



Westlake High School Rugby Club

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL RUGBY TEAM DEFENDS 6TH PLACE NATIONAL RANKING IN CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

Austin, Texas — The Westlake High School rugby team clinched the Western Rugby Union's championship trophy two weeks ago and takes its 6th place national ranking to the high school rugby championship tournament in Salt Lake City next weekend.

Although the team is only in its second season, the chaps cruised through their division with an undefeated record this spring. They beat the defending state champs, Houston's St. Thomas High School, in the first round of the State championship tournament last month in Austin, but fell to a strong Dallas Jesuit team, which boasted a long and storied rugby tradition, in the championship match.

Despite the disappointment in the state finals match, the chaps were the final team qualifying for the Western Rugby Union Championship Tournament, where they faced Dallas Jesuit – the team that had denied them the state championship a week before - in the first round. But this time, the outcome was different. Westlake beat Dallas Jesuit 35-24 and went on to dominate St. Thomas Aquinas, from Kansas City, to take the tournament victory.

After the presentation of the tournament's trophy, Coach Al Niece clearly relished the victory, which was unprecedented for a program that was only in its second year. But he also was looking forward to taking his team to compete in the national tournament. "I always felt this team was capable of playing with the best teams in the country. I'm excited for the kids and I'm looking forward to the national tournament. It'll be a great experience for them."

In a related story, Texas Rugby officials announced that nine of Westlake's rugby players were named to its All Central Texas First Team and six garnered All State honors.

The Westlake players making the All Central Texas team were Alex Putnam at prop, James Howe at lock, Ellis Glaw at flanker, Evan Von Zur Muehlen at eight man, Connor McNally at scrum half, Markham Sayers at fly half, Paul Brown at inside center, Vince Costa at wing, and James Robison at full back.

Those Westlake ruggers also taking All State honors at their respective positions were Howe, Von Zur Muehlen, Glaw, McNally, Sayers, and Robison.

All media are invited to Monday night's practice at the Chap's stadium at 7pm for filming and interview opportunities. Any media needing more information may contact Clint Sayers at (512) 413-1133.