

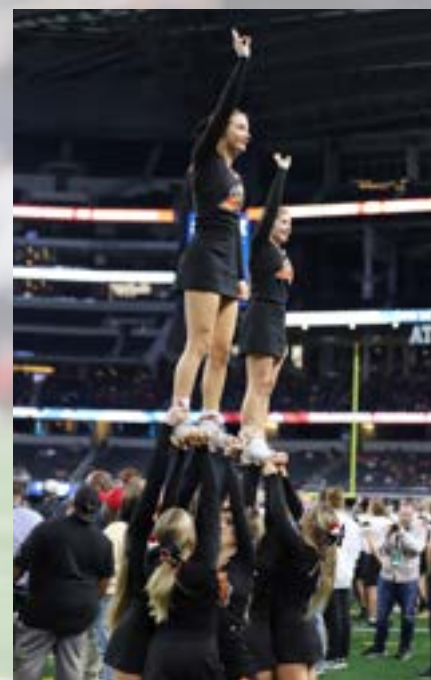
Historic run  
for championship  
unites community

# TAKING 12

Surrounded by students, coach Josh Morgan reads a football parody Christmas story at the state pep rally Dec. 15. "I love the Christmas story tradition and I think it brings us all together," sophomore cheerleader Austyn Johnson said. "The state pep rally was more special compared to other pep rallies because the energy was so high and everyone was so pumped for the upcoming game." The state pep rally was held to celebrate the varsity football team making it to the state championship for their twelfth state win. *Photo by Ella Flowers*



As the band plays, freshman Maddison Lynd dances at the state send-off Dec. 15. "It was pretty cool to be able to perform for the last time for ourselves before having to compete with other bands across the state," Lynd said. "We could just perform knowing the only people watching were rooting for us instead of competing with us." The send-off was held for the community to share their support of the Bearcat football team as they left AT&T Stadium. *Photo by Trinity Hindman*



High in the stunt, senior cheerleader Taylor Prestage excites the crowd Dec. 15. "As a senior, it was neat to finish my football cheer season with a state win because I cheered at every game leading up to it, so the hard work of the players paying off with the state win was awesome," Prestage said. "Being a flier is special because it's something I've grown up doing and it was different at state because that was my last time being in a stunt at a football game." After graduation, Prestage planned on trying out for the cheer team at Abilene Christian University where she will major in pre-med with a minor in religion. *Photo by Trinity Hindman*



Marker in hand, freshman cheerleaders Alanna Rogers and Ellie Conner draw on car windows in support of the state game Dec. 13. "For me to experience this, I felt very blessed and grateful that I got to be a part of this with the best team and the best coaches," Rogers said. "I'm so proud of all of us for working hard all season." Cheer hosted a car painting drive through called "Paint the Town Orange" in support of the Bearcat football team making it to state. *Photo by Trinity Hindman*

Microphone in hand, junior Bearcat TV anchor Daryn Rice interviews sophomore running back Raycine Guillory, #9, for the football state media day Dec. 12. "I'd say the media day interviews put me in a position where I could implement what I had learned during the semester," Rice said. "Being in an uncomfortable and unfamiliar setting really helped me develop better social skills and confidence. It also helped me make on-the-spot decisions and forced me to harness all my skills." The media day was held to give student and community journalists opportunities to talk one-on-one with the players before the state championship game. *Photo by Trinity Hindman*



In formation, sophomore dancer Alexis Fisher supports her teammates during the state pep-rally Dec. 15. "The state pep rally was special to me because I knew it was the last one I would spend with the seniors of the team," Fisher said. "I enjoyed dancing to the drumline cadences the most because the whole student section and band gets into it with us and it's so high energy." The varsity dance team prepares and performs multiple encores for each pep rally because of high demand from the students. *Photo by Trinity Hindman*

After a touchdown against the Rangers, senior wide receivers Colton McCoy, #13, and Trace Clarkson, #11, embrace in the end zone Dec. 15. "Looking up into those stands at AT&T stadium and seeing a sea of orange and black is something I'll never forget," McCoy said. "That touchdown is definitely something I'll remember for a lifetime." McCoy ended the season with 415 total receiving yards and three touchdowns. *Photo by Ella Flowers*



Pointing towards the score board, senior running back Hawk Patrick-Daniels, #1, celebrates a touchdown at the state championship game against Smithson Valley Dec. 15. "It felt really amazing winning offensive MVP, it was my first time getting that and it made me accomplish my goal," Patrick-Daniels said. "I want to leave an incredible legacy behind, something people would look up to and just be the reason people always keep going no matter what." Patrick-Daniels rushed for a total of 952 yards in the 2023 season and was awarded the Offensive MVP at the 5A-DI State Championship game. *Photo by Ella Flowers*

088 What moment would you want to relive for the first time again?

State  
Spread by Kenley Germany & Trinity Hindman

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