



MHS exPRESS

Marlow High swim team plunges into victory

Chelsea Strutton
Writer

Diving into the season, Marlow Public School's new swim team competed in their second meet on the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 12 on the campus of the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO) in Chickasha.

Participating alongside schools such as Putnam City, Bethany and Chickasha, the team was the smallest in numbers but large in their successes.

As a whole, the six team members received high placings and were recognized regarding their fast times and techniques.

Stepping up in order to better the students of Marlow High School and provide them with unforgettable experiences is Coach John Smith.

With coaching experience in slowpitch softball, football, basketball, golf and soccer, Smith is providing encouragement and teaching a life lesson or two as the team wades their way toward success.

Smith detailed the joy he receives from coaching the swim team at Marlow, a task that requires responsibility, discipline and patience.

"It's an honor for me to be associated with these athletes," said Smith. "I was their assistant principal several years ago, and now I get to take them to swim meets."

Smith is not the only person new to the idea of engaging in a swim team.

Freshmen Sage Minyard and Luke Banks are both new to swimming competitively, practicing frequently in order to become more skilled and prepared for future events.

Both with promising futures ahead of them, Banks received fourth place in the 50 meter freestyle and fifth in the 100 meter freestyle, and Minyard ranked fifteenth in the fifty meter freestyle and sixth in the 100 meter freestyle.

With only a month and a half of involvement on the team, Banks emphasized his satisfaction concerning his second swim meet.



Pictured above is Gage DaVoult swimming.

Photo taken by Chelsea Strutton

"I haven't had much experience, so for a new guy, I'm feeling good about it," expressed Banks.

The Nov. 12 meet was Minyard's first encounter with participating in a swim meet, and with only a few weeks of practice under her belt, she came out successful in her attempt of placing alongside her teammates with much more experience.

Minyard described her thoughts in reference to the meet and why she decided to join the swim team, a decision that did not come easily due to it being recently developed.

"I feel good since it was my first meet," said Minyard. "I joined because my friends were members of the swim team."

However, not all members of the swim team are new to swimming competitively.

Freshmen Karsten Terrell and Gage DaVoult have years of practice behind them, participating alongside various teams located across the state of Oklahoma.

The pair were successful enough to take part in the Junior Olympics during the summer, a high ranking tournament that requires competing pupils to meet a variety of requirements before they can

attend.

One of the necessary qualifications is placing first, second or third in a district competition in a race of under 400 meters in their age division.

In company with their four other teammates, the two share beliefs regarding their favorite aspect of being involved on the swim team.

Terrell stated that the best component of being involved on the swim team was his teammates and the family the team has become throughout the hours spent practicing and competing together.

With their friendship only continuing to grow stronger, DaVoult credits his interest in swimming to Terrell.

"I started swimming because I became friends with Karsten, and he swam," explained DaVoult.

Alongside Terrell and DaVoult, senior Caleb Warren and freshman Morgan Warren

are two siblings with a background in swimming.

The two share a passion for the water and are both triumphant in their attempts of bettering their abilities.

During the Nov. 12 meet, Morgan received first place in the 50 meter freestyle and second place in the 100 meter backstroke.

Morgan recalled the launch of her hobby in swimming, a craft she has adored ever since.

"I have been swimming for as long as I can remember," explained Morgan. "I think I started in first grade."

Similar to his younger sister, Caleb placed first in the 100 meter freestyle and third in the 200 freestyle.

With his past consisting of various swim meets, Caleb expressed why he finds so much delight in the sport.

"You get to meet a bunch of people," stated Caleb. "It's a fun physical activity unlike any other."

With the six member team already creating a strong name for themselves, the Marlow Public Schools swim team are anticipated to grow and prosper, one backstroke at a time.

MHS hosts football playoffs

Madison Contreras
Writer

For the first time since 2014, Marlow High School hosted the first round of the 3A District Playoff games on Friday, Nov. 15.

Being ranked number two in their district, the Marlow football team was set to compete against Kingfisher High School, the football team ranked third in 3A.

Explaining how the hard work the team has put in has paid off, senior and tight end Seth Aguilera stated why this game was important to Marlow.

"You play your heart out all regular season so you can go make a run in the playoffs," said Aguilera. "It's been a while since we've had a home playoff game, so it's just showing how hard we've worked in the weight room this summer, in the off-season and during this football season."

Leading up to the game, the MHS football team bonded through various different activities.

Aside from their traditional game-day team lunch, the football team, joined by the managers and coaches, gathered the night before the game on Thursday, Nov. 14.

While enjoying a home-cooked meal, the team told stories, laughed and relished in each other's company.

After everyone had finished eating, former coach Joe Weber spoke to the team about the difference between Marlow football and other football teams.

Joe ended his time speaking by announcing his pride in the Outlaws.

Immediately following Joe's speech to the team, those in attendance watched highlight clips starting from week six.

Highlights from week one through five were played Nov. 7, the night before the last district



Photo taken by Luke Davis

game.

Also on November 7, retired coach Ron Newby talked with the football team about what the true meaning of a team is and what responsibilities come with it.

On the day of the game, the MHS student body dressed as police officers to school and the game, as the theme for the night was "SWAT the Yellowjackets."

Starting the night off, the game ball was delivered in a helicopter while the MHS Band played the Fight Song.

At the end of the first half, both teams had fought each second of play, but Kingfisher finished two touchdowns ahead with a score of 21-7.

By scoring two touchdowns, the MHS Football team made a comeback in the second half after being down in the first.

With three minutes and twenty-two seconds left in the fourth quarter, Marlow scored their third touchdown, tying the ball game at 28-28.

Holding each other down, the game was lead into overtime as neither team could score before the end of the game.

During overtime, teams flip a coin to determine who is on defense and offense.

Then, teams alternate trying to score a touchdown from the 10 yard line until one does not fulfill the touchdown, leaving the other with a higher score.

Although Kingfisher won the

coin toss, they chose for Marlow to be on offense and Kingfisher to be on defense first.

Running into triple overtime, the outcome of the game resulted in Kingfisher winning with a field goal, 45-42.

Despite a devastating loss to Kingfisher, the MHS Football team played their hardest throughout the game.

Senior and tight end for the MHS Football team Jayce Martin described why he felt the score were tight in the Marlow vs. Kingfisher game.

"Our game against Kingfisher was so close because we never gave up. Most teams will wave the white flag and be done once they are down by two touchdowns," said Martin. "We didn't do that. We kept pushing and pushing."

Recalling the effort the football team displayed, MHS Football head coach Matt Weber stated why the game was a good match-up.

"The game versus Kingfisher was two very evenly matched teams, which we realized going into the game," Coach Weber said. "Our guys really took to the weight room for a full year and it allowed us to compete with better competition."

As the MHS Football team continues to strive for a state championship next season, they will relentlessly practice and better themselves for the next season.

Smith excels through his last year of high school

Lanie Leach
Writer

Finding the motivation to excel at academics can be difficult for some high school students, but senior Kasen Smith has remained motivated and involved with his education through his high school career.

Smith takes pride in excelling in all school subject areas but especially math because he considers it to be the best subject area.

"You just have to understand how to plug numbers into the correct equations," Smith explained. "Also, to excel in math, you have to manage your time and have patience with yourself."

When asked for his advice for lowerclassmen on how to exceed in school, Smith suggests having good use of your time.

"I have two pieces of advice for the lowerclassmen that will help them succeed," Smith said.



Kasen Smith

"The first is to not procrastinate because this will just leave you stressed. The second is to do your homework to the best of your ability. Don't just leave it unfinished."

These are the skills that Smith has utilized all throughout high school to provide him with such academic success.

Describing Smith's proficiency in academics is Algebra II teacher Karin Brantley.

"Kasen is an overall great student," Brantley explained. "He is intelligent, hard-working and

very self-motivated."

Not only does Smith shine in his academics but he also provides a loving hand for others that are in his senior class.

Senior Jaci Strickland appreciates Smith's support and caring personality while going through their last year of high school.

"Kasen is one of those friends that you want to keep forever. I know I could call him at any given moment and he would be there in a heartbeat," Strickland said. "He has shown me through high school what a true friend is, and I believe that it is one of the most important things in life."

Smith hopes to take his passion for academics and people to college. He plans to attend Cameron University to obtain his basics and then transfer to Oklahoma State University or the University of Central Oklahoma to earn a degree in occupational safety.



Photo submitted by Kristany Travis

MHS FFA. Being auctioned off for labor, Marlow's Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter hosted their annual labor auction on Thursday, Nov. 14. With students being bought for eight hours of service in the community, this year's auction raised a total of \$14,500. Proceeds will be used to fund the program for future leadership trips, and a portion will be donated to the OKFFA Hunger Challenge.

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V W X Y Z. ”
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The MHS express is the student newspaper of Marlow High School. It is published every Thursday during the fall and spring semesters, except during holidays.

The MHS exPRESS encourages comments from the student body, faculty, and administration in the form of letters to the editor. All letters must include a name for consideration; however, the name may be withheld upon request. Letters should be sent to Room 105 at MHS.

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