

April 29, 2019

Trojan Alumni Scholarship

Senior Year Square Dancing

As March neared, the excitement grew for our last year to start. Square dancing at the 85TH annual Santa Fe Trail day was going to be the most remember able one. The long late night practices paid off on April 26, 2019 when we won it all.

In the beginning, we started out slow and unsure of where to start. In the first few practices, we were testing the water and refreshing our memories. As we figured out partners and got better in the moves, our confidence grew. Soon we had picked out our two main songs, "Sea of Heartbreak" and "King of the Road". For an hour and a half, twice a week, we swung our way through each song until it was near perfect. With two weeks and four practices left, we started piecing our entrance together. Our plan "A" was from a popular video game "Fortnite" the dance was called the "Knee Slapper". In front of our coach's laptop, we stood in lines watching a tutorial on YouTube. Step by Step, we learned the first ten seconds of this dance. We ended that night with homework to go home and practice. The next night, we trashed that plan and moved to plan "B". Plan "B", the Electric Slide, took us three practices to perfect it. As our last practice came to an end, we left the gym confident and ready to go.

The morning started like any other Santa Fe Trail day, with last minute float decorating. After the parade ended, we parted ways and met at the high school at one thirty. In room six, we changed into our cancans and fought off the butterflies. Fifteen minutes before the program was scheduled, we practices our entrance, transitions and exit one last time. In the room, we

huddled up and tried to encourage one another. We ended the huddle with “SENIORS ON 3! 1, 2, 3! SENIORS!” down the hall we marched with butterflies in our stomachs and excitement in our eyes. Walking into the gym we yelled “Go Seniors!” and “Class of 2019!” People in the crowd started cheering and clapping with us. In the first two rows of metal chairs, we took our seats. Under each of our chairs, there were red goodie bags filled with cookies, suckers, a granola bar and a Capri Sun. While we snacked, we talked to each other as the anticipation to start grew. The program kicked off with the juniors going first, seniors’ second, freshman third and, sophomores fourth.

Honestly, I don’t remember most of the junior dances. During their ten minute performance, we reminded everyone to smile and stay in the circle. As they exited, we stood up and took our places, it was show time. Our entrance went smoothly, the first dance had one error and the nerves got the best of us. The second dance we were shouting and smiling and talking with each other. With smiles, we exited the gym floor and quickly walked back to the chairs. High fives were exchanged as we settled back into our seats to watch the rest of the groups. After the sophomores, everyone gathered back on the floor and squared up for neutral calls. For about ten minutes, we maneuvered our way through his calls and only argued a few times. One dance later and we were already done with neutral calls.

Waiting for the scores to be tallied, they announced the winners for the community costume contest held that morning. For the 85TH year, the queen candidates walked around as their bio and history of their outfit was read. For the 1ST year, the king candidates walked around the gym while their bio and history was read. After the class awards were announced, it was finally time to find out who won the competition. Fourth place the freshman, third place

the sophomores, second place the juniors and first place the seniors. As announcer got closer to first place the closer we got to the edge of our seats. As she said "First place: Seniors" we jumped up and started yelling. Everyone was smiling from cheek to cheek and giving our coach many high fives. Our hard work finally paid off.

Senior year square dancing came to an end with a victory. My part in the high school tradition ended on smiles, adrenaline and with plenty of memories. After the program ended, I stood and looked at everyone hugging the dancers and congratulating the new queen. With a heavy heart, I walked out fully knowing that would be my last time performing in that packed gym. Senior year square dancing will always be a special memory at Las Animas School District.