

# Bring the Heat...

Think back... to the home opener heat wave. Athletes battled high temperatures and injuries during the first game of the season.

Players gathered on the field while an intense heat blew through the air. The humidity rose as tension built in the stands. Although the temperature only reached 102 degrees, it felt like 118. Before the game started, the Blue Jays and the Titans alike were exhausted.

On Aug. 19, 2023 a heat wave surged through the Midwest causing temperatures to break records. Due to the intense weather, the home-opening football game on Aug. 25, 2023, against the Lee's Summit West Titans was delayed an hour and a half.

"We just had to fight through the heat. All you have to do is play through it, play hard and give it your all," senior **Dominic Revels** said.

The heat wave caused concern among the athletic trainers, **Hannah Lowrance** and **Deanna Neldon**. During the game, they refilled players' water bottles, provided Prime energy packets, bananas, pickle juice and a variety of other snacks for the athletes to keep them fueled.

"I think promoting hydration and a healthy recovery is the best way to keep all athletes safe," **Lowrance** said. "Football is a hard, full-contact sport, and it is important that you are fueling your body with the proper nutrients leading up to each game."

Despite the trainers' thorough preparation for the game, many players still suffered heat-related injuries, including heat exhaustion, cramps and burns.

"We had a lot of injuries and cramps that night," junior **Jaxon Hicks** said. "Everyone was super dehydrated and kept getting hurt, which made it really challenging."

Among the injured players, **Revels'** balance, sight and breathing were impacted. During the second quarter of the game, **Revels'** was carted off of the field, due to his extremities.

"My vision started to get blurry, my eyes kept rolling around and my face was pale. It was scary and, without the trainers, I don't know what would have happened to me," **Revels** said. "My teammates just continued to play their hearts out. I was proud that they kept going."



## GET FUELED.

Junior **Isaiah Hung** refuels himself with a liquid IV during the home opener against Lee's Summit West. Liquid IV's helped multiple athletes by rehydrating them faster and boosting their energy. "Liquid IV helped to replenish my body, lowering chances of dehydration and cramping. It's important for the health and safety of all athletes. Electrolytes are a necessity for an athlete to maximize their peak performance," **Hung** said. Photo by Jordan Wilt

## Score Board

Lee's Summit West	10-17
Liberty North	7-31
Raymore-Peculiar	35-20
Park Hill	36-29
Park Hill South	13-0
Staley	21-6
Lee's Summit North	20-38
Lee's Summit	15-10
Blue Springs South	16-13
Blue Springs South	42-28
Liberty North	10-33

## AGE OLD RIVALRY.

Senior quarterback **Christian Kuchta** delivers a seamless pass under pressure from the Eagles on Nov. 10 at a high-stakes playoffs game at Liberty North. The Liberty team only had nine seniors. "I think us seniors, being close, built up the team because we were also really close with the younger guys," **Kuchta** said. Photo by Harrison Graham



## THE RUNNING GAME.

Senior **Ace Bindel** catches the ball around the 25 yard line and runs down the field with the ball in hand towards the end zone against Park Hill on Sept. 15. The final record was 7-4 which pushed them into District play. "You need to have a line mentality when you step on the field and off the field, and you need to know where you need to go, even if you don't have the ball," **Bindel** said. Photo by Harrison Graham



## THE LAST CALL.

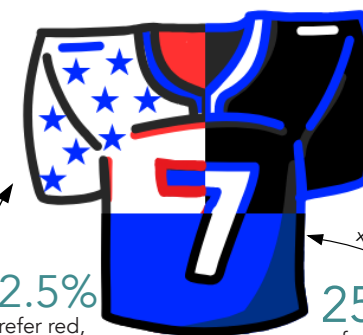
On Sept. 15, junior **Preston Franklin** gets his helmet ripped off during the first home game of the season against Lee's Summit. **Franklin** has played corner since his freshman year and has been on varsity since sophomore year. "In the moment, I was mad because I was trying to return a punted kick," **Franklin** said. Photo by Harrison Graham

## FLYING HIGH.

Sophomore **Grady Coppinger** and Coach **Darian Taylor** celebrate a big defensive stop vs Liberty North on Sept. 1. Liberty kept it close to halftime, but eventually lost 7-31. "Coach **Darian** is my dawg. He has helped me out a lot this year. He is an awesome guy," **Coppinger** said. Photo by Harrison Graham

## Fit Check

And don't forget... the football team has three jerseys they switch between for different games.



"I like what the red, white and blue jerseys represent. When we wear them, it's more than just Liberty football," senior **Anthony Romero** said.

12.5% prefer red, white and blue uniforms

62.5% prefer black uniforms

"I like the black uniforms because it mixes up the colors instead of just wearing blue and white all the time," sophomore **Luke Perschon** said.

25% prefer blue uniforms

"The blue jersey is my favorite because it's a cool color scheme and it shows off our team colors," junior **Carter Nielsen** said.

## Give Lem Sophomore MORE

Reminder... there were 80 underclassmen in the football program. These five varsity sophomores felt pressure from their classmates to succeed.

"I feel that our class has high expectations from everyone at Liberty. The sophomores needed to prove we belong and we did," sophomore **Grady Coppinger** said.



"There's no being young on a varsity team. You're a varsity football player and that's it. There's nothing else to it," sophomore **Jonathan Percy** said.



"You can't get intimidated. You have to have the mindset that they are just teenage kids playing football too. You have to play like you've always played," sophomore **Drew Olson** said.



"When **Grady Coppinger** scored a touchdown against Liberty North, running down the field to celebrate with him was a very exciting moment for me," sophomore **Brooks Ragland** said.



"I've played with most of the sophomores that are on varsity since I was really young, so having the opportunity to play with them on Friday nights is a big thing," sophomore **Donovan Hodges** said.