

# TACKLING THE CROWN

Homecoming King and Queen share the spotlight and the gridiron, defying stereotypes about royalty



**Kissing the Crowd** After being crowned, Alan Hernandez '18 stands up and blows a kiss to the crowd. "It felt incredible when I was crowned King," Hernandez said. "I looked out to my friends and the cheering crowd just realizing that I had won." *Photo by Jayna Sigurdson*

**Carrying the Team** Alan Hernandez '18 carries Danika Tweten '18 around the gym before competing in games. "It was super fun," Tweten said. "I was kind of nervous because I was going to be in front of the whole school, but it ended up being super fun and it was great hearing everyone cheer for us." *Photo by Noah Raisanen*

As the crown was placed on **Danika Tweten's** '18 head, she crouched, still with the realization that she had just been named the 2017 Homecoming Queen. Her reaction may not have been what was expected, but the Homecoming King knew exactly what the crowd was looking for.

**Alan Hernandez** '18 faced the crowd and laid a smile on every member in the audience. His confidence and ability to make others laugh, was just one of the reasons behind him being named King. Hernandez's active role in varsity football and kindness towards students made him stand out.

"Hernandez is one of the nicest human beings," **Joshua Ortmann** said. "He has a big heart, cares about everyone around him, understands when it's time for fun and when it's time to work hard on the football field."

Varsity football kicker, soccer player, defender in lacrosse, and vice president of FFA—Tweten wasn't the typical queen. Classmates described Tweten as humble, compassionate, and typically dressed for a day of work.

"Danika has such a big heart and finds the best in everyone. She inspires me to be a better person everyday," **Zara Wirkus** '18 said. "Danika is a pleasure to be around and fun to work with, she isn't afraid to be herself."

Both Tweten and Hernandez were teammates on the varsity football team. Hernandez played as a defensive end. He has played football since eighth grade. Tweten joined the team in eleventh grade, never having played football before. She was recognized by a teacher and coach after seeing her ability to kick the football in gym class.

"It feels amazing that Danika and I won because Danika is a super kind and nice person," Hernandez said. "It also really hyped up the football team having the King and Queen playing during Friday night lights."

Tweten and Hernandez's ability to make people smile, feel at ease, and form friendships all led to their 2017 Homecoming crowning.

"I was super surprised when I won Homecoming Queen because I didn't think I would win, like at all," Tweten said. "I was ready to cheer and clap for anyone else to win. When she placed the crown on my head, I didn't even know what to do. I was so shocked."

*-Grace Moran & Carly Strom*



Aydin Scherber and Caroline Zumbusch *Photo by Carly Strom*



Alan Hernandez and Ella Shuherk *Photo by Carly Strom*



Peter Deneen and Mya Lubben *Photo by Carly Strom*



Nicholas Immel and Claire Stevens *Photo by Carly Strom*



Harrison Bjorback and Madelyn Backes *Photo by Carly Strom*