



TOUCHSCREEN TOUCHDOWNS: Juniors Trey Brooks, Andrew Griffin and Cooper Newsom show their 2017 fantasy teams on their phones. One year, the draft was deleted half-way through due to technical difficulties. Brooks was not at their draft and his teammates gave him random players, but he ended up winning. "They attempted to give me trash players and accidentally gave me Devonte Freeman who ended up being a god," Brooks said. "They call it 'the year that never was' but it definitely happened." Photo by Amanda Warren

Fantasy FAILS

Fantasy football in full swing

By Amanda Warren

Bleached hair, shaved heads, bowl cuts, retaking the ACT and eating ghost peppers were the unfortunate fates of past fantasy football players who lost their leagues.

As the NFL season is under way, fantasy football is back in full swing. Always on edge, students are constantly checking their phones for injury updates, trade proposals and the waiver wire to see which players are available.

"It's all about time management," junior Scott Bower said. "The amount of things I give up for fantasy is unhealthy, but it's worth it."

Fantasy football is an online game in which participants can draft their own football team based on active NFL players. Points are scored based on the actual performance of their players.

The participant with the best record at the end of the season wins the league.

Although fantasy football started in a Bay Area bar in 1962, the advent of the internet took it to new heights. Yahoo! launched the first online fantasy football in 1999, which spread extensively because people loved the experience of owning their own team.

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— Senior Prescott King

According to the Fantasy Sports Trade Association, there are 59.3 million people playing fantasy sports in the USA and Canada this year.

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The season begins with the draft. Strategic drafting heavily dictates a player's record at the beginning of the season and creates depth on their

roster so they can propose higher-quality trades.

In one junior league at ESD, which originated as a fifth grade YMCA football team, Draft Day has evolved into a formal event.

"We all wear suits and ties," said junior Keller Casey. "We have a nice meal before and then go to Mr. Stanford's office downtown. It's a very prestigious event. When we are adults, we will still all go to the same place for our draft."

Creative punishments and a sizable money reward keep players motivated throughout the season, causing fantasy to become a major time commitment.

"Watching games, I spend my entire Sunday plus Monday and Thursday night," senior Brandon Meaux said. "I probably also spend two

hours looking at stuff like analysts' articles and picking up players."

According to a poll of 220 students taken on Oct. 27, 31.2 percent of students play fantasy football.

"The best players find the sleepers [underrated players that often go un-drafted]," Bower said. "At the beginning of the year, it's all about who you draft, but then later, it's more about who gets hurt and who you pick up."

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While hard work does pay off in the world of fantasy, sometimes a little luck can go a long way.

"I know nothing about football," said senior Maddie Esping. "I didn't really know what I was doing, and I had a lot of help drafting. I refer to all the people by their first initial and last name like A. Brown and T. Gurley."

"When I lost the league, I had to bleach my hair. It took three hours, and I had to pay \$300 dollars for it at this salon. But now I get my haircuts there."

"I had to eat butter because I had the lowest fantasy score that week. I tried to get it down as fast as I could while eating it, but I couldn't chew it, so I gave up after a few bites."

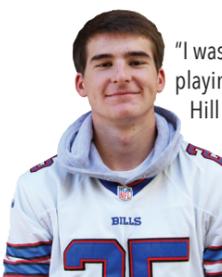
"I was in the championship playing Scott [Bower]. Jeremy Hill was on the two yard line and he fumbled the ball, so I lost the game. I broke a chair across the room."



— Junior Andrew Griffin



— Senior Barron Fletcher



— Junior Keller Casey

On Deck

Nov. 3

The varsity football team hopes to defeat rival St. Mark's on the Lion's home turf for the last game of the season before SPC. The team expects a rowdy student section donning "Beat St. Mark's" wristbands. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

The varsity field hockey team will take on the Hornets for the second time this season at Greenhill at 5 p.m.

JV, 6:30 p.m.

The varsity volleyball team defeated the Hornets, 3-1, earlier in the season and hope to do so again at Greenhill at 6 p.m.

JV, 5 p.m.

Nov. 8

The mens varsity basketball team will scrimmage the Woodrow Wilson Wildcats in the Competition Gym at 6 p.m.

Nov. 11

The cross country and varsity field hockey team will travel to Fort Worth to compete against rivals such as Hockaday and St. Mark's at the Southwest Preparatory Conference.

Nov. 16

The varsity womens soccer team plans to defeat Home School at their first game on the turf at 6:30 p.m.

Field hockey Senior Night victory



The varsity field hockey team crushed the Hockaday Daisies, 2-1, on Senior Night on Oct. 25. After tying 1-1, the game went into overtime where the Eagles were able to score within the first thirty five seconds.

"We played in a very organized way," junior Lilly French said. "We never really lost control of the ball because we were so determined to defeat Hockaday."