

The Lion Yearbook  
McKinney High School,  
McKinney TX  
Designer of the Year submission

# Sydney

## CALDWELL

When I joined yearbook sophomore year I had no idea what an impact it would have on my own life and others. Over the past three years, I have learned how to tell a story through my designs and make the stories become a work of art. This year, due to the pandemic, designing became more of a challenge to me than the previous years because we weren't able to cover school spirit the way we usually do. When thinking about covering events, I had to come up with designs that incorporated the little photos that were taken, but still went along with the

tone and mood of this book. For the spreads that had lots of options for photos, I could design it like I normally do but for the spreads that were a one-time event with a smaller amount of photos, I decided I could do a strong dominant across the whole spread and do smaller packages of photos with a white bar bleeding off the spread. McKinney High typically goes for a big and bold book but this year I wanted to change it up from our typical look. Our theme this year was "It's Like This" and I wanted a simple, magazine look, so using the big photo with one smaller package of photos fit perfectly with the

rest of our book. This year has helped me grow as a designer because with limited photos I have had to adapt. I've had to change the way I attack spreads and adjust my thinking on how to get a good amount of coverage. By changing the look of our book it has helped me become a well rounded designer because I have learned how to do two completely different styles and still make it work.



# Feeling THE HOPE

This spread was difficult to design because I wanted to highlight the people in our community that were speaking out, while having enough room for the story and not having to cut it. For this spread our photo editor went to a protest in downtown McKinney and took photos. I came up with the idea to have our illustrator draw one of the photos he took to include people in the spread. I wanted the illustration to pop out of the black border to represent people marching.



IT WAS STRESSFUL MAKING SURE EVERYTHING WENT RIGHT AND GETTING EVERYTHING PLANNED. I FELT SUCCESSFUL WATCHING THE NOMINEES WALK DOWN THE FIELD AND HOW HAPPY THEY WERE WHEN THEY WON.” —Bianca Rodriguez, 12

A Sweet Knight: In the student section, senior Paige Knight and Madison Gadek holds hands during the game. Paige was crowned as homecoming sweetheart. “I was nervous because I was going against a lot of my friends and being in front of everyone in the stadium while hearing my name,” she said. “It made me feel really appreciated that people took the time to vote for me and that they wanted me to win the homecoming sweetheart title.”



Jump Start: After scoring, senior RJ Carver holds the ball in his hands while junior Jeffrey Pearson jumps over him. RJ dedicated this game to his friend who passed away. “I felt confident going into this game, we take every practice as if it’s a game and being prepared for it,” he said. “After the game it was great because we got the victory and celebrated for the rest of the night.”



Jordan King

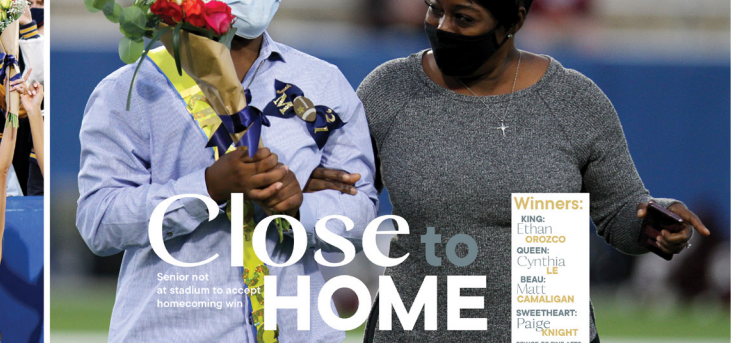
Running Man: While running with the ball in his hand, senior Cameron Rivers forces the opponent team. Cameron is a wide receiver for the team. “We went out there excited and won the game for everybody from school and all the families,” he said. “We thought it went well. We did mess up a couple times but we were able to win.”



Jordan King



Jordan King



Prince of Excitement: While standing on the field, junior Jeremy McDonald was standing next to his mom. Jeremy was announced as prince of special olympics. “I was feeling excited during the game but I thought I was not going to make it,” he said. “I remembered my mom was crying because I made it when they called my name.”

Brandon Sweno

## Close to HOME

Senior not at stadium to accept homecoming win

### Winners:

KING: Ethan OROZCO  
QUEEN: Cynthia LE  
BEAU: Matt CAMALIGAN  
SWEETHEART: Paige KNIGHT  
PRINCE OF EXCITEMENT: Nathan DELCID  
PRINCE OF FINE ARTS: Lexi SHORT  
PRINCE OF CLUBS: Arlun BRANGAVA  
PRINCE OF CLUBS: Kayla NGUYEN  
PRINCE OF ATHLETICS: RJ CARVER  
PRINCE OF ATHLETICS: Emma DEATON  
KING OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS: Jeremy McDONALD  
PRINCE OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS: Kaleb SEIBERT

The announcers call the winners of the 2020 homecoming court, each contestant standing center field shimmering in the stadium lights. The winners are handed their crowns, sashes, and flowers, all except one. Senior Jordyn Breland, a close friend of Matt’s, nominated and campaigned for him during homecoming. Matt won easily, with an outpouring of support for him and his family. “I nominated Matt because he’s my best friend,” Jordyn said. “I did it as a joke at first, because I knew he didn’t want to do it himself. I didn’t think they were going to choose anyone that was virtual. So, hearing

to receive their award, dedicating his year to keep his family safe. “It felt like the safest option,” Matt said. “With my mom going through what she’s going through it was better for me to be at home. I can help take care of her.” Senior Jordyn Breland, a close friend of Matt’s, nominated and campaigned for him during homecoming. Matt won easily, with an outpouring of support for him and his family. “I nominated Matt because he’s my best friend,” Jordyn said. “I did it as a joke at first, because I knew he didn’t want to do it himself. I didn’t think they were going to choose anyone that was virtual. So, hearing

that he made the nominee list was awesome.” Involvement in school events and activities has made Matt a name for himself, often in a crowd or in front of one. But in times like these it’s easy to feel alone. “I made a joke about it one time to my friends,” Matt said. “It was cool, because when you’re not asking for or campaigning that means people thought about you.” After weeks of nominating and tallying votes the winners were announced during the homecoming game at halftime. Matt ultimately won for homecoming Beau, and found out after the fact. “I was hoping that someone else would win, because

I know at least you’ll get the game to be a lot more satisfying for people,” Matt said. “Then, I remember I was eating dinner when I got FaceTime from Jordyn Breland and she’s yelling ‘Matt you won!’” Matt’s homecoming win shows how even when separated people can band together to uplift one another. Whether virtual or in-person the people are what make school memorable. “To any of my other virtual learners, it’s tough,” Matt said. “It’s a lot different, and it’s a big adjustment, but good on you for getting through it. It’ll be okay.”

story by Brontë Roltsch

## Close TO HOME

Knowing how long the story was going to be for this spread, I decided that I didn’t want to have two to three long columns on either side of the page. When I decided what photo would be the dominant I knew I could fit the story under it and I could use the winner list to break up the text and cover who won. I put quote marks there to help rope in more of our theme.



#### Senior Headhunters pave path for organization's future

A mixture of fear and exhilaration was felt between all the Headhunters as they stepped onto the field for their first game of the year.

They knew that the student section's energy was in their hands, regardless of what the game entailed. The minute that their energy runs out, the student section's energy is soon to follow. But that didn't stop them from giving it their all, cheering the crowd on as the football team got their first win of the season.

The Headhunters have tryouts every spring to decide who will be on the team the next year. The members all have different reasons for trying out, but all have one goal in mind: to be part of the Headhunters.

"I was in middle school when I went to some of the football games and saw them doing their thing," senior co-captain Maddie Davison said. "I thought that they were really cool, and last year someone who was on told me to sign up, so I did."

A total of 50 Headhunters were selected for this school year, with the co-captains being seniors Maddie Davison and Jack Holmes. Their first event of the year was the first football game of the season.

"The first game was really fun and intimidating at the same time," senior Trenton Thomas said. "I stepped on the field and I just felt like I had."

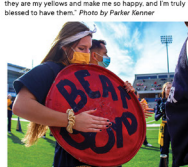
The Headhunters hope that the program will stay strong in the coming years and continue to create an impact on the student body.

"Being a Headhunter has changed my life," Maddie said. "It's pulled me out of dark places and improved my outlook on a lot of things. It's just nice having a little group that will always be there for you. I've grown a lot as a person and created a team and family within this program, so I encourage people to try out and see where it takes them."

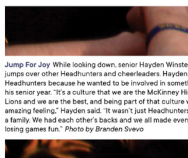
story by Nick Frazier  
story by Sydney Caldwell

It Was All Yellow At the Boyd game, senior Maddie Davison holds up the drum. Maddie says she enjoys the atmosphere she's built with the team and the energy they have. "Everyone in the group was so different, but we clicked," Maddie said. "I call them my dandelions because they are my yellows and make me so happy, and I'm truly blessed to have them." Photo by Parker Kanner

Leap of Faith In the air, junior Landon McLaws leaps over people. During the game, cheerleaders and other Headhunters would lay down for Landon to jump over. "I joined Headhunters because it gave me the opportunity to let out all my energy," Landon said. "Headhunters is one of the few things that coronavirus didn't ruin completely." Photo by Brandon Sivo



Spirit In My Head During the game against Boyd, seniors Brayden Senter and Giovanni Montez beat the drum. The Headhunters make up the dances and chants they say during the games. "It was a little different this year, but it didn't stop us from showing our spirit," Giovanni said. "Everyone always gives 100% of their energy to cheer and pump up our team."



Jump For Joy While looking down, senior Hayden Winstead jumps over other Headhunters and cheerleaders. Hayden joined Headhunters because he wanted to be involved in something his senior year. "It's a culture that we see the McKinney High Lions and we are the best, and being part of that culture was an amazing feeling," Hayden said. "It wasn't just Headhunters. It was a family. We had each other's backs and we all made even the losing games fun." Photo by Brandon Sivo



Like Nothing Else While cheering, senior Trenton Thomas gets the crowd hyped up. Trenton says his favorite thing about being a Headhunter is the energy during the games. "Between the student section and the players, Friday Night Lights are like nothing else," Trenton said. "I loved the chants we got to do at the beginning of the Boyd game. The entire student section was in the game and you could feel the energy from everyone." Photo by Brandon Sivo

# Head IN THE GAME

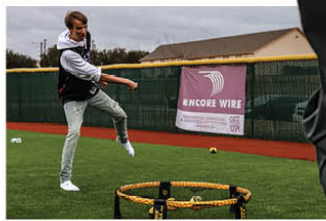
As soon as I saw this photo I knew I wanted it to be the dominant, however the background of the photo is busy and the captions were hard to read on it. I came up with the idea to bleed white bars off the sides and put the photos together. Doing that allowed for the photos to stick out and the captions were now readable.

# A Whole New BALLGAME

New Spikeball Club brings students together

**Closer To Serving** While senior Sarah Stoddard moves her hand closer to the ball, the ball is set to be served. Sarah has been playing spikeball since October. "It does look harder than it looks but it is very fun to play. I like that anyone can play so you don't have to have specific skills for it," Sarah said. "But we play with a bunch of people and move around a lot so it is fun."

**Collegiate After** After winning, senior Nathan Unsted celebrated with his team. Nathan had a challenging time focusing on hitting the ball but he made it through and won. "I was happy at that moment although I kept missing up more than I should have, but we made it through and won," Nathan said. "It was just a game and we were all just there to have fun and play."



**Quick With The Ball** Quick on his feet, Junior Nicholas Thomas took the hit on hitting the ball and let it touch the net. Nicholas took an interest in spikeball after his friend mentioned it to him and invited him to come play. "My favorite thing about the game is that I get to hang out with my friends," Nicholas said. "It is very competitive but it can be easy for beginners who want to join."

The ball flies through the air as the teams pass it back and forth. Two-by-two, they play back-and-forth. But in this sport the only goal is to have fun and enjoy one another's company. Every Thursday the spikeball club met on the school grounds to play. Every week a new spot updated via Instagram live and even though the club was relatively new, started last year by seniors Tyler Price and Nathan Unsted, the club is thriving as a way for students to get active and have fun. "Me and my friend about a year ago, last summer, we started playing spike ball with a couple other friends," senior Trey Dickmaat said. "We immediately fell in love with it. We thought we should start a club. Spikeball was fun and other people

enjoy the sport too. So that was kind of the idea behind creating the club." The game was played in two teams of two, using a mix of foursquare and volleyball and a ball the size of a baseball. Once a player passes the ball passed over the net or it hit the ground, it changed possession. "I feel great, because it's a sport that I can actually play," senior Nathan Unsted said. "I'm not very athletic, at least compared to my friends. You can have people from any skill range, and you can still have fun playing it. I could play it for hours on end. It's not a very physically draining sport." Although the club was put on hold last year because of the pandemic, the club was even more active in its second year. "COVID interrupted the first year," Tyler said. "But we decided there were a lot

of others at our school that enjoy playing sports. We decided we should make a club. We didn't quit and it's paid off." Not only did spikeball become a huge hit as a club, but the sport grew in various local tournaments and competitions. "They're started by a group of college kids around our area," Tyler said. "They open up tournaments for anyone to join. So I met my friend. They paid a fee to get into the tournament. The first place team gets a cash prize and one time we got first place winning \$80. By doing these tournaments, we've learned that there is an entire association of spikeball for Texas, and they host tournaments and promote spikeball in the community. It's bigger than we first thought." Although the club was just for the members and

their own enjoyment, new tournaments and local matches made it a sport available for students year-round. "I would say go out and try new sports. They said, 'For me, I always played basketball, soccer, and baseball a little bit. Then once I became a junior I really started playing a whole bunch of other sports. I started playing a bunch of things instead of just basketball. And that's kind of what brought me to Spikeball. Don't be afraid to play a whole bunch of sports, play a whole bunch of musical instruments or try new things. You will find something you love.'"

story by  
Erica Roltsch  
& McKyla Winfield  
design by Sydney Cudwell



**Ready To Serve** With the ball in his hand, Junior Noah Gamboa began to serve. Noah has been attending spikeball since the club started in early 2020. "Playing the game is now but just the fact that there is a lot of people there makes it more fun," Noah said. "When I first started out, I wasn't knowing nothing about it but over time you just get used to it and I learned the intricacy of the game."

**Serving To The Net** As the ball comes up in the air, Junior Tyler Price gets ready to serve the ball onto the net. Tyler is one of the co-presidents for Spikeball. "One of my favorite things overall was the game and being in it, especially since there is no other sport like it," Tyler said. "As well as the community is a big part of it. All it is a great place to meet new people and interact with them while playing."



All photos by Sky Micke

## A Whole New BALLGAME

Spikeball was a new club this year and when I looked at the photos I knew it needed to be a cool spread. I cut out the dominant picture and placed it on top of the headline and had it overlap the photo package on the left. Again, I used a white stroke around the spread to keep the magazine feel and to connect all of our breaker type spreads.



## It went like this.

The school year was starting to wind down, and we only had one more quarter of the school year left. Texas decided to lift the mask mandate, and while the reactions were mixed, it was crazy to think about how we've been in the pandemic for a year. Luckily, we had a normal spring break, and we actually got to come back to school after a week off. Seniors celebrated the announcement that there would be a prom after all, and rushed to pick out a dress or tuxedo. March reminded us of how much our lives had changed, but it also made us excited for the future.

Blaise Attitude White performing, senior Sly O'Leary looks at a giant peach. In the show, Sly played Aunt Sponge. "I love the role that I have," Sly said. "I'm not a mean person but being a character that's supposed to be really mean, means I can be funny about it."

Jacobs King

# Calendar DIVIDER

Typically our book separates by a student life and sports section but because of COVID, our editors decided it would be best to do our book chronologically by month so that if events were cancelled it wouldn't throw everything off. For every month we did a calendar and a calendar divider that broke up the events. I combined the two opening designs from our book to open each month.