



# TAKING BACK THE Turf

By: Serenity Miller, Kayla Ballard, and Braden Roskam

In life, few things come close to the feeling of a Friday night football game. As the lights illuminate the stadium and each blade of grass vibrates from the roar of fans, a curtain of magic lives in the air. This essence rages in our panther den. From the players and coaches to our student body and fans, football is a staple in our community. It helps bring everyone together with a bond that fails to compare. The game ignites a raw passion and desire to be great into the hearts of the people in our town. That fire drives our panthers to go after something special, something more than just a win. "Football to me is about 11 dudes with all different views, past troubles and current issues working together as one unit to complete a goal. 11 dudes who just put the ball down and play no matter your size, speed, color, gender or religion" stated senior linebacker Darren Ginger '21. Over years of

hard work, 6am practices, laughs, heartbreak and joy, the relationship built between these teammates is something that no one can take away. "Football brought the closest people to me into my life. It has allowed me to be somebody and lets me get a little wild" explained Jacob Simpson '21. This season, our panthers were ready to take on any challenge thrown their way. The 2020-2021 season started abruptly. After the Governor and CHSAA decreed that the state of Colorado was having a football season. Our team had just 2 weeks to prepare for the fight they had ahead of them; a process that usually takes months. The panthers stepped up to the challenge and got to work, seeing early success in their first game and beating a top 10 team. "The first game was great, it was a good team and we showed up and beat them." began junior QB, Mason Pyles '22. "We won the penalty and turnover battle and we scored when we had to." With the help of the coaches, Woodland Park made headlines all over the state with this win, putting us on the map as a potential powerhouse in football. The first win was exciting, but the Panthers were still hungry. Week 2 they claimed another victory, breaking into the top 10 in state for the first time in years. Football teaches a lesson deeper than the eye can see. Lessons about having your brother's back, working together, staying positive and raising the standard scratch the surface of what the sport has to teach. Our boys have worked hard to get to get to where they are, but football has worked just as hard to turn our boys into men.



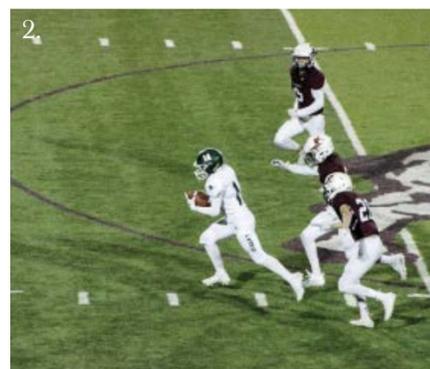
I gained a lot of positive people that just support you no matter what decision you make  
-Chyanne gutierrez '23



It feels more of a team and the energy as a whole feels like a different level most of the time  
-Eli Garner'22



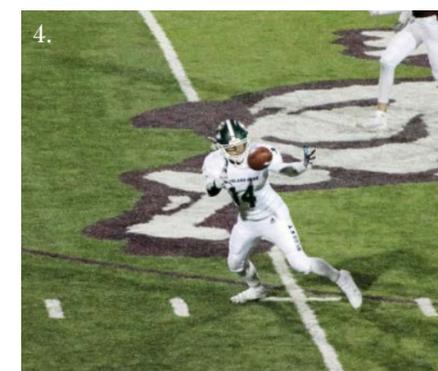
We have a better understanding on how to play as a team. We enjoy playing with one another and we have good energy  
-Mason Pyles '22



1. Running back Braden Roskam '21 runs down the field while his teammates take on Alamosa defense (p.c. e. makowsky) 2. Braden Roskam '21 leaves Alamosa's defense in the dust. Woodland Park won their first game against Alamosa 21-13 (p.c. e. makowsky)



3. Alex Vonderharr '22 hones in for an explosive onside kick. Vonderharr had an outstanding season kicking the panthers to victory (p.c. e makowsky) 4. Gilbert Ramirez '21 mid catch at a pivotal point in the half turning the game around for the Woodland Park Panthers. (p.c. e. makowsky) 5. The Woodland Park Panthers line up for a first down offensive push. (p.c. e. makowsky)



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