

Hello Ganado Family!

-Lessons Learned-

It has been said a lot, "Teams to remember play in December." Our boys brought that statement to life and showed the State, again, that Ganado is a force to be reckoned with! For the fifth time in history, Indian Football reached the semifinals. In doing so, the Indians crushed Refugio by almost 30 points and knocked off two previously unbeaten teams, Mason and Holland. What an accomplishment for a group of young men that have played organized football since being grade school Warriors. A sincere thank you to the boys and coaches; everything was executed with hustle, discipline, and class. Everyone is incredibly proud of you.

So, what life lessons did we learn from our amazing pigskin season?

1. PREDICTIONS MEAN NOTHING: Dave Campbell picked us fourth this year...not fourth in the State (which we did), but fourth in the district. Our cheerleaders kindly reminded Mr. Campbell of his error and he gave us "props" in return. Way to go, girls! The next time someone tells you in life that "you'll never accomplish this" or "you are only capable of this," just smile, stay focused, work harder than the competition, and excel at unprecedented levels.

2. NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A TEAM: Just because an opponent has one, two, three, or more Division I athletes it doesn't mean that the day is done. A well-orchestrated game plan divides the load and brings the goal within reach, while persistence and heart take you to the top. Speaking of heart, as I proudly wore my Ganado shirt on Friday into Prasek's Hilje Smokehouse, a stranger approached me and said, "Man, every year, Ganado always plays with a ton of heart." I thanked him and said, "We are pretty tough, too."

3. A STRONG COMMUNITY IS FOUNDATIONAL FOR SUCCESS: From the students, band, cheerleaders, and staff members to the local citizens, businesses, and alumni - both near and far - Ganado pride was in full force! My hat's off to you! It was amazing to witness the packed, maroon-clad bleachers each week from a town with a city limit sign indicating only 1975 people. However, I'm not surprised. Ganado pride runs deep and as I quickly learned, it starts at birth. I've been to many big cities and small towns across this great nation and the "love of school" in Ganado, Texas is second to none!

We will always remember this December, but it is safe to say: "2024 has us wanting more!" Regardless of the outcome, enjoy the ride and never stop learning. Our GREAT students can change the world.

Arrows Up,
Dr. Szymanski

Superintendent Shout-outs: (1) to Coach Ervin, his staff, and the 2023 Indian football squad for reaching the state semifinals; (2) to Bert Skoruppa and the Maintenance Department for helping me in central office; (3) to Jorge Hernandez and the Technology Department for also helping me in central office; (4) to Wanda Helmcamp and her culinary students for the delicious meals; (5) to Emma Garza for advancing to State in the VFW's Voice of Democracy Essay Competition; (6) to Sarah Ardner's 14 students that placed in the San Antonio Rodeo Art Contest; and (7) to Mandy Keen's four junior high band students that performed extremely well in the all-region band auditions: Sophia Barajas (6th chair clarinet symphonic band), Melanie Griffin (11th chair clarinet symphonic band), Andrew Ledwig (concert band alternative baritone), and Carla Barajas (concert band alternative tuba)!