

## FIRST TEAM

### HALLE SCHRODER OH, Frisco Reedy, Jr.

The 9-5A volleyball race was one of the most tightly contested in the area, that is, except at the top, where the Lions pulled away to win the district championship by five games. Schroder was the catalyst, recording 389 kills, an average of 3.2 per set, 364 digs, which was 3.0 per game, to go along with 54 aces and 40 blocks on her way to district MVP honors. Reedy not only won the 9-5A title, it made history, advancing to the regional championship game for the first time ever.



### MACY TAYLOR OH, Sachse, Jr.

Taylor was selected as the 9-6A MVP, leading the Mustangs to an undefeated run to the district championship. Taylor did a little bit of everything for the Mustangs, recording 492 kills, an average of 3.3 per set with a .258 hitting percentage. She was also a standout on defense with 390 digs, which is 3.0 per game, and 51 blocks. She added 54 aces behind the service line.



### BELLA ORTIZ MB, Flower Mound, Sr.

The Lady Jaguars turned in yet another dominant regular season en route to capturing at least a share of the district title for the fourth straight year. Ortiz has been a centerpiece for three of those runs, including as a senior when she accounted for 341 kills, 127 digs, 90 blocks and 32 aces. She was named AVCA All-America third team and 6-6A's blocker of the year.



### AUDREY CLARK S, Frisco Wakeland, Jr.

The Wolverines returned to the playoffs this season and advanced to the regional quarterfinals before falling to eventual state champion Lovejoy and Clark was a big reason why. Clark, who was selected as the 9-5A outstanding setter, ranked among the state leaders with an eye-popping total of 1,142 assists, an average of 9.0 per set. In addition to her duties running the Wakeland offense, Clark also added 302 digs, 91 kills, 35 aces and 34 blocks.



### AVA CAMACHO L, Lovejoy, Sr.

The Lady Leopards' back row was in good hands with Camacho, an AVCA All-America honorable mention anchoring the defense. The UT-San Antonio signee and all-district first-team selection tallied 785 digs as a senior, good for nearly six per set, to go along with 171 assists and 62 aces as a key cog in Lovejoy's run to a third straight state title.



### ROSEMARY ARCHER UTIL, Lovejoy, Sr.

Splitting 10-5A co-MVP honors with Nicholson, Archer did it all and then some for the 5A state champion Lady Leopards. An AVCA All-America second-team selection, Archer juggled setting duties with Carlson to the tune of 563 assists to go along with 409 kills, 71 aces, 384 digs and 32 blocks — a dizzying versatility that netted the Pepperdine commit all-tournament honors at state.



## SETTER OF THE YEAR

### LILY NICHOLSON McKinney North, Jr.

Nicholson occupied this exact space as part of Star Local Media's all-area volleyball team in 2020 — a deserved accolade after the setter helped ignite a historic year for the Lady Bulldogs, who made their deepest-ever playoff run by advancing to the regional finals.

The bar was high for Nicholson and her



teammates heading into 2021. And although Frisco Reedy cut North's run short in the regional quarterfinals, the program still continued its ascent behind a 26-9 record and its first-ever district championship. Nicholson was integral in that success, surpassing her 939 assists from a year ago with a whopping 1,080 as a junior. Averaging 11.1 assists per set for a hyper-efficient North offense, Nicholson was also a force at the net with 132 kills on .388 hitting to go along with 21 blocks and 320 digs for the 10-5A co-champions. The rest of the district took notice, voting Nicholson as the league's co-MVP alongside Lovejoy star Rosemary Archer.

## COACH OF THE YEAR

### GINGER MURRAY Celina

Murray had plenty of reason for optimism heading into the 2021 season. She coached a young Celina team to the regional quarterfinals the year prior and that group graduated just one player heading into this fall.

The Lady Bobcats built off the potential they showcased in 2020 and turned in the program's landmark year on the volleyball courts.

Murray coached Celina to a 42-2 record, which culminated in the team's first-ever appearance at the Class 4A state tournament. The Lady Bobcats weren't merely spectators either, advancing to the state final before falling to reigning 4A champ Decatur.

It was a special year and a special group for Murray, now in her fourth season at the helm. She helped develop a rotation chalked in players who began seeing significant playing time as freshmen and sophomores, all while instilling a mentality steeped in patience and composure.

Celina kept a relaxed, even keel on the court and it showed — hardly looking like a team making its state tournament debut once that moment arrived.

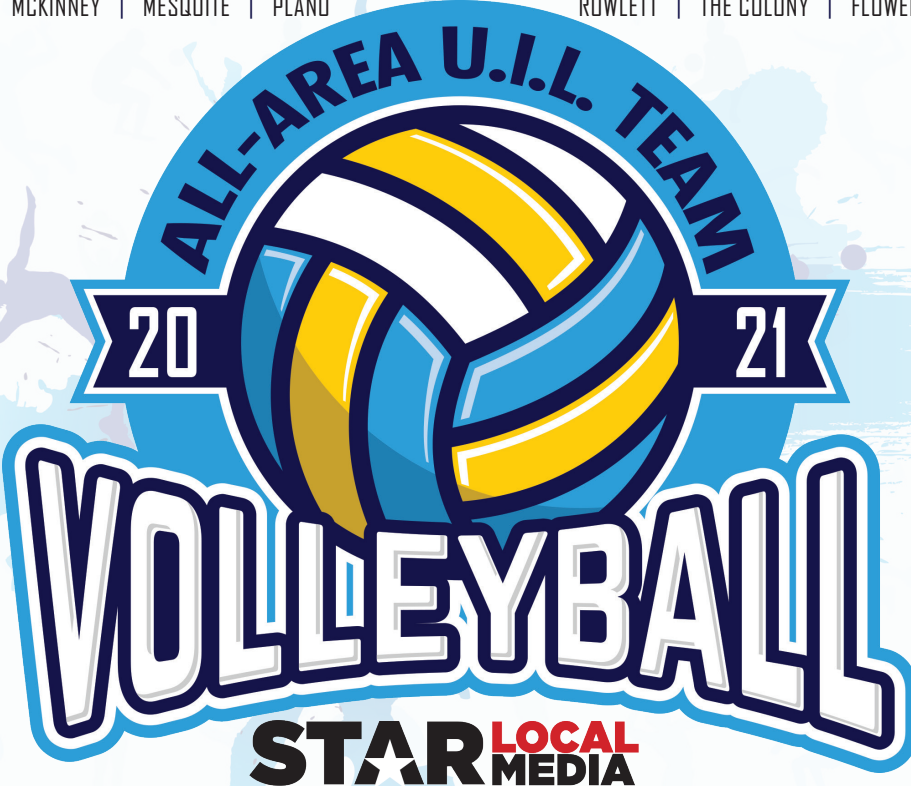


ALLEN | CARROLLTON | CELINA | COPPELL | FRISCO

MCKINNEY | MESQUITE | PLANO

LAKE CITIES | LEWISVILLE | LITTLE ROCK

ROWLETT | THE COLONY | FLOWER MOUND



## MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

### AVERI CARLSON Lovejoy, Sr.

The state's preeminent floor general on the high school volleyball hardwood, Carlson closed the book on a decorated career in familiar fashion as a senior — leading the Lady Leopards to their third consecutive Class 5A state championship.

Carlson was given the keys to the car as a freshman and was up to the task of running the offense for one of the country's premier volleyball programs. And although her production remained elite as a senior, Carlson acclimated to a role change within the Lovejoy offense.

Under first-year head coach Natalie Puckett, the Lady Leopards ran a two-setter system that split

passing duties largely between Carlson and senior Rosemary Archer. Although Carlson engineered the Lovejoy attack to the tune of 919 assists, she took on a more pronounced role as a hitter with 212 kills — 100 more than her previous season high.

Carlson added 72 aces, 378 digs (both career-high marks) and 23 blocks en route to District 10-5A setter of the year honors, an American Volleyball Coaches Association All-America first-team selection and a spot in the Under Armour All-America Volleyball Game.

Carlson backed up those accolades by earning MVP honors at the 5A state tournament, submitting a triple-double of 10 kills, 16 assists and 10 digs in a 3-0 sweep of Grapevine in the state final.



## HITTER OF THE YEAR

### MAGGIE BOYD Marcus, Sr.

doubles as one of the most imposing hitters in the area.

Boyd played all over the floor for Marcus, indispensable with her ability to impact the game in various ways. She was at her best at the net, however, producing 601 kills on .330 hitting to go along with 486 digs, 54 aces, 49 blocks and 35 assists.

She was named an AVCA All-America first-team selection and the 6-6A MVP after helping lead the Lady Marauders to a three-way split of the district title with Flower Mound and Plano West — a resurgent run for a program that had to play the homestretch of district and its entire postseason without star blocker Ifenna Cos-Okpalla, who was sidelined by injury.

Boyd's well-rounded play helped keep Marcus afloat, so much so that the program advanced to the regional quarterfinals for the first time since 2011.



## BLOCKER OF THE YEAR

Very few teams in any sport can proudly boast that they have never missed the playoffs.

The Sachse volleyball team is one of the select few, a feat even more impressive considering the Mustangs began varsity play under head coach Rikki Jones back in 2004.

A big reason that Sachse has been able to maintain that level of consistent success has been the ability to reload year after year.

Anyanwu is one of the latest breakout stars, having been a key figure in the rotation for the last two seasons. This season, the 6-foot-2



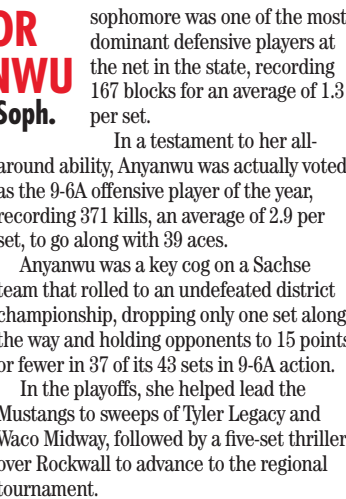
### FAVOR ANYANWU Sachse, Soph.

sophomore was one of the most dominant defensive players at the net in the state, recording 167 blocks for an average of 1.3 per set.

In a testament to her all-around ability, Anyanwu was actually voted as the 9-6A offensive player of the year, recording 371 kills, an average of 2.9 per set, to go along with 39 aces.

Anyanwu was a key cog on a Sachse team that rolled to an undefeated district championship, dropping only one set along the way and holding opponents to 15 points or fewer in 37 of its 43 sets in 9-6A action.

In the playoffs, she helped lead the Mustangs to sweeps of Tyler Legacy and Waco Midway, followed by a five-set thriller over Rockwall to advance to the regional tournament.



## LIBERO OF THE YEAR

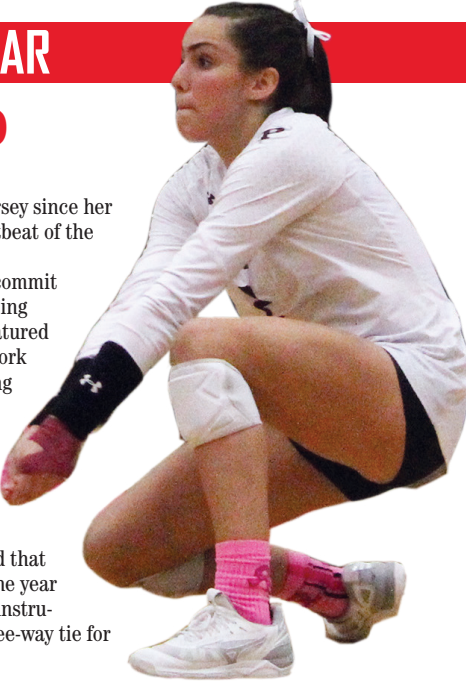
### NAYLANI FELICIANO Plano, Sr.

Feliciano has donned the Lady Wildcats' libero jersey since her freshman year and has been entrenched as the heartbeat of the Plano defense ever since.

Across her first three years on varsity, the Miami commit was named to the all-district team each season. Helping keep the Lady Wildcats game in a league that has featured some of the state's most potent hitters, Feliciano's work helming the back row was amplified even more during a prolific senior campaign.

Feliciano tallied 871 digs on the year, surpassing the 2,000-dig mark for her career along the way. She averaged 7.4 digs per set (and 23.7 per match) while also posting 53 aces, 66 assists and a 2.51 serve-receive pass rating.

She drew praise from many an opposing coach and that reflected in being named 6-6A's defensive player of the year and an AVCA All-America first-team selection — an instrumental cog in Plano's second-half rally to force a three-way tie for fourth place in the district.



## UTILITY PLAYER OF THE YEAR

### HARMONY SAMPLE Hebron, Sr.

From the moment she began contributing for the Lady Hawks as a freshman in 2018, Sample's versatility has been a firm part in Hebron's identity over the past four seasons.

An all-area second-team selection in 2019, Sample stuffed the stat sheet like few players in the area — finding ways to impact the match each rotation.

That remained the case in 2021 as Sample capped her decorated high school career by leading a resurgent finish for the Lady Hawks, who parlayed a fourth-place finish in 6-6A into a trip to the regional semifinals.

Sample had plenty of say in that success, totaling 611 kills on a .337 hitting percentage, as well as 547 assists, 66 aces, 345 digs and 113 blocks.

Committed to play at Notre Dame, Sample's well-rounded play earned her hitter of the year honors in 6-6A and a selection to the Under Armour All-America Volleyball Game.



## SECOND TEAM

### HANNAH BILLETER OH, McKinney Boyd, Sr.

One half of the Lady Broncos' veteran hitting duo alongside fellow senior Avery Calame, Billeter repeated as 5-6A offensive player of the year as a senior, and for good reason. The BYU signee and AVCA All-America honorable mention pick totaled 439 kills, 373 digs and 28 aces over 93 sets for a Boyd team that submitted a runner-up district finish.



### AYDEN AMES OH, Prosper, Soph.

A move-in from California who acclimated to a new position, Ames handled that transition in stride. Voted as newcomer of the year in 5-6A, Ames led the Lady Eagles in kills with 455 to go along with 46 aces, 68 blocks and 138 digs — helping lead Prosper reach the regional quarterfinals as a No. 4 seed.



### IFENNA COS-OKPALLA MB, Marcus, Sr.

Although Cos-Okpalla was sidelined by injury late in the season, missing Marcus' run to the regional quarterfinals as a result, the Texas A&M-bound blocker was a force when on the court. An AVCA All-America first-team selection, Cos-Okpalla was responsible for 244 kills and 124 blocks across 107 sets played, as well as 46 digs and 13 aces.



### ALESSANDRA PANTOJA S, Hebron, Sr.

Pantoja, committed to Dominican College, was the engine for the Hebron offense — spreading the ball around and then some on her way to 6-6A setter of the year honors. Pantoja totaled a staggering 981 assists as a senior and added 53 aces and 243 digs to help Hebron's late-season surge to the regional semifinals.



### ZORIA HEARD L, Sachse, Sr.

The Texas A&M-Commerce signee, a four-time all-district honoree, was voted as the 9-6A defensive player of the year for the second time. Heard tallied 680 digs, an average of 5.2 per set, with 64 aces and a 2.04 passing percentage. Heard, the 2020 Texas Girls Coaches Association All-Star Game MVP, finished her high school career with 2,139 digs and 214 aces in helping lead the Mustangs to four consecutive district championships.



### MEGAN HODGES UTIL, Celina, Sr.

Hodges' versatile skill set was vital for a Lady Bobcat squad that made its first-ever trip to the Class 4A state tournament. She paced the state runners-up with 352 kills, 88 aces, 21 blocks, 658 assists and 357 digs. Her passing and command of the Celina offense netted setter of the year honors in 9-4A.

