

FIRST TEAM

DIEGO PEPI

F, Frisco, Soph.



With no shortage of competition in the ultra-tough 9-5A, Pepi did enough to earn district co-MVP honors. Despite facing double and triple teams for a majority of the season, the sophomore still produced, ranking among the area leaders with 25 goals and nine assists, with 20 of those scores coming in district action. The Raccoons advanced to the regional semifinals, marking their deepest playoff run since 2007, and Pepi's return is a big reason why they have even bigger goals in the future.

ANTONIO CANTORAN

F, Celina, Sr.



The Bobcats enjoyed their deepest playoff run ever in advancing to the Class 4A state semifinals, and plenty of that had to do with their dynamic one-two punch up front. Cantoran comprised one half of that unit, scoring 34 goals and adding 12 assists on his way to 11-4A MVP honors and a TASCOS all-region pick.

ANTHONY PATTI

F, Lake Dallas, Sr.



One of the most prolific goal scorers to come through Lake Dallas, Patti continued to add to his total in a season in which the Falcons came within one victory of qualifying for the playoffs. Patti tallied a team-best 21 goals and added six assists on his way to earning first team all-district honors for the third consecutive season.

JOEY PERRYMAN

F, Flower Mound, Sr.



After inexperience sunk Flower Mound near the bottom of the 6-6A table in 2020, an added cohesion and the return of star player Perryman lifted the Jaguars back to the postseason. A breakout star from Flower Mound's state title team in 2019, Perryman was on top of his game as a senior with 11 goals and five assists, plus a 6-6A MVP nod for good measure.

ELIJAH ELIAS

MF, The Colony, Sr.



Elias overcame a bout with cancer while in the seventh grade to become one of the top midfielders to don a Cougar jersey. Named the midfielder of the year for 10-5A, Elias finished tied for the team lead in goals with 13 to go along with six assists. One of nine seniors on the team, Elias helped to pave the way for the Cougars' first district title since 1998 and later a shootout win over Frisco Liberty for their first postseason victory in seven years.

ETHAN SAMPSON

MF, Sachse, Sr.



The district MVP often goes to the best player on the best team, and if that was the criteria, then Sampson filled that role for the district champion Mustangs, as he was selected as the 9-6A MVP. The senior was a steady force in Sachse's run to the regional semifinals, registering eight goals and dishing out a team-high 11 assists.

AIDEN CUMBIE

MF, Reedy, Sr.



The Lions have just one playoff appearance in their program history but they nearly doubled that total and Cumbie was a catalyst. The 9-5A co-midfielder of the year, he led Reedy in scoring with eight goals and 10 assists. Cumbie's all-around play in the midfield was also a big reason why the Lions picked up points in their last five district matches to move them into a tie for fourth, where they were eliminated via a tiebreaker.

ETHAN LOPEZ

D, Centennial, Sr.



The Titans had not made the playoffs since 2018 but were determined to change that and Lopez was a big reason for the third-place finish. He was named 9-5A's defensive player of the year, as Centennial posted five shutouts and held opponents to one goal or less on 14 occasions. But Lopez could also impact the match on the other end of the field, where he recorded a pair of goals and two assists.

WOODI PONDECA

D, Marcus, Sr.



Whereas the Marauders produced at a prolific scoring rate during their 2020 district title run, Marcus locked down its share of opponents during the program's repeat run to the top of 6-6A in 2021. Pondeca was the centerpiece of that effort, named 6-6A defensive player of the year after anchoring a back line that helped limit opponents to 0.63 goals per match and totaled 11 shutouts.

LUKE MALONE

D, McKinney North, Sr.



Although the Bulldogs missed the playoffs, it wasn't for a lack of effort on defense. North closed the season strong with wins over Rock Hill and Wylie East, plus a tie with The Colony, where the Bulldogs allowed one goal or less against all three playoff-bound teams. Malone earned 10-5A defensive player of the year honors for his work in the back but was able to get involved on the attack as well with three goals and two assists.

CONNOR PETTIGREW

GK, Wakeland, Sr.

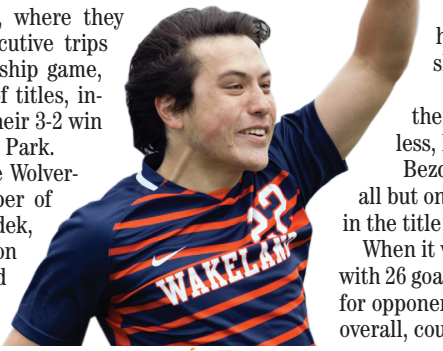


The Wolverines put up eye-popping offensive numbers, but teams do not often win state championships without a standout in net as well. Selected as the 9-5A goalkeeper of the year, Pettigrew recorded 11 shutouts on the season and had 10 additional matches where the defense allowed just a single score. Pettigrew also came up big time and time again in the playoffs, where he not only made key saves but also delivered the game-winning penalty kick in a shootout win over R.L. Turner.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

BRENNAN BEZDEK

Wakeland, Jr.



No team can match Wakeland's resume in recent years, where they have made five consecutive trips to the state championship game, highlighted by a trio of titles, including in April with their 3-2 win over Humble Kingwood Park.

During that run, the Wolverines have had a number of stars emerged and Bezdek, who was a freshman on the runner-up squad two years ago, is the latest to step into

that role.

Bezdek's talents were recognized against some of the best in 9-5A, which is arguably the deepest district in the state, where he was voted as the offensive player of the year.

But Wakeland teams are measured by what happens in the playoffs and that is when he showed his best.

Six of the Wolverines' seven matches during their playoff run were decided by two goals or less, heightening the importance of every score.

Bezdek tallied at least one goal and one assist in all but one of those matches, including a pair of points in the title game.

When it was all said done, Bezdek finished the season with 26 goals and 12 assists, and the frightening prospect for opponents is that he and Wakeland, who were 24-1-1 overall, could be even better next season.



» ALLEN » CARROLLTON » CELINA » COPPELL » FLOWER MOUND » FRISCO » LAKE CITIES » LEWISVILLE » LITTLE ELM » MCKINNEY » MESQUITE » PLANO » ROWLETT » THE COLONY

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

SAM PRESSER

Allen, Sr.



The Eagles enjoyed their best season ever in 2021, advancing to the Class 6A state semifinals for the deepest playoff run in program history.

Plenty of that success stemmed from a penchant for finding the back of the net, and no one at Allen, and perhaps even the Metroplex, was better at that than Presser.

The Eagles' leading scorer produced 36 goals in his momentous senior season, chipping in five assists as the heartbeat of the Allen front line. Presser was a

near-lock to find the back of the net at least once in a given contest, averaging 1.3 goals scored on the year and finishing the regular season with the area lead in goals scored among 6A programs.

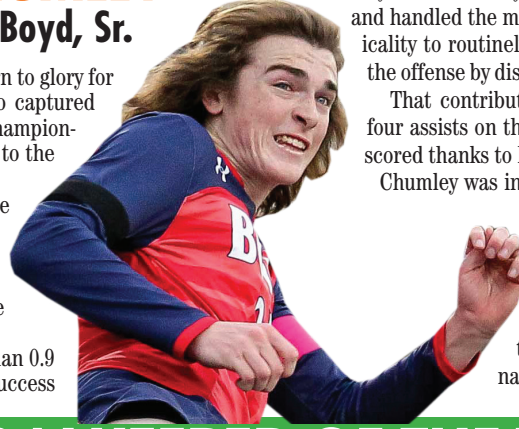
He carried that momentum into the postseason, scoring at least one goal in each of the Eagles' first five playoff wins.

An all-area accolade scratches the surface of Presser's postseason awards, named MVP of District 5-6A and an all-state first-team selection by the Texas Association of Soccer Coaches.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

LUKE CHUMLEY

McKinney Boyd, Sr.



The 2021 season saw a return to glory for the McKinney Boyd boys, who captured the program's first district championship since 2018 and advanced to the regional quarterfinals.

With that resurgence came one of the area's stingiest defenses, captained by Chumley, the 5-6A defensive player of the year and a TASCOS all-state first-team selection.

The Broncos allowed less than 0.9 goals per match in 2021 — success

that stemmed from the team's move to a three-back defensive system. Chumley slid into the center back role and handled the move with ease — using his physicality to routinely win balls and help jump start the offense by distributing the ball from the back.

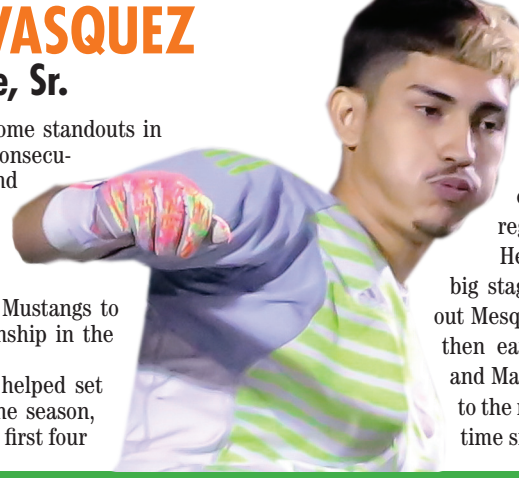
That contributed to Chumley chipping in for four assists on the season, as well as three goals scored thanks to his execution on set pieces.

Chumley was instrumental during the Broncos' run to 5-6A supremacy as Boyd allowed just seven goals over the course of 12 district matches. In fact, no team scored multiple goals against the Broncos over the team's final 15 matches of the season.

GOALKEEPER OF THE YEAR

CARLOS VASQUEZ

Sachse, Sr.



The Mustangs have had some standouts in net during their run of six consecutive playoff appearances and Vasquez is the latest to step into that role.

The senior was chosen as the 9-6A goalkeeper of the year, as he helped lead the Mustangs to their third district championship in the last six years.

Vasquez and the defense helped set the tone from the start of the season, posting three shutouts in the first four

matches.

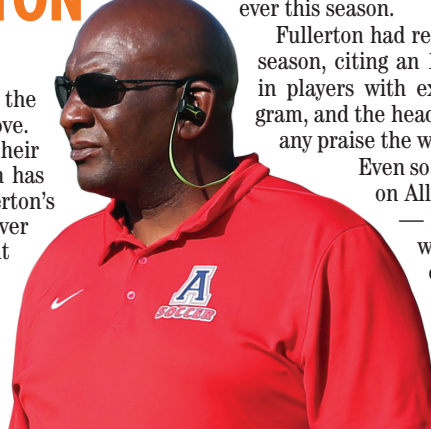
It was a trend that would continue throughout the year, as Vasquez and the defense recorded 18 shutouts and did not allow more than one goal in a match during the regular season.

He also came through on the big stage, as he helped Sachse shut out Mesquite in the playoff opener and then earn one-goal wins over Bryan and Mansfield Lake Ridge to advance to the regional semifinals for the first time since 2017.

COACH OF THE YEAR

KIM FULLERTON

Allen



Since Fullerton's hiring in 2016, all the Eagles have done each season is improve.

Be it their standing in district or their advancement in the postseason, Allen has been on a steady ascent under Fullerton's watch. The Eagles won their first-ever district championship in 2019 and built off that by advancing to the regional semifinals.

In line for back-to-back conference crowns before having last season cut short by the pandemic, Fullerton and the Eagles made up for lost time by

advancing to the state semifinals for the first time ever this season.

Fullerton had reason for optimism early in the season, citing an 18-player senior class chalked in players with experience in the Eagles' program, and the head coach is often quick to direct any praise the way of those players.

Even so, Fullerton had his fingerprints on Allen's historic campaign as well — instilling a tireless work ethic within the roster and helping engineer an offense that averaged more than three goals per match.

Fullerton was named TASCOS's Region I-6A coach of the year.

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

COOPER TEA

Sachse, Soph.



Tea was somewhat of an unknown commodity when the season began, but the sophomore quickly made his impact felt.

So much so that he was selected the 9-6A newcomer of the year.

Tea emerged as a go-to player on

offense, where he recorded a team-high 15 goals and also dealt out seven assists.

Tea did not back away from the big stage, either, recording an assist in his first playoff match—a 2-0 bi-district win over Mesquite.

It was no fluke, as Tea tallied a goal in their 3-2 victory over Bryan and another against Cypress Bridgeland.

Tea also had to be dual-minded with his defensive role as a midfielder.

For the season, Sachse posted a 20-6-2 record and advanced to the regional semifinals for the third time in its last five postseason trips.

SECOND TEAM

MARCOS ARANA

F, Celina, Sr.



Opposing defenses often had to pick their poison in focusing on Cantoran or Arana, and both players impressed plenty during their respective senior campaigns. Arana scored 32 goals and logged seven assists for the eventual state semifinalist, named 11-4A's offensive player of the year and to the TASCOS all-region team as a result.

DAMIAN CASTORENA

F, Little Elm, Sr.



Little Elm recently completed its first season as a Class 6A school, but that didn't slow down Castorena. The forward was one of the best strikers not only for the Lobos but in all of 5-6A, finishing with a team-best 18 goals — seven of those tallies coming in conference play. Castorena was a first-team all-district selection.

YOSMAR REYES

F, The Colony, Sr.



Reyes was always a threat to score when he had the ball on his foot, as evidenced by his 13 goals and team-high 34 points, earning him 10-5A co-offensive player of the year in the process. One of Reyes' defining moments came in the Cougars' March 19 regular-season finale against Denison, a game in which he scored a hat trick to help propel The Colony to its first district title in 23 years.

MAX FLAVIANI

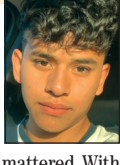
F, Centennial, Sr.



Flaviani helped the Titans return to the playoffs for the first time in three seasons with his creative work up front, as he led an offense that was shut out only four times in 23 matches. The senior emerged as their go-to scorer, leading the team with 16 goals overall. Four of those came in the playoffs, where Centennial advanced three rounds deep before falling to district rival Frisco.

GAEL CANCINO

MF, Mesquite, Sr.



The dynamic junior was a force in the middle and was voted as the 10-6A midfielder of the year as he helped lead the Skeeters back to the playoffs. The senior recorded nine goals and five assists, but it was also when he scored them that mattered. With Mesquite trying to battle back into the playoff race, Cancino tallied goals in the final minute of regulation against Rockwall and Skyline to help the Skeeters extend their postseason streak.

MICHAEL MYERS

MF, Lovejoy, Sr.



The Leopards had a sizable hole to fill on offense after the departure of 2020 all-area pick Riley O'Donnell, but Myers helped steady the tide for the program. The star midfielder scored 11 goals and added four assists on his way to 10-5A co-offensive player of the year honors. He helped lead Lovejoy back to the playoffs and an appearance in the bi-district round.

ALEX SALVO

MF, Coppell, Sr.



One of the best midfielders to have come through Coppell, according to Cowboys head coach James Balcom, Salvo helped the Cowboys to clinch a postseason berth for the 24th consecutive season. Named the 6-6A midfielder of the year for his efforts on the pitch this season, Salvo was also an excellent source of offense for Coppell. Salvo finished tied for third on the team in goals scored with six.

REECE SPEARS

D, Sachse, Sr.



Spears was a top contender for 9-6A defensive player of the year and it is not difficult to see why as he established himself as one of the top center backs in the area. Spears captained a Sachse defensive unit that posted 18 shutouts overall and held opponents to 0.54 goals per match, including only 0.36 per game during district play, as the Mustangs made their way to the regional semifinals.

MATT DIAZ

D, Frisco, Sr.



After missing all of last season with an injury, Diaz returned to form and stepped into a new position, where he was selected to the first-team defense. A team captain, Diaz helped lead a defensive unit that recorded six shutouts. In addition to his work in the back, Diaz was also an integral part of the offense, where he tallied seven goals and six assists for a Frisco team that advanced to the regional semifinals.

ABDULLAH BOUTARI

D, The Colony, Sr.



Named a first-team selection out of 10-5A, Boutari helped anchor a stingy Cougar back line that allowed just 26 goals on the season for an average of 1.04 goals allowed per match. Boutari also factored into what was a balanced offensive attack for The Colony, scoring four goals and adding four assists, with half of that goal total coming in a Jan. 26 match against Prosper Rock Hill.

JACKSON LEAVITT

GK, Allen, Sr.



Last year's all-area goalkeeper of the year, Leavitt was vital in helping Allen reach the state semifinals. He allowed just 0.48 goals per match and totaled 11 clean sheets in net on his way to 5-6A goalkeeper of the year honors — his third consecutive season earning his district's top keeper superlative — and a TASCOS all-state first-team selection.