

Wildcats on their feet for postponed hoco

Students socially distance at the Homecoming game and watch as the court gets selected

By Rose Wright

Although this year’s homecoming has been postponed due to COVID-19, students still get their wildcat pride on for the big game and the homecoming court.

“Homecoming will really bring spirit to the school since we’ve all been down lately [about coronavirus],” said senior homecoming king nominee Tyler Drueckhammer.

This year’s dance has been postponed due to the school’s commitment to following health and safety guidelines established in Texas. However, students still look forward to cheering the wildcat football team on at the homecoming game.

“I’m looking forward to spending time with friends,” said senior homecoming queen nominee Bella McMillan.

The game against Lake Highland high school was tough, but the avid wilcat fans were determined to cheer on the school’s team even despite the cold temperatures.

“The game was upsetting, but I



Photo courtesy of Lauryn Clemons

was glad to see my friends and cheer on the team,” said senior Anne-Claire Weaver. Although students were let down by the homecoming dance being cancelled, they understood it was for the best as COVID-19 persists. “I think we’re all upset, but we’re all also understanding that we can’t have a dance right now,”

said senior homecoming queen nominee Merritt Denton. Of course, like every other homecoming game, the queen and king were announced as well as the prince and princess. Nominees Alexis Piorkowski and Aidan Kelly ended up scoring the titles of homecoming queen and

king. “COVID has made it hard for the nominees to get people out there to vote and participate in this year’s court election” said senior student congress officer Tessnim Mohammed. Along with Piorkowski and Kelly, juniors Dennis Agbor and Isabela Zambrano won the homecoming prince and princess titles. Although this year’s homecoming wasn’t the same for the wildcat nation, students remain hopeful about the school year they face ahead. “I was sad about homecoming, but I’m still excited for the creative ways other clubs are going to make the most of this school year,” said Weaver. So far this year has been a whirlwind for the school, with teachers, students and administration struggling to have a semi-normal schedule. Luckily, they all remain resilient to the issues brought on by the pandemic.

Photos by Lauryn Clemons



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Annual health fair gets cancelled

Families in need get deprived of the services the Plano health fair provides

By Brooke Burnett

Oct. 17th was supposed to mark the third annual Plano Families First Health and Wellness Fair to help families in need who have faced hardships, however, it was cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic.

The Health and Wellness Fair usually provides health and dental screenings, flu shots for uninsured children, fluoride varnishes for children only, and free school supplies packets to keep children healthy and safe. In addition to this, bubbles, pencils, and other fun items are handed out for the kids to enjoy. A virtual job fair was scheduled for adults looking for job opportunities.

“Our goal is to provide adults and children a fun-filled day while highlighting resources available in the community critical to their well being and success,” said Mayor Harry LaRosiliere, in an interview with Plano Families First, concerning past fairs.

However, on Oct. 16, the event was cancelled. Amid the pandemic, Plano has had a total of 4,103 coronavirus cases, with 199 cases currently active



The 2020 Plano Health & Wellness was cancelled due to coronavirus threats. (photo from PISD)

And concerning the large number of people expected to attend, it was deemed unsafe as of Thursday morning, Oct. 15, even though masks were required for kids three and up, social distancing was to be enforced and other safety measures were in place.

In a press release, the City of Plano said, “[...]The City of Plano remains committed to ensuring the health and safety of our community.”

They also help with grants help with grants to help families pay rent. Local charities, like Lifesource Ministries, Collin County Community Action, and centers for basic needs and clothing, also help families in need.

“While we are disappointed that we will not be able to enjoy this health and wellness event, the safety of our residents, volunteers and staff continues to be our greatest priority. We thank Plano residents and all who are involved in this event for their continued patience and understanding at this time,” said City Manager Israelson in an interview with Local Profile.

Now, many families who were relying on getting these health services will no longer have this opportunity. Many families have been hit hard by the pandemic and were counting on this fair to get the services they needed. The job fair was also a very critical part of this event considering many adults have lost their jobs due to COVID-19.

There are other resources, however, that Plano families can turn to. Collin County has many programs to help families, like the Assistance Center of Collin County, that offer low-income families free food, clothing, shelter and medical services.



State fair stays safe for Texans

State fair goes social distance and are entertained from the shelter of their cars.

By Dylan Kinney

The Texas State Fair welcomed families to their first ever Big Tex Drive-Thru starting on Sept. 25th to Oct. 25th.

Coronavirus has gotten in the way of not only day to day routines, but long lasting traditions. Since March things such as school dances, graduations, even Halloween have been cancelled. This can be a very depressing time for some individuals, but luckily The State Fair of Texas has not let this nationwide pandemic ruin their yearly tradition.

“Although much has changed since its humble beginnings, the State Fair of Texas still embraces its roots and preserves the traditions upon which it was built,” states the fair runners.

Big Tex, now accessorized with a face mask, stood proud as families drove around the fair to purchase infamous deep fried food, listen to live music, watch mesmerizing car shows and even take photos with the popular landmarks.

Everyone who attended had to wear face masks and stay in their personal vehicle. Though this year attendees couldn’t play games and experience the full fair, it was still worth the ticket.

Especially since the money goes to supporting a nonprofit mission to feed families in need in North Texas and to providing scholarships. The State Fair not only gives family an annual fun activity, it helps those in the community.



The Texas state fair cowboy waves to the fair’s participants in their cars.

“Since 1992, the State Fair of Texas has provided more than \$24 million in youth auction premiums and scholarships that help students from all over Texas fund their agricultural education,” states The Big Tex Youth Livestock Auction program.

The State Fair is providing a virtual experience on their website: <https://bigtex.com/fair-from-home>.

On the website viewers can participate in activities, contests and even watch live videos of events that took place.

“I cannot express how pleased I was when you all announced an alternate solution to the fair experience,” states Fair Fan Jessica Berry, “I had so much fun in the drive fair experience.”

In addition, the State Fair is offering their famous Fletcher’s corn dogs and mini funnel cakes at any Golden Chick location.

Obviously 2020 has been a complex year. The State Fair of Texas has high spirits for next year as they are already planning the next event.

They have tried to take everyone into consideration as they advise their customers to remain calm and stay safe.

Although the fair is a huge part of Texan fun each year, the organizers’ top priority was the health of the state’s citizens.

As Big Tex says, “Howdy folks, see you next time!”



Coronavirus conducts ableism

Wide-spread mask wearing brings out ableist culture

By Brooke Burnett

The deaf community face many communication barriers in everyday life, and although wearing masks is important, the widespread use of masks have made communication for the deaf harder than ever before.

The deaf rely on lipreading and facial expressions to understand and infer what people are saying to them. However, masks cover people's faces, making it almost impossible to understand what someone is communicating to them. With this huge barrier, people who are deaf do not know when they're being spoken to, and they are unaware of the emotions and feelings of those around them.

"I get that people want to wear them, but then I feel my stress level rises whenever they talk to me. All I hear is a voice, but I can't figure out a thing they are saying. I just tell them 'I can't hear what you're saying. I'm deaf and I can't lip read through a mask.' It's very stressful," said Cathy O'Connor, who is hard of hearing, in an interview with Healthing.ca.

The inability to communicate easily can affect the mental health of those who are deaf. Often, deaf individuals feel isolated because communication is so difficult, and they often feel very anxious. Additionally, when a deaf person goes to therapy, they usually have to use an interpreter, making them feel like they can't express themselves, or that their message will be lost in translation.

"It's really anxiety provoking," said Patty Tan, a student doctor of audiology at the University of the Pacific in San Francisco, in an interview with Healthline. "Across the board, anyone with hearing loss will tell you they absolutely hate that."

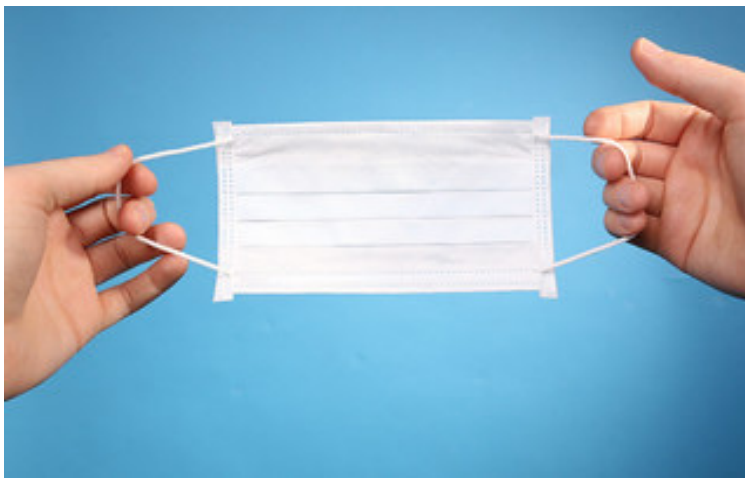
To fix this problem, many companies have made clear-panelled masks, which show the lips of the person speaking, although they still cover most of the face so it's still hard to read facial expressions. Another solution is to wear a clear face shield, so that people can see the whole face, and so it's possible to pull down a mask to be able to speak to someone.

A more challenging solution is to learn a few phrases in sign language, especially when working in businesses and retail stores. The best advice for speaking with the deaf is to face them directly, speak loudly and minimize background noise. Remember to be patient and flexible.

"For these specialized masks to help, it's not those of us who are deaf or hard of hearing who have to wear them. Instead, it's the hearing people who want to make themselves understood. We need you to do your part," novelist Sara Novic said in an interview with the Washington Post.

Masks are very important in stopping the spread of coronavirus, but they also hinder the communication of the deaf, isolating them and affecting their mental health. It's important to have clear masks or face shields so that everyone is included and able to communicate.

To order a clear paneled mask or to volunteer to make a mask, contact advocacy@deafhhs.org or 616-732-7358. A five dollar donation is suggested to reimburse volunteers who make them. A mask making template can be found at deafhhs.org.



Normal masks prevent the deaf community from communicating with one another. (photo by Jernej Furman)

Students Talk

"Clear masks are a good option because they they still protect and are understandable for deaf people."

-Senior Zaima Rahman

"I think clear masks like this would be extremely helpful to the deaf community, especially since there's such a population of them in Plano."

-Senior Shayan Bangash

"I think this is an issue that a lot of people disregard on a daily-basis. We need to collectively find a widespread solution to aid deaf people during this time without putting people's health at risk."

-Senior Mckenna Miller

"I think that although it is an issue, it is more important to wear a mask as COVID-19 is deadly."

-Senior Lee Salek

I think it's a major problem, as a former ASL student, this just goes to show that ASL should be taught and offered in more classrooms. Maybe even the option of clear masks or face shields.

-Senior Anne-Claire Weaver

Trendy teens take over thrifting

Popularization of thrifting changes demographic of shoppers

By Kai Kuntz

Style has been an interest of many teens and adolescents, and due to the pandemic, there's much more time to plan out some outfits for post quarantine. With that, many younger people find themselves thrifting. However, at this point, the popularization of thrifting could have more of a negative affect than a positive.

Thrifting has become very popular amongst this audience within the last year or two. Social media has played a huge role in the development of this new found culture. Tik Tok, being one of the biggest social media platforms for people to really express themselves, has been a big influence on new and trendy types of clothes.

Creators all over Tik Tok, among other platforms, have been able to give inspiration to their audience, allowing teens and adolescents to find their way to express themselves. With look- books to their favorite store hauls, the ideas and possibilities are limitless.

Another thing worth mentioning about thrifting is how it became so popular among the younger generation, is the fact that it is definitely affordable. With some stores selling clothes for as cheap as \$0.25, who doesn't want to go shopping?



Shops like Goodwill have been flooded by teens looking for a good deal (photo by S Jones)

For high school and college students, money can be pretty tight. Thrifting allows for teens and adolescents to go out and have a good time without going over their budget. Saving up for a car but want to treat yourself? Not an issue if everything in the store is under a dollar.

However many teens tend to take the shopping too far, and have started gentrifying thrift shops. Teens will buy garbage bags full of clothes to sell on resell apps, such as Depop, for double the price.

This leads to those who truly need the clothes with an empty rack, where they had normally gotten their essentials. Or if they found good clothes, the price has risen due to thrift shops sales increasing, meaning they cannot afford it anymore.

Although thrifting is an amazing opportunity for teens to express themselves in a cheap and sustainable way, over-buying at the local thrift shops can negatively impact the lower-class community there.

So, especially in these upcoming colder months, middle and upper-class teens need to make sure that they are not taking the essential items that some people desperately need in the stores that were not made for them.



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Wildcat Tales is a student produced publication that serves to educate, inform and entertain the student body in a professional manner which will provoke thought while upholding the principles of a free press. The publication is a forum for the students of Plano Senior High School. Any opinions expressed in Wildcat Tales are the opinion of the writer and of the writer only.

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Fall festivities flourish among students

Favorite seasonal activities create holiday cheer within the student body

By Abby Carroll

As this school year takes a turn into the second nine weeks, the leaves outside begin to change and the weather starts to get chilly. Fall is on it's way and to combat the new season we asked around Plano students about their favorite fall activity.

With no surprise, the most common responses to students' favorite fall activity had to do with Halloween and are also usually traditions for these students. Carving pumpkins, watching scary movies, and enjoying the cold weather were common answers.

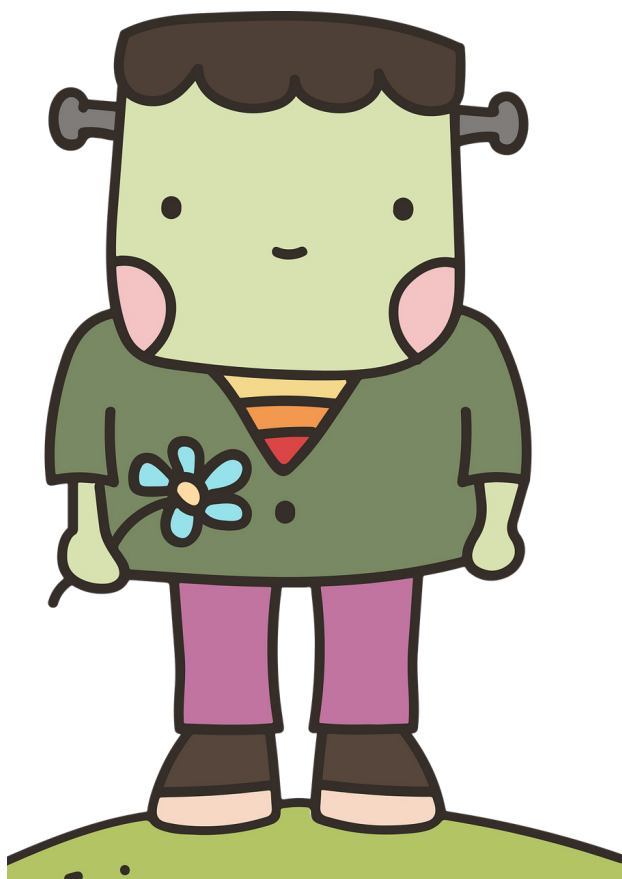
Many students have made a tradition in playing outside sports like football and basketball as the weather has cooled off. It makes for an enjoyable day with friends as they spend time in the nice fall air.

"It is tradition that me and my friends make a whole weekend out of it by playing matchups," said Griffin Eaker

Another example of Plano students enjoying the fall weather are those who enjoy visiting the Dallas arboretum in the fall.

"My favorite fall activity is going and visiting the arboretum in Dallas especially during the fall," said Aleemah Khaled. "The cold weather and pumpkin patch make it super fun and enjoyable!"

Both of these activities are unique to the season as they are often best done in the fall because of the enjoyable weather.



Both of these activities are unique to the season as they are often best done in the fall because of the enjoyable weather.

"They are so much more enjoyable during fall in the chilly weather," said Eaker.

More traditions with Plano students involve carving pumpkins with family and friends. Many enjoy getting the chance to bond and get into the Halloween spirit while making something pretty to put up as decoration.

"Carving pumpkins is so much fun because you get to carve whatever you want and can be super creative," said junior Ava Banker.

Although pumpkin carving is a very common fall festivity, the most popular among Plano Students is watching scary or Halloween themed movies.

"Watching halloween movies with my friends or family is my favorite fall activity because it gives me an excuse to binge watch netflix and eat candy with my friends as well as getting me into the spirit of the holiday," said junior Clair Blakley.

In addition, there are many types of Halloween movies to watch. Some students, such as Blakley, enjoy wholesome movies like Halloween town that give off a fun vibe and help give inspiration to get involved with the holiday. Many students also enjoy movies that aren't necessarily a Halloween movie, but make them scream with fright.

"It has sort of become a tradition that every year me and my dad watch Silence of the Lambs," said junior Dennis Sutton. "The movie is super suspenseful and can be scary at times."

Celebrating Halloween during COVID-19

Costumes, coronavirus and candy, oh my!

By Emma Coleman

Health risks amidst the Coronavirus have caused Halloween to be celebrated very differently for people around the United States, instead of going door to door trick-or-treating or partying with friends, many will be celebrating Halloween at home with their families this year.

"I plan on staying inside and watching scary movies with lots of popcorn with my family," junior Jenna Zeller said.

Like Zeller, many students in the district plan to spend Halloween indoors with their families this year, planning to make the most they can out of the holiday. Although it's not the same as going trick-or-treating, it's best to stay indoors and out of unknown candy.

"I think students could watch a Halloween movie marathon, or carve pumpkins to celebrate Halloween," said Zeller.

Activities like these are becoming the new normal for the celebration of Halloween this year for many, in order to avoid spreading COVID-19 across the nation. However, some students still wish to participate in the traditional activity of trick-or-treating.

"Wear a mask and stay socially distanced," said Zeller.

Some families also wish to partake in the act of candy-giving, even though there is the danger of accidentally infecting others with the virus. Although, they are still lessening the contact with other Halloween traditionalists by simply putting their candy in a bowl on their front porch.

"Because of the interesting circumstances this year, I don't plan on going out," says junior Ivy Chen, "but my family still plans on decorating our house, and we may put a bowl of candy out for anyone that does go trick or treating."

Many residents in Plano have still decorated their homes for the spooky season, not letting the pandemic put to waste their Halloween decorations.

For those that do choose to continue their Halloween trick-or-treating as per usual, Chen suggests something similar to Zeller, in regards to health risks,

"People should be wearing masks, be in small groups, and social distance as best as they can," said Chen.

Students and families across the district aren't planning on letting the health risks of the Coronavirus stop their fun in celebrating Halloween. With spooky decorations, and at home activities, they plan to spend Oct. 31st with their families.





Hubie Halloween is a hauntingly good time

New Adam Sandler movie features fellow famous friends

By Drake Chambless

With Halloween approaching quickly, a majority of people are choosing to stay inside this year and Hubie Halloween starring Adam Sandler is the ideal movie to settle this year's movie needs during this holiday.

This comedy rated PG-13 is set in Salem, Massachusetts with Adam Sandler playing an infamous, but good natured community volunteer. The movie shows the mean and deceitful pranks that the townspeople commit. As Adam Sandler, also known as Hubie Dubois in the movie is cleaning up after these pranks, he soon finds himself in a real investigation for murder.

Hubie Halloween was a major success on its Oct. 7th, 2020 release. The movie was rated by many different critics and agencies and was given an overall rating of 5.9/10. Fans of Adam Sandler will not be disappointed in this performance. According to Forbes official article, "Netflix's 'Hubie Halloween' Is Adam Sandler's Most Successful Movie In Years."

There are quite a few familiar faces in the Hubie Halloween cast. A few of these famous figures and actors include Noah Schnapp, who starred in Stranger Things, Kevin James, and Shaquille O'Neal, who is known for playing and retiring with the Lakers. Cameron Boyce, who sadly passed away before filming, was honored with a mini-eulogy at the end of the movie, as he acted with Adam Sandler in both Grownups and Grownups 2.

Hubie Halloween is definitely a must see for this Halloween Season. It is filled with great comedic value and many actors loved by all movie goers. This is the perfect Halloween movie for this year as everyone stays home and is in need for a good-feeling movie.



Snip from Hubie Halloween. (photo by Netflix)



Sandler, image courtesy of Angela George of Sharon Graphics.

Wallows' new EP *Remote* Nobody gets them like you

By Kai Kuntz

American pop-rock band Wallows, released their new EP *Remote* this October on the 23rd, and it did not disappoint the awaiting fans.

The EP features two songs that had already been released, "Virtual Aerobics" and "Nobody Gets Me (Like You)".

Fans will not have to wait on the edge of their seats for much longer for the release of this highly anticipated EP. Their latest album titled *Nothing Happens* was released in 2019. Followers of the band have already been able to get a little taste of what's to come from the two songs that have already been released.

Wallows' EP consists of a total of six tracks which were written and produced in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic. The two songs "Virtual Aerobics" and "Nobody gets me (Like You)" were released ahead of the album by the group to give fans a brief glance of their colorful EP.

So far, Wallows has not failed to bring out some upbeat, electronic, indie music.

The EP's music videos will be shot while the pandemic continues. The music video for "Nobody Gets Me (Like You)" has already been released. "It was weird to shoot something during COVID," said Dylan Minette to Rolling Stone, one half of the band's two lead vocalists.

The song "Nobody Gets Me (Like You)" was supposed to follow their single "OK" which was released at the beginning of 2020. Cole Preston, the band's drummer, claimed it to be like "scratching an itch we had when we were 15,"

The overall vibe of the song is very happy-go-lucky. With some distortion heard while listening to the song, the vibrant sound produced continues their years of keeping up with a more upbeat kind of instrumental perspective. The use of various electronic instruments is what sets it apart from some of their previous songs.

The other song released, but not quite as popular, "Virtual Aerobics", has given off a very similar sound. The beginning of the song opens with some sort of electronic piano, and then eases its way into the actual song itself.

Overall, fans will be very pleased with the outcome of the EP the band has released. It's a fun effort filled with entertaining songs which will be sure to take the attention of fans in quarantine.



"Wallows" taken by photographer Caitlin Ison.

K-pop groups release masses of music

Multiple Korean bands drop new albums this month, even amidst pandemic

By Emma Coleman

This October there has been no shortage of entertainment for K-Pop fans with the numerous comebacks from globally renowned groups like, NCT, TXT, BLACKPINK, TWICE, SEVENTEEN, and more.

The COVID-19 pandemic hasn't put a halt to the production and release of new music in the K-pop industry. In fact, throughout the past few months K-Pop groups like Stray Kids, BTS, ATEEZ and EVERGLOW have released music that has dominated global charts.

Without a doubt, this October has been just as exciting, as more groups comeback with music and stunning music videos to wow their viewers around the world.

Globally renowned K-pop girl group, BLACKPINK, most known for Kill This Love, kicked off the start of October with the release of their album called, THE ALBUM.

"You'll be able to experience the difference between black and pink, with our fierce energy from tracks like 'How You Like That' alongside pink bubble-gum pop, like 'Ice Cream.'", the members said in an interview with Variety. Their exciting new album features a collaboration with Selena Gomez.

The 23 member K-Pop boy group, NCT makes their comeback with a 13 track album on Oct. 12, called, NCT 2020 Resonance Pt. 1. The first released music video for the album and title track, Make a Wish (Birthday Song), hit about 25 million views within the first 24 hours, clearly fulfilling fans' expectations.

TXT, or Tomorrow x Together, recently announced the tracklist for their new EP called, Minisode 1: Blue Hour, on October 26. The third song on the tracklist, We Lost The Summer, "describes the daily lives of teenagers who are living a completely changed life due to the COVID-19 pandemic.", according to a press release by Big Hit Entertainment.



K-pop band Itzy is an example of the many groups who became wildly popular in the United States. (Photo courtesy of kinocine.com)

With a history of stunning visuals, choreography and storytelling within their previous music videos, TXT is sure to enchant and bewilder its viewers once again.

More K-Pop groups like, SEVENTEEN, LOONA, TWICE, and CRAVITY are set to release new music this month as well. October will be a month of never ending entertainment for K-Pop fans around the world, an uplifting distraction from the drastic changes of daily life from COVID-19.



The school's athletic department dedicates the annual pink-out game to raise breast cancer awareness.



Photos by Tatcha Santos



The HOCO game



Lloyd's lecture

Follow the sports editor of the paper as he passionately writes about what's happening in the big (and small) leagues!

By D'mariyon Lloyd

October 9 the Plano Senior Wildcats debuted in their first regular season home game at Clark Stadium, and after the McKinney loss were ready for a bounce back win against the Lake Highlands Wildcats. Going into the game Plano was 0-1 and Lake Highlands was 2-0, but this contest would have more hanging in the balance as for the homeside wildcats this game doubled as both the homecoming matchup and senior night for the players.

Even with the high stakes it was the visiting Lake Highlands wildcats that came out on top in this game with the Plano wildcats suffering a 42-24 defeat. This loss hung in the hearts of the home team wildcats as securing a homecoming victory was key, but Plano still has hope as even though they are 0-2 district play hasn't yet begun for the Plano. For the second week despite defeat Plano was still able to show promise through the bright stars and seniors of this game.

Quarterback Oliver Towns was able to help take some of the load off Tyllan Hines this week as he had a good game throwing 18/35 for 219 yards and a touchdown. This effort was supported by senior receiver Khamare Spivory who had 6 catches for an amazing 113 yards and a touchdown. Even with Tyllan Hines falling two yards short from another 100 yard game he was still able to unmask 98 yards on 19 carries and 2 touchdowns.

These seniors certainly showed up on senior night for the Plano wildcats and continue to show a bright future for the season despite the homecoming loss and their second defeat. The wildcats will return back home to Clark Stadium October 23 for their first district game against Coppell where they will look to give the fans and the wildcat nation the first win they've been searching for.