

PANAMERICANA



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Desiree Gutierrez, Editor

SOCCER TEAM WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



On November 8, for the second year in a row, Presbyterian Pan American School's soccer team won the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division I, District 2 state championship, 5-1, against San Antonio Keystone at Baylor University in Waco.

"It was quite exciting to play state again," said Coach Jimmy Grant. They had a goal—to repeat and they worked hard to do that and they accomplished it. I am so proud of them."

The scorers in the state championship game were Senior Javier Aguado with two goals, Junior Israel Gomez with two and Sophomore Christian Ortiz with one goal.

"I am so excited and sad at the same time for winning state," said Javier, Team Captain, "It is exciting that we won and I'm proud of my team because we played together but it is also sad because it is my last year to play. But we won the championship for the seniors."

Playing forward on the field, Javier was recognized as the highest scorer in the district with about 36 goals. Javier was also named 1st Team All-State, All-Tournament and 1st Team All-District.

But the grand title of state champs did not come easy to

the Pan Am Eagles.

"At the beginning, I was kind of worried because we had not scored. We had beaten them twice but they looked stronger," Jimmy said. Then we scored two goals, but they came back and scored one. After we scored our third, then our fourth and fifth, I knew it would be hard for them to score four goals with the time left."

Israel, who was named 2nd Team All-State and 1st Team All-District, scored the first goal of the game.

The two games leading up to the championship were the regional quarter-final game against Dallas Fairhill, which Pan Am defeated, 7-0, and the state semi final win over Fort Worth Bethesda, 4-0.

"This is the fourth time we have won the state championship and I am honored to have coached all four teams," Jimmy said. "Pan Am is known for soccer—you want to talk soccer, you talk Pan American."

Pan Am won the first state title in 2001-2002, the sec-

ond in 2002-2003 and the third last year in 2007-2008. Pan Am, who has been part of TAPPS for only 12 years, is tied with two other schools, who also hold four championship titles.

"These 23 players are talented and have

good work habits. They always show up to practice and never late," Jimmy said. "They have unity and are like a family. I was lucky to have another group of dedicated players this year and that's why I work here."

Santiago Jimenez and Walter Flores were also captains this season and both were named 1st Team All-State, All-Tournament and 1st Team All-District.

Senior Juan Chavez was named 2nd Team All-State, All-Tournament and 1st Team All-District.

Senior Alex Amaro, Junior Hugo Aguilar, and Sophomores Christian Ortiz and Erick Luna were named 2nd Team All-District.

Senior Raul Gutierrez and Juniors Advento Trevino and Fernando Montemayor were named Honorable Mention.

Pan Am ended the season with a total of 19 wins and zero losses, 16 in district and three play-off games.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

~DR. JAMES MATTHEWS

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

The headline story for this issue of the PanAmericana shows a group of happy boys who won another State Soccer Championship this fall. Their pride in being Numero Uno is clearly evident... and why not? They played their hearts out and emerged victorious. They returned to campus as heroes and we are all very proud of their accomplishments this year.

Now, I am writing this on the day of the BCS Bowl Championship Game between Oklahoma and Florida. This much hyped game is supposed to determine who is collegiate football champion. Whoever wins, the media debate will swirl because the whole BCS thing is not a playoff, which we are led to believe is the only way to a legitimate Number One. With the bowl games all over students will have to return to their studies, but the rest of us will still have to endure a few more weeks of professional football playoffs... then endless pro basketball playoff series... then



after a long summer, endless major league baseball playoff series. All in a vain effort to determine who's number one.

I suspect you have already guessed where I'm going with this. In Ecclesiastes we hear the wise man say: "vanity of vanities! All is vanity." The word "vanity" here means "illusion," or as Solomon called it "chasing after wind." And in the Gospels we hear Our Lord, in response to the perennial question of who's number one, upset the whole human equation

when he says simply that the first shall be last and the last shall be first, which I take to mean that with God first and last mean nothing.

I was reminded of this eternal truth over the Christmas holidays, as I wondered how Pan Am could weather the current storm; donations were down, gas prices were up, and parents were struggling to pay tuition. Pan Am has felt the financial crunch but who hasn't. For all of us the past year has been difficult... people have lost their homes and their jobs, corporations have folded, and institutions have closed their doors. But as we enter a new year with a new administration facing new challenges with new solutions, I am reminded of Solomon again who calmly said that "there is nothing new under the sun." Things come and go, stock markets rise and fall, but God's Word and God's Grace abide, which I take to be just another way to put the Hebrew declaration that the Lord Our God is One, the Lord Alone.

SCHOLARSHIP PROFILE

~JIMENA HERNANDEZ



At 17 years old, Jimena Hernandez, a Mexico City native, can only be described as a small

person—big voice. Standing at about 5'1, the petite junior may blend into the crowd of students during school hours but in the Presbyterian Pan American School choir, she naturally stands out.

"I feel really happy when I am singing," she said. "I feel that I am special in that area. I am able to show my feelings to other people when I am singing. It is still difficult, I have to concentrate, but I always learn something from singing."

Jimena joined the school choir when she first came to Pan Am in 2007. She learned about Pan Am through her hometown Presbyterian Church and saw it as an opportunity to improve her English and to get an education in the United States.

"I like it here at Pan Am," she said. "You get to know different people and you can be yourself. It is also an excellent opportunity to learn and develop."

Jimena, who has been singing since she was 10 years old, is part of the show choir and has traveled to different churches in the area to perform and often has solo performances.

Jimena also participates in volleyball, basketball, track, cross country, cheerleading and choir. She has held the position of sophomore class secretary last year and is this year's junior class vice president. She was recently

inducted into Pan Am's National Honor Society chapter.

"I like to improve myself and spend time being active," Jimena said. "I enjoy being part of a team."

But for Jimena, being on a team has more rewards than wins on a scoreboard.

"You can be a leader on a team. You are able to guide people and share knowledge with others," she said. "And the best part is when you know you worked hard and got good results."

Although Jimena is undecided about the college she would like to attend, she is certain that she wants to further her education in the United States. She would like to pursue music possibly at Julliard in New York City, but she is also interested in design.

PLANNED GIVING

Your planned gift to Presbyterian Pan American School will help make it possible to continue to admit Christian students from around the world and make it financially possible for them to study here.

A year at Pan Am costs a student's family \$13,800, but most families require significant financial aid.

Memorial gifts, endowment gifts or bequests can make a difference in this school's ability to fulfill its mission for years to come.

In addition to cash, Pan American School can accept other assets such as real estate, stock, bonds, IRAs or other items of value, with full tax benefits accrued to the donor.

Gifts may be made directly to the school or to its permanent endowment fund maintained at Texas Presbyterian Foundation.

To explore ways your gift can be made in the most tax efficient manner, contact Presbyterian Pan American School at 361-592-4307 or your tax advisor.

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JORGE LARA-BRAUD SCHOLARSHIP

The Board of Trustees of Presbyterian Pan American School, along with the trustees of Expanding Horizons Foundation, Austin, Texas, announce the creation of the Jorge Lara-Braud Scholarship at Pan Am.

This annual cash scholarship will be awarded to a qualifying Pan American School senior and is to be applied toward that student's first year of college tuition.

It will be funded by investment proceeds from an endowment fund contributed by Expanding Horizons Foundation and added to by many friends, family members and admirers of the late Dr.

Jorge Lara-Braud of Austin.

Dr. Lara-Braud was a 1950 graduate of Presbyterian Pan American School who converted to Protestantism from the Roman Catholic Church of his childhood and later became a renowned Presbyterian scholar and theologian.

In the course of his distinguished academic career he served the National Presbyterian Seminary in Mexico City, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, the Office of Theological Studies and Christian Unity of the National Council of Churches (New York City), San Francisco Theological

Seminary, in addition to a number of other positions of prominent church leadership.

Further contributions in memory of Jorge Lara-Braud may be directed to Presbyterian Pan American School, P.O. Box 1578, Kingsville, Texas 78363, designated for the Jorge Lara-Braud Scholarship Endowment.

The Texas Presbyterian Foundation is the investment manager for this and many other scholarship endowments benefitting Presbyterian Pan American School.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

~WALTER FLORES

Walter Flores received a gift for his 15th birthday that was too big to be wrapped.

It was July 9, 2006, his birthday and first day at his new home at Presbyterian Pan American School—a present from his family his father joked.

Walter came to Pan Am as a sophomore from Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, a Mexican state near Guatemala, because it was an opportunity to improve his English.

“My parents could give me this opportunity so I took it,” said Walter, 17-year-old senior.

“They liked that it was in the U.S. and knew that if I put effort into my studies, I could attend college here.”

Although Walter was sad to leave his hometown, a 20-hour drive from Pan Am, he was happy to start his life here.

“My friends and the people here helped me,” he said. “My friends feel more like my brothers.”

At Pan Am, Walter stays occupied by the activities he is involved in such as the school’s Morris Chapel Choir.

“I like to sing,” he said. “It’s new for me. It helps me relax from the stress of school and work.”

He is also a dual credit student taking college courses at Coastal Bend College (CBC) in Kingsville.

Dual Credit allows students to finish more than half of their college freshman year before they even graduate from high school.

This past fall, Walter was enrolled in English 1301 and government.

“College classes are different from high school. If you don’t do your work, they don’t care,” he said. “But it’s fun, I like learning new things.”



Walter was named to the President’s List at Pan Am in the fall of 2008 and Student of the Month for September in 2008.

Walter is in his second year in 4H Club. He is raising a steer this year and is ready to compete in the Kleberg-Kenedy Junior Livestock Show, he said.

“I like working at the ranch,” he said. “It’s different and it makes me more responsible. Working on the ranch is fun and I never get bored.”

One of Walter’s biggest and most recent accomplishments is the Division I, District 2 state soccer championship that Pan Am brought home with their victory over San Antonio Keystone, 5-1, at Baylor University in Waco on November 8.

“It felt so good to win,” he said. “It’s my senior year and it feels great, awesome. I don’t know how to explain it but it’s my last year with my friends and it’s something I will never forget.”

Walter played defense and was one of the team captains.

He was also named, 1st Team All-State, All-Tournament and 1st Team All-District.

But Walter admits he is not alone when he is playing defense on the field or displaying his voice in the Choir.

“Before I came here, I wasn’t very religious,” he said. “But I came here and I know something is helping me with my life and I know it’s God. I realized that He’s helping me.”

When Walter graduates, he plans to attend Texas A&M University-Kingsville and study architectural engineering, a decision that he is 100 percent sure of, he said.

“I want to be the owner or boss of a company that builds bridges and buildings all over the world,” he said.

“I would even like to go back to my hometown in Mexico and try to help build new and sophisticated buildings and hospitals—help them modernize.”

Walter’s many achievements, along with his dreams for the future, come in yet another package too big to wrap.

This gift is the one provided by the churches and individuals who generously support Pan American School with their donations.

Without such gifts, he could not attend. But thanks to them, Walter Flores and many others students are preparing themselves for lives of Christian leadership, to take their places in God’s world and to do so for His glory.

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STAFF SPOTLIGHT

~EDGAR ORTEGA

Teacher Edgar Ortega has helped introduce new classes to Presbyterian Pan American School students.

The La Villa native, near McAllen, began teaching at Pan Am in September of 2007, shortly after he graduated from Texas A&M University-Kingsville with a degree in agricultural production.

He is currently teaching six classes of biology, marine biology, and new to the curriculum this year—landscape design and construction, and wildlife and recreation management.

“I didn’t know much about the school when I started,” he said. “I expected more students but the small group of kids made it easier to start off teaching.”

In Edgar’s wildlife class, students have the opportunity to assist Thomas Langschied, Research Director for the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, with bird counts.

Langschied is the project coordi-



nator for the South Texas Wintering Birds project and students are able to learn about birds within the and their behavior and migration patterns. The project allows students to enter observations into an internet database, which benefits the nation.

The landscape and design construction class is also contributing to wildlife habitat restoration. The class built 12 birdhouses and hung them all over the Pan Am campus.

“I always try to help my students to know what is expected at the college level. I prep them and let them know how professors will treat them,” he

said. “I let them know what is in store for them and this project is going to help do just that.”

Edgar’s work does not stop when the bell rings. The avid fisher is one of the sophomore class sponsors.

“I help out the students and they help me,” he said. “The students are so respectful and they appreciate me because I do things like tutor them and help them in other subjects if I can.”

Edgar was recently named Teacher of the Month for September.

“That must mean I am doing something right,” he said. “I try my best to do what I can and this recognition gives me extra motivation. I do my best to make teaching fun and I get students involved. They learn and study but they have fun.”

Edgar is currently working on his master’s degree in plant and soil science and during his spare time, he enjoys skeet shooting, camping and working on his ranch.