. They came out with strong wins over both Texhoma/Goodwell and Vici. Junior Kinley McGaha came in clutch versus the Lady Red Devils on Thursday, driving in four runs on one hit. Senior Devry Metcalf helped earn the win, allowing only six hits and two earned runs over three innings. On Saturday the Lady Bulldogs accumulated 16 hits against the Vici Lady Indians. They were on top of their base running game, stealing 12 bases over the course of just four innings. Hooker suffered losses to Seiling and Canute, giving them a 2-2 record for the tournament.

Monday the 16th brought another game and another win against the Texhoma/Goodwell Lady Red Devils. Lexi Adair and Mollie Baird started strong, both scoring runs in the 1st inning. Pitcher Devry Metcalf kept the Lady Red Devils at Bay, allowing only four hits and zero earned runs over the course of six innings.

The Merritt Oilerettes traveled to Hooker on September 19, securing two wins against the Lady Dogs. Kinley McGaha, Lexi Adair, Mollie Baird, Devry Metcalf, and Haven Romero each collected one hit for the Lady Bulldogs. Romero led the team with one run batted in.

Hooker played their final regular season games against Guymon early this week, falling in a tough loss. Junior Mollie Baird had a solid day at the plate, hitting a grand slam in an effort to turn the game around.

The Lady Dogs will move on to Regionals in Crescent on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. Their first regional game will be Wednesday at 2:00 against Hennessey. Good luck Lady Dogs!

Inside the Diamond: Interview with Coach Ruiz

By Yadira Mendoza

Coach Aaron Ruiz has been a coach at Hooker Public Schools for 13 years. He is the head coach for baseball and softball. He is also an assistant coach for boys' basketball. His main goal for the end of the softball season is to be able to get the first regional tournament softball win in school history. He mentions his favorite thing about coaching is the relationships that are built. His most memorable game was in 2018, the area state basketball game. The Bulldogs made it to State and came home with the win. This was also his first year coaching. Coach Ruiz says he enjoys eating at Braums or Pizza Hut when traveling with the team. "Those are the only places we ever stop at." His biggest motivation as a coach is seeing athletes succeed by all the hard work they put in.



Mollie Baird with her grand slam ball.

Photo courtesy of Rhonda Baird

Bulldogs Blaze the Trail



Photo courtesy of Debbie Brown

by Flor Mesta & Yadira Mendoza

The cross country teams headed down to Beaver for a cross country meet on September 14. The high school girls and boys placed first as both teams ran very well. The high school girls overall score was 19 and the boys had 20.

The girls top seven runners placed: Izabella Neville, Ember Stevens, Jenna Carter, Analisse Gonzales, Yarel Mesta, Finely Duncan and Kimberly Moreno. The boy's top runners included Ulisses Jimenez, Alejandro Perez, John Davis, Slade Stalder, Ryan Carter, Zahid Fernandez and Emmanuel Herandez.

The junior high boys cross country teams placed second. Top runners included Joshua Gribble, Jacob Ibarra, Giovanni Estrada, Braven Paden, Dariel Hernandez, Jacob Jimenez and Ethan Cenicerros. For the girls they placed third overall. Top runners include: Alexa Amador, Rosllyn Smith, Mayra Parker, Selah Fischer, Elianna Velasquez, Daniela Martinez and Maydelyn Perez earned top finishes.

The junior high had their last cross country meet of the season at Laverne on Sept. 17. Overall the girls team got second place and the boys snagged first.

On September 21 both high school teams competed in the steamy Pre-State race in Edmond. Both the girls' and boys' teams brought home the win. The top ten for the girls are as follows: Izabella Neville (1st), Yarel Mesta (3rd), Ember Stevens (6th), Analisee Gonzalez (8th), Jenna Carter (9th), and Kimberly Moreno (10th). The boys had several top ten finishers as well: Alejandro Perez (2nd), John Davis (4th), Ryan Carter (7th), and Slade Stalder (10th).

Chasing Excellence: Interview with Coach Kachel

by Sarai Sarabia

In an interview with Coach K, who has been a Bulldog coach for ten years, he stated that his love for competition was the main reason he became a coach. "Once my athletic career was over, I still wanted to compete, and so coaching became a natural next step." His goal for this year's cross country team is, as he says, always the same. He wants them to maintain a level of excellence. Coach K views his ability to be relatable as a main reason for his ability to be a good coach. "Understanding how my athletes feel on a regular basis and adjusting workouts based on where we are physically and mentally throughout the season." He feels that it's important to never forget how it feels to be an athlete.



Photo courtesy of Debbie Brown

BULLDOG BEAT

by Harmani, Ruby, Jacky, Aaliyah, Rylee, and Raul

Kinley McGaha What motivates Kinley to continue improving is knowing there is going to be someone better than her and keeps her working hard. She has said even now she's not satisfied with where she's at, but I'm sure we can all agree that she has been a great catcher and player for the Lady Dogs. In 8th grade she made her 1st home run against Guymon which was her most memorable play. Her proudest athletic moment was making Nationals in December. She's been playing softball for 13 years! She wants to make it as far as she can with her team this year.

Crisbel Rios is a senior on the HHS softball team. Her teammates keep her motivated to play hard and keep her head up. She is most proud of the hard work and dedication she has put into this sport and all of the ups and downs that, as a team, we have gone through. She has been playing softball every year since she was in 4th grade. This season as a senior she just wants to play as hard as she can and help the freshmen with what I have learned throughout the years of playing and be a good teammate.

Analisee Gonzalez, a senior member of the Hooker Cross Country team, has run for two years, her junior and senior years. She states that her most memorable competition is state cross, even though she placed very low. She has been dedicating herself to working harder in practice and races. She is self-motivated to get the sense of feeling successful. Gonzalez's most proud accomplishment was winning state last year. Her final goal for her last school year is to make it to the top 7 and go to state.

Ulisses Jimenez is a 17 year old Hooker High School senior and has been a part of the Hooker Cross Country Team for 4 years. When asked about what motivates him to continue on improving he stated, "myself so I can be best, not just for me, but also for my team." He stated that his best accomplishments are, "breaking the school record as a team, running the 2nd fastest time in school history with 16:43, and receiving All-State Honors." The accomplishment he wants to meet this year is, "bringing home another state title, breaking the school record, and going under 16 (minutes) in the 5k."

Trace Duncan, senior football player, states that he's motivated to improve so he can always be better than the person in front of him. Trace is most proud of making it to the state championship last year in both football and basketball. He is eager to win the football state championship this year for the first time in school history. Trace's most memorable play was when it was 4th and 1. He was on a slant route and got the ball in the middle, scoring on the 4th down.

Cale Metcalf, senior, is most proud of winning a silver ball, but also uses getting 2nd last year to motivate him to shoot for 1st place this year. Cale has played football since he was five, beginning with flag football, and has loved the game ever since. UCO is the most memorable place he has played. His goal this year is to win the state championship in football.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

by Michelle, Abigail, Andrea, and Izabella

TRACE DUNCAN

Trace Duncan is now a senior and reminiscing on his years in Hooker High. As a member of the class of 2025, he has some things to say. When asked if he had any advice for underclassmen, he said they should not stress over grades. Trace says his favorite school tradition is Dogfest. He states that his favorite school memory was scoring his first varsity touchdown against Sunray. If he could advise his younger self he would tell him never to stop working. Trace describes himself as chill, funny, and nice. He says his dream job is a Golf Course Superintendent.



JOHN DAVIS

In an interview with senior John, he stated that some of his greatest accomplishments throughout highschool include being a 4x Allstater, along with winning back to back state championships in track and cross country. John is involved in track, cross country, football, and baseball. John stated that the three best adjectives that describe him are “dedicated, disciplined, and fast.” When asked what would make the best music theme for him he chose *On with the Show* by Motley Crue. John says advice he wishes he could have given his younger self would be “to keep working hard and to not get discouraged. John says that his favorite high school memory would be going to Optima Hill for cross country. His goals after graduation are to attend college and to receive a degree in engineering.



LANDEN LEE

In an interview with Landen, he stated that his favorite high school memory is traveling for state football and the events leading up to the playoffs. If he were to give advice to his younger self, he would say to always stay humble even when others around you are not. Three adjectives that would describe Landen would be trustworthy, outgoing, and adaptable. Something that motivates him is seeing the success of his parents; it motivates him to become the best version of himself. He believes that the biggest challenge in high school is moving schools in the middle of his sophomore year. The class that Landen finds the most enjoyable is Finance with the whole 2025 class because it is easy and enjoyable.



KLEAT MARTENS

Senior Kleat Martens participates in football, basketball, track, and baseball. He described his favorite memory from high school as “when the football team had a Roman candle war after dinner.” Kleat would describe himself as funny, confident, and outgoing. In the future, he plans to enter the oil and gas industry. To help achieve that goal, he is currently taking online corrosion classes through Seward County Community College. When asked what motivates him to work hard, he mentioned “being successful and making money to provide for his future.” He said that if he could give any advice to his younger self, it would be to “live life on the edge and not be afraid to try new things.”



BITS & KIBBLES

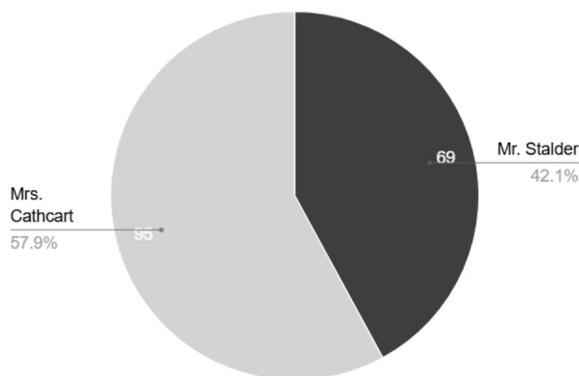
DOG CHOW

By Alyssa Powell

Mills is a great spot to go to any day of the week. They usually have chicken strips, burritos, corn dogs, and sometimes they have popcorn chicken and fries. Them being a grocery store also helps with getting pretty much whatever you want for lunch. They also have a microwave in which you can heat up anything you need at no charge. Their prices in the hot box range from \$2-\$4, so it is pretty affordable. The food is usually already prepared and fresh, making it much more enjoyable. Mills is our local grocery store so it isn't just for lunch. You can get most of your necessities and also get to chat with their wonderful employees.

BULLDOG BUZZ: Who would win?

In a race between high schools/junior high principal Mr. Stalder and elementary principal Mrs. Cathcart, who would win? Over 160 students in grades 7-12 have voted, pinning Mr. Stalder as the underdog.



BABY BULLDOGS

By Yadira Mendoza

Second Grade with Mrs. Hill & Mrs. Baird

Each class began the year by reading the book Jitter Juice, a story about a teacher who needed to get all the jitters out for the first day of school. They even made jitter juice to make it more memorable. Another fun activity they enjoyed was making silly faces after they read the book called Picture Day Perfection. Every Friday they make a craft that coordinates to their weekly lesson. They plan on having many more fun activities throughout the year. Both of the second grade classes love to go to lunch, recess, and P.E. The pumpkin patch is soon opening and they are definitely looking forward to going. Mrs. Baird and Mrs. Hill are very lucky to have each and every student.



2nd Grade shows off their crafts to go alongside their "Clark the Shark" story.



Mrs. Baird's class works together on a project that will help them remember that their words can heal or hurt one another.

BITS & KIBBLES

HOOKER CAR SHOW

by Nate Hidalgo

September 7, 2024 was Hooker's Annual Car Show. It hosted 131 classic and modern cars. Hooker's Car Show is known for its giveaways and raffles. The Hooker Football Team raffled away a golf cart, and the winner was Dallas Mayor. It also held a rifle raffle this year; it was a Bearcat Rifle which Mike Hofferber won. The car show also gave away plaques for the top 20 cars each year, the top 10 pickups, the top five motorcycles, and the top three military vehicles. One of the bigger giveaways was \$3000.00 drawn at random for lucky car show participants.

Ken, Linda, and Dennis Martin headed up the car show committee this year. Ken and Linda have organized the event all 18 years of its existence with many members of the community and business sponsors helping make it possible. Special thanks to the HHS Halo, Hooker FFA, and Guymon FFA members for helping this year. The car show would not be possible without them.



Hooker HALO & FFA Car Show Volunteers



Hooker HALO

Photos courtesy of Alejandro Perez

HOOKER HALO

by Alyssa Powell

HALO, or the Hispanic American Leadership Organization, was first initiated in Hooker by Mrs. Kathy Harrison. In 2017 Mrs. Robin Cook took over and has done a wonderful job with the group these past years. HALO has helped with the car show when Mrs. Cook started being a sponsor and possibly before then. The most important thing to remember about HALO is that it is not just for the Hispanic population, but that is what it is aimed for. Mrs Cook said that "this group is for the benefit of anyone who would like to join and participate in experiencing Hispanic culture and the improvement of our community." HALO is an amazing opportunity to help the community, have fun, and learn about Hispanic culture. When Mrs. Cook was chosen to replace Mrs. Harrison, she "jumped at the opportunity and was excited to embark on this journey with the high school kids."

BULLDOG ARTIST UNLEASHED

by Gissel Medina

For this art spotlight, I had the pleasure of interviewing Gissel Medina, or myself. I am currently working on my second art piece this school year. My first piece this year was graphite, which is not my favorite. The medium of my second piece is acrylic on a stretched canvas, and it would be the third acrylic piece that I have worked on in school. The portrait that I am painting is of Freddie Mercury, a member of the British rock band known as Queen. My reference is based on a photograph named "Freddie Mercury, Queen II Session, 1974" from the *San Francisco Art Exchange* website. Working with acrylic is my favorite type of medium, as it is easy to make skin tones with just white, yellow, red, and blue. I plan to enter this piece into the OPSU Art Jubilee when it commences in April or May.



Gissel Medina, HHS Artist

BITS & KIBBLES

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

We have six spectacular students representing Hooker as the junior high and high school students of the month! Jizell Negrete and Juan Cruz represent the junior high. Dayarana Mendoza and Nathun Urias represent the freshmen and sophomores. Mayreli Fernandez and Jess Johnson represent the junior and senior classes.



*Students of the Month
(missing Jess Johnson)*

MAKING MUSIC

HHS Choir members have been busy preparing for WOCDA Honor Choir auditions. Jess Johnson, Tamijo McKinley, Phoebe Johnson, and Jonathan Lu attended an Honor Choir workshop in Alva on September 14. After incredibly competitive auditions on September 18, it was announced both Johnson and Lu made the WOCDA Honor Choir. The young men will have a full day of rehearsals on October 21, then perform that evening in Elk City at the high school beginning at 6:00 PM.

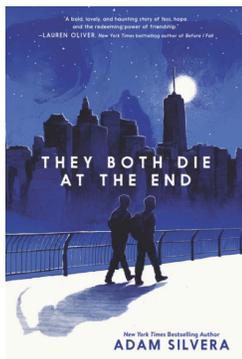


Photo courtesy of Dina Johnson

RUFF RUFF READS

Gissel's Recommendation:
They Both Die at the End
by Adam Silvera

In a world where a mysterious organization called Death-Cast informs people of their impending deaths, eighteen-year-old Mateo Torrez receives a call stating he has just twenty-four hours to live. Meanwhile, seventeen-year-old Rufus Emeterio, along with his close friends from an orphanage, also faces the same fate. The two boys connect through an app, deciding to spend their final day together exploring New York City and forging a meaningful friendship.



MEET THE PACK: BIOS

JOURNALIST



Yadira
Senior

My name is Yadira Mendoza. I am a senior at Hooker High School. In my free time I enjoy reading, taking naps, eating out, and hanging out with my boyfriend. Here are some of my favorites: my favorite color is green, my favorite animal is an elephant, my favorite drink is an ice cold Dr. Pepper and my favorite snack is spicy chips. I love to worship the Lord and read my bible. I also love to get ready and do my makeup.

JOURNALIST



Ruby
Senior

My name is Ruby Sandoval, but everyone knows me as the short person that works at Mills Ideal. My favorite hobbies are hanging out with friends, being with my sister and hanging out with my boyfriend River from Guymon. I love the color pink, and my favorite animal is a baby puppy. I have two little sisters that I am close to.

JOURNALIST



Raul
Senior

I'm Raul Garcia, and I go to Hooker High School where I am a senior. I play football and I love hanging out with the bros. I love working and working on vehicles.

JOURNALIST



Michelle
Sophomore

My name is Michelle Rodriguez and I am in 10th grade. I love art, although I'm still improving.

JOURNALIST



Nate
Senior

I am Nate Hidalgo, and I am a senior at Hooker High School. I enjoy playing basketball and being with friends for fun.



The Hooker Happenings Staff

A special thank you to Aaron Witt Photography, Mills, First National Bank, Hooker Medical Clinic, Physical Therapy on the Move, Pizza on Broadway, Equipales, and Mr. Burger for your assistance in our effort to serve the community of Hooker!