

**KICKOFF.** Signaling the start of the game, Cale Bray (8) kicks off as Jose Galindo (8) runs to block. Woodland won the coin toss against Central and chose to kick. "My favorite part of being on the team is the coaching," Bray said. "It helps us be better people. PHOTO BY JACE COSTELLO



**HIDDEN BALL.** Charlie Graves (8) keeps the ball tucked away as he swerves to avoid a Grimsley Junior High player. The Colts had 11 players out due to quarantine. "I think we put up a great fight and when we have our whole team healthy, I think there will be a different outcome," Graves said. PHOTO BY MARLEE MEANS



**BREAKTHROUGH.** In the final game of the season, Tyler Upton (8) tears the run through with the rest of the team. The run through sign read, "Pucker up, close your eyes, kiss your winning streak goodbye." "I prefer run through signs," Upton said. "It's a fun way to start the games." PHOTO BY RUBY TEMPLETON



**OPPONENT DODGE.** Wide Receiver Rhett Tidwell (8) runs the ball past two Grimsley Junior High players. The game against Grimsley on Oct. 8 was the first loss of the season. "We could've had more determination at the beginning of the game instead of being down that we didn't have all of our players," Tidwell said. PHOTO BY MARLEE MEANS



**ENDZONE CELEBRATION.** After a touchdown, Da'Zarion Patterson (8) celebrates in the endzone. In their first game as the Colts, they took home a win with a score of 38-14. "I give high fives and chest bumps because we can't dance," Patterson said. PHOTO BY OLIVIA HAPGOOD



## essential GEAR

What is the most important piece of gear you use?

"Helmet, it protects me from getting permanent brain damage." -**Boston Turner (7)**



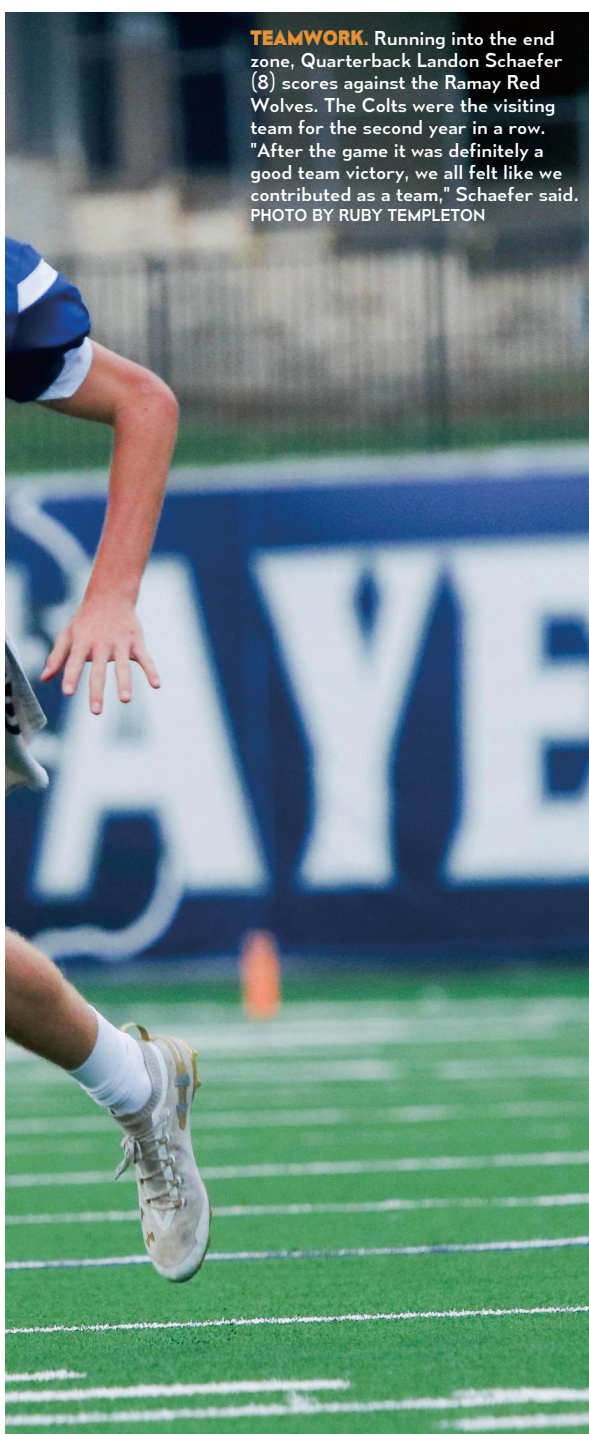
"My gloves, they make me catch well." -**Kolson Crone (8)**



"Shoulder pads are the most important thing we wear I think." -**Landon Holzhauser (8)**



"It really helps to have well fitting cleats." -**Turner Robinson (8)**



**TEAMWORK.** Running into the end zone, Quarterback Landon Schaefer (8) scores against the Ramay Red Wolves. The Colts were the visiting team for the second year in a row. "After the game it was definitely a good team victory, we all felt like we contributed as a team," Schaefer said. PHOTO BY RUBY TEMPLETON

## ending the **STREAK**

For the first time in six years, The Colts beat Central Junior High School. ALL CONTENT BY MARLEE MEANS

The six-year losing streak is what fueled the team to show up and play hard on Sept. 17. Even with COVID-19 guidelines in place, the stands were full of students and parents cheering. Everyone was on the edge of their seats until Quarterback Landon Schaefer (8) ran into the end zone in the third quarter.

The hype leading up to the game bled over into social media posts from Central players.

"I was just excited, I knew they had been talking smack all week and year, saying we didn't have a chance to beat them," Cooper Clark (8) said. "Once we beat them they didn't have a lot to say."

Although the team won, the players knew that the game would be a tough battle.

"The Central game was tough, we were kinda on and off between our defense and offense," Ty Mattingly (8) said. "But towards the end of the game we really started getting close to winning and eventually scored."

Since the team lost twice to the Warriors last year, the players were determined to pull out a win.

"I feel like the team was really focused and motivated," Charlie Graves (8) said. "There was no messing around. Our whole team knew what we had to do, so we went and did it and got the win."

The team felt like they deserved the win because of their attitude.

"Overall I think the game was very well played, we all contributed on the field," Schaefer said. "I think a really big part was our actions off the field. We really weren't cocky or boastful about our win, we won respectfully and acted like the more mature team."

After the game, the team met in the locker room to celebrate their win.

"Obviously we were super happy," Crawford Garmon (8) said. "There was a great feeling in the locker room because we lost to them twice last year and finally beat them."

Head Coach Bobby Crockett was proud of the team's focus and resilience during the game and all week in practice.

"Central has kind of turned into our rival and those games are special," Crockett said. "I think our kids' mindset and being beaten against them last year was the key for our team. We really came out focused in practice all week and that carried over to our game. Our kids were resilient this year. We kind of had the next man up attitude. We had a few games where we had several kids quarantined and our guys just stepped up and played. Our kids were very excited afterwards and winning that game gave our guys confidence in themselves and as a team."