

BREAKING THE STREAK

Sabercats left feeling discouraged after 16-0 shutout at rivarly game with Douglas County High School

For football players, heading into the rivalry game is a time to really zero in and focus. This being such an important game to not only athletes, but students and faculty may put a lot of pressure on the backs of the football team. Many athletes turn to a healthy mindset to lead them in the right direction. This couldn't be more true after a shocking loss on Sept. 17 against Douglas County High School, Senior outside linebacker Herschel Craig says their minds were not right.

"We prepared for it the right way, watched hours of film, went through it in practice. I think the thing that hurt us most was our minds weren't right. We needed to better prepare mentally before anything else and that's what hurt us," Craig said.

Hard work may not always be the answer to great outcomes. According to Craig, not putting points on the board was on the players.

"We 110% got in our own way of getting the win that night. Us not putting points on the board is on us. It was from coaching to player performance," Craig said. "We prepared the right way all week but didn't apply it correctly in game."

The right mindset was important to Craig. If given the opportunity to try again, there would be more communication and mental check points to assure every player was on the same page.

"I would make sure that we were in the right place mentally before anything. I would assure that myself and the team behind me are on the same page and ready to execute with intention to be great 100% of the time," Craig said.

With negativity surrounding the game, this loss affected some players for days after. The team realized quickly, this is not the way to prepare for future games.

"It was a wake up call for us. It was a 'we just got smacked in the mouth' type of thing and we didn't like it," Craig said. "A lot of us had a bad taste about it for days after the game, I know myself especially. We now prepare with the intent to be great, because that is what is going to help us win."

For the players, this will be the toughest loss of their season, not only because of a broken winning streak, but because everyone knows who should've been shut out.

"We were upset. It's going to be the worst loss of the year because it was against a team we should've beat. We hurt ourselves and felt it all because we lost to a team we should've beat. That is the worst thing that can happen, is losing to a group of opponents that you are better than and everyone knows it," Craig said.

With better intentions and no way to change the outcome of the game, Craig and the team plan to look forward to better days and make up for a fall on the state rankings.

"We're trying to continue to work back up the rankings and get back on track. We just don't want to dread on that game anymore, we have a lot more games left. We just can't make the same mistake again," Craig said.

After lots of thought about the game, Craig has one thing to say to Douglas County's football team.

"I'd tell them don't get too comfortable, and we hope to see them again in playoffs," Craig said.

1. A CLOSE CALL: Senior outside linebacker Herschel Craig barely misses a pass. Craig believed this was a tough loss because Sabercats should have won. "It's the worst when it's to a team you know and everyone knows you should've beaten. We're trying to continue to work back up the rankings and get back on track," Craig said. **2. CHEERING ON:** Senior Kate Miller cheers on her team at the rivarly football game. Despite the shut-out, Miller would still rather be a Sabercat. "Even though we lost, we were all so happy to be cheering on the team and we know they gave it their all," Miller said.



prepping for HOMECOMING

Students prepare weeks in advance for the big night

Many students look forward to homecoming week and the traditions that come with it. Despite Showdown and spirit week, nothing is as celebratory as the homecoming dance. Most students choose to attend homecoming with groups of friends and dates. Junior Carson Hyre asked his date weeks in advance.

“If you’re nervous to ask out your date, don’t be. The worst thing they could do is say no, but you could also just go with your friends,” Hyre said.

Those who choose to take dates often find unique and creative ways to ask them. Students in the past have made posters and seranations to ask people out.

“I asked my date out with flowers. I knew her favorite flowers

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were sunflowers, so I got her some sunflowers. I also got her favorite candy, which is Sour Patch Kids,” Hyre said.

Another common tradition is matching dresses and suits. Students prepare with friends, families and dates by shopping for suits and dresses that have matching colors and semi-formal themes.

“Me, my friends and my dad have been looking around for a lot of different stuff. We went to department stores like Men’s Warehouse, Inc. and Brooks Brothers, looking for suits and different colors,” Hyre said.

All this preparation culminated in the main event: the homecoming dance on Saturday, Oct. 2. Hyre attended the homecoming dance with his date and friends.

“I’m most excited about the memories of homecoming; all the stuff you do in high school you remember forever,” Hyre said. “I would definitely encourage everyone to go.”



PREP PAYS OFF: Students dance the night away at homecoming. People have been preparing for homecoming the whole month of September. “It was a great experience and I made some great memories,” Hyre said.

written and photos by Nathaniel Santiago

homecoming NOT SO NORMAL

Having a homecoming dance is looked forward to by many students, but due to COVID-19, homecoming will be outdoors

With many students never experiencing a normal homecoming due to COVID-19, the school is finally able to have a homecoming dance. But, in order to still stay safe, Homecoming was hosted outdoors. How does this make it different from years before? Understanding what it was like before might help.

“Having Homecoming inside was fun. I think that it was different while having it outside but it was still good,” said Senior Cailey Holman. “It was hot though, and having a mask this year added to it.”

Having Homecoming outside was extremely different and a new idea. Being outside changed how things are run.

“I think the temperature and size of the dance floor might be a challenge,” said Reese Plummer. “Kids just have to come with the attitude that it will be

something new but still fun, because it is whatever they make it.”

Not only did it change how Homecoming is hosted, it affected people’s views on Homecoming. The idea of Homecoming outside had some people interested.

“I think it was a different experience than having it inside,” said Freshman Bailee Blake, “But it was still be fun to go to.”

But there was still a handful of students who were discouraged by the idea, and believe having it outside impacted Homecoming for the worse.

“Homecoming is hosted in October, so the weather might ruin it,” said Cole Winckler.

If the choice was left up to the students, many have a strong opinion to change

where the school is hosted Homecoming.

“I think it would depend on how many cases there are,” said Blake. “If we didn’t have any and felt like it wasn’t a risk then maybe move it inside. But if we had lots of exposure to COVID-19, then outside.”

Even if students had that decision, everyone must still take into account that COVID-19 is hanging around.

“We still had lots of people in one area but we may get a little more cross breeze,” said Blake.

Being outside may not totally help with preventing the spread of COVID-19, however.

“Kids were still close to each other and nobody was ‘distanced,’” said Reese Plummer. “It could help prevent spread everywhere but the dance floor was bad.”

written by Rachael Kajander