

Our WINNING

The Longhorn 2025

Dorchester High School

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LEAVING *our* MARK

Dorchester High School

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"Leaving Their Mark" with school spirit, the team of sophomores Mackenzie Yager, Emilia Perez & Lily Lehr prepare for the dance contest by hyping up the crowd.

LEAVING Our MARK

We didn't just pass through the halls, we "Left Our Mark."

From the first rays of senior sunrise to the sound of the final bell, the Longhorns made every moment count. We didn't just show up—we showed who we were, and in everything we did, we "Left Our Mark."

We "Left Our Mark" on the court. The volleyball team shattered the school's dig record, proving that resilience, hustle, and heart can take you farther than ever before.

With a brand-new

shot clock counting down above the court, our basketball teams turned up the intensity, setting a new pace for what it meant to compete with pride. Every game was more than a competition—it was a moment to "Leave Our Mark" on the scoreboard, the stands and one another.

We "Left Our Mark" in color. From transforming senior parking spots into personal masterpieces, to leaving a splash of color on the walls. We brought creativity, bold energy to every corner, that will

remind everyone that tradition doesn't mean standing still; it means building on the past while shaping the future.

Our school banner received a much-needed upgrade too, flying higher and proud as a symbol of who we are and where we're going. Our school banner flew higher than ever, ready to represent our Longhorn pride.

The year wasn't just a chapter; it was a turning point to "Leave Our Mark." It was a time when we showed what it meant to be passionate, proud and ready for what's ahead.



"Leaving His Mark" while playing musical chairs, senior Owen Vyhnaek lies in defeat as his fellow competitors, Hunter Sherwood, Cameron Yager, Juliann Roan Eagle, Blake Cerny, Amanda Easley, Carter Cerny, Ella Vyhnaek, Erik Paiz, Esthefanie Pozo, Bailey Velder, Mackenzie Yager and the crowd laughs during the Homecoming Pep Rally Games.

Dancing along to the song "Cotton Eye Joe" by Rednex, sophomore Livia Schweitzer links arms with her guest, Alexis Paulson, as they swing around in a circle at Prom.



There were many ways of "Leaving Our Mark." Sometimes that meant trying new things or doing things in a new way.

The senior class for the first time had the opportunity to "Leave Their Mark" by painting their own parking spots. "I liked painting our parking spots because it was a way of showing our personality and what we valued," senior Andrea Pavlish said.

With a Las Vegas theme, the junior class brought Prom back to the school rather than having it at Tabor Hall. "I really liked how they decorated," sophomore Briana Tellez said. "It was also nice that we could have Prom and Post Prom in the same place."

Weather also "Left A Mark" that no one would soon forget. We had six canceled days from snow, had to postpone Elementary Field Day twice, moved the Elementary Carnival indoors, lost electricity for days, and hid away in the locker rooms during a tornado warning. It was a year that "Left A Mark" on us, and it made us show the grit that we had inside. "It was hard having six days off because of snow storms and not having electricity," junior Chase Tachovsky said. "Some students didn't have electricity for a week. The teachers also seemed to push us to get through everything in second semester since we lost so many days."

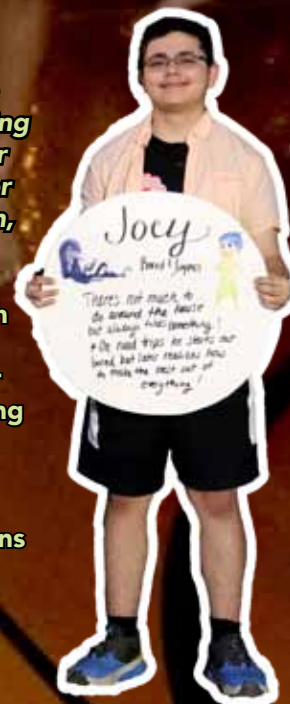
Students had many opportunities to "Leave Their Mark" on many different trips like Peru State College for Criminal Justice Day, Southeast Community College for Career Transportation Day, and Isis Theater in Crete to watch *Charlotte's Web* for elementary students that met their AR goals. "My favorite event was Criminal Justice Day. We enjoyed the Milo Simulator," sophomore Emilia Perez said. "We also did a jail search where we investigated a jail cell and had to draw out what we saw. My team placed first."

During the week of girls state basketball, the whole experience of going to State, winning, having three parades, send offs, the whole town coming together before and at the games, and the after season celebration "Left A Mark" on everyone. "Going on the spirit bus was so fun. We played music and got students excited for the game," freshman Ella Vyhnaelek said. "It seemed like the whole town showed up to cheer on the girls. It's an experience no one will forget."

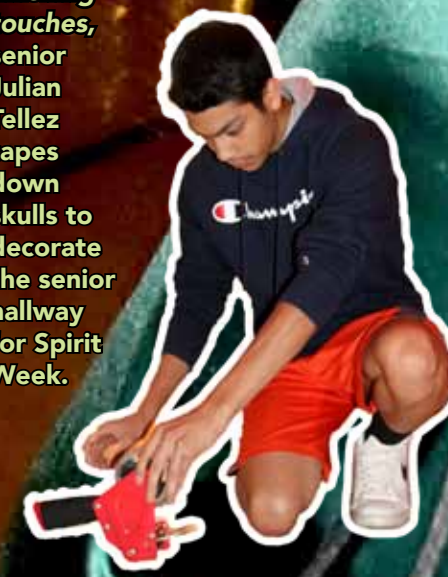
Sometimes you "Leave A Mark" but sometimes, it "Leaves A Mark" on you. "I love it when we can accomplish and go through things together," freshman Faith Elkins said. "That way we can all have the same experiences and share the memories as Longhorns."

Leaving Our Mark STUDENT LIFE

During the Homecoming Hamburger Feed senior recognition, Joseph Peacock stands with his Inside Out poster representing that he expresses ennui and joy emotions the most.



Making finishing touches, senior Julian Tellez tapes down skulls to decorate the senior hallway for Spirit Week.



Wearing his Jurassic Park Ranger outfit, freshman Max Novak gets excited when his class places third for Dress As Your Hallway Day during Spirit Week.



Biting into the grilled burger, senior Ariana Tellez feasts at the hamburger feed set up by the Booster Club after students rode on their floats around town.



Roaring loudly in elation at her final opponent, freshman Ella Vyhnaelek celebrates her victory in Musical Chairs against Ms. Bailey Velder.



Preparing a sign for the hallway competition, seventh graders Broden Whitney and Jennifer Acosta paint "Game Over" for the Harvard Cardinals" which went with their game theme.



Screaming along in excitement, freshman Max Novak gets pumped up at the bonfire as everyone joins in on the chants.



Q: What did you think of the games?

A: "My favorite was the Balloon Relay; it was crazy."

Kendall Kasl, 9th

A: "My least favorite was the Balloon Relay because I was so slow."

Caden Axline, 11th

A: "My favorite was the Feather Crawl because of everyone screaming at the crawlers."

Coleton Harrison, 10th



Holding their horns up high, students end off the night with a group chant at the bonfire. "Go Big D!!"



Carefully holding the turtle silhouette, sophomore Mackenzie Yager creates a convincing underwater decoration for their themed hallway.

Fighting to stay in the game, senior Gabrielle Theis launches herself on top of Mrs. Amanda Easley during Musical Chairs.



STAMPEDING

to show our spirit

Spirit Week was a big moment for students to have fun with many games and activities. Students enjoyed their time by playing games like Musical Chairs, Feather Crawl, Balloon Relay, and math problems on a football and volleyball. "I made a lot of great memories," eighth grader Erik Paiz said. "Spirit Week is my favorite time of school because I get to hang out with my friends and not have to worry about schoolwork."

On Wednesday the students made their floats with arts and crafts. "We used the stuff in our hallway and a couple of items we bought to decorate our float," sophomore Briana Tellez said.

After building their floats, students lined up and went around 9th St. and Main St. on their floats throwing candy to the kids and parents alike. "Watching kids run for the candy was funny to see," eighth grader Dominick Winter said.

When students arrived back at the school, a hamburger feed was waiting in the back parking lot. Students enjoyed a freshly grilled burger, a variety of chips, and some delicious desserts. "I always look forward to the hamburger feed,"

sophomore Jonathan Hernandez said. "Throwing candy and screaming our class graduation year is exhausting." When everyone finished eating, Mrs. Lutjemeyer gathered all of the seniors to show off what *Inside Out* character represented them the most from their parents' perspective, from joy all the way to anger. "The characters that best described me were anger and anxiety," senior Karina Maldonado said. "I think that was pretty true."

When the time came to watch the big "D," everyone gathered around the bonfire. Students spent their time with their classes and friends, chanting and watching the "D" burn. "I had so much fun with friends; I started losing my voice," senior Andrea Pavlish said.

On Friday, the school was overflowing with spirit. They gathered in the front gym to play games. "My favorite game was feather crawl," senior Joseph Peacock said. "I happened to be taking pictures so I was close to the action."

In Musical Chairs, breaths were held, as it came down to a student and a teacher for the last person sitting to win.

"I couldn't believe I won against Ms. Velder," freshman Ella Vyhnaelek said. "I felt like I had won it for all the kids against the teachers."

All-in-all, Spirit Week proved to be a time filled with school spirit and bonding. "With this being my final Spirit Week, I'm glad my class won first place in the Spirit Week games," senior Atley Zoubek said. "It was a great way to end the week."



Rigorously crawling to catch up, senior Andrea Pavlish blows a feather across the gym floor to win the "Feather Crawl" game.

Yelling and cheering for the football team scoring their first touchdown, Elayna Hoskinson, Lily Lehr, Micaela Loarca, Briana Tellez, Mackenzie Yager, Bailey Theis and Emilia Perez clap and jump for joy.

High school is often seen as an important time in life, where friendships can last a lifetime and memories are created. Many students strove to **"Leave Their Mark,"** whether through academics, sports or the arts. This search for individuality often brought them closer together, forming a unique bond that resembled family. **"Leaving Our Mark"** in high school was about leaving a lasting impression, not just academically, but socially and personally as well.

These students supported one another through victories and challenges side by side. The bonds they created throughout the high school experience meant **"Leaving Our Mark"** with one another.

The relationships built along the way created a significant impact. Many students engaged in community service or leadership roles and strove to **"Leave Their Mark"** in their school and local community. "I enjoyed helping out with the Reading Carnival," sophomore Livia Schweitzer said. "I had fun helping the little kids play their games."

Students weren't the only ones helping. Although we had many staff members helping out with the school, volunteer Mimi Axline was recognized with

the NSAA Above and Beyond Award. Her dedication truly showed us how to **"Leave Our Mark."** "I really enjoy seeing her help around the school," freshman Kendall Kasl said. "I think after so many years of helping the early elementary children, helping in art and taking all of the photos around the school and at games, she truly deserved it."

Some staff had already been **"Leaving Their Mark."** Journalism teacher Sandy Severance received the Nebraska High School Press Association Distinguished Adviser of the Year Award which was voted on by other journalism teachers. Severance had taught journalism for 30 years showing her commitment to high school journalism and excellence. "It was amazing to be honored for all the hard work I have put in to make the journalism program one of the best in the state," Severance said.

Alongside that, our girls basketball coach Brandon Bruha was named NebPeps Coach of the Year. "He deserved it the most," senior Baylor Behrens said. "He really made a difference in how well we played."

Ultimately, high school was more than just an educational experience, it was a time for growth, connection and leaving a lasting legacy. It was a time to **"Leave Our Mark."**

Sitting down at a pep rally, juniors Hunter Wake, Carter Cerny, Chase Tachovsky, and Caden Axline enjoy a cup of hot chocolate.

Holding balloons to sell at the first home football game of the school year, sophomore Tessa Martin tries to get others pumped up for the game.

Dancing to "Single Ladies" by Beyonce during the Homecoming Dance, junior Savannah June waves her finger as she sings along.

Leaving Our Mark PEOPLE

Running through the Sterling Jets defense, junior Carter Cerny fights through the opponent's hands and arms to gain extra yardage down the field.



Athletes **"Left Their Mark"** by breaking numerous records and succeeding in ways Dorchester teams have never seen before.

The volleyball team placed third in the HTRS Tournament, even without their starting rotation because many athletes were injured.

They also broke the digs season record with 1,288 and the kill season record with 806.

In football, the team had many challenges thrown their way like injuries, last minute heartbreaks and lower numbers. Even with all of the challenges, they still celebrated their win over Harvard on Homecoming night, 58-12. "Even through the challenges, this squad had to persevere. They fought all the way to the end," Coach Brent Zoubek said.

Wrestling was able to **"Leave Their Mark"** by being the first all girls wrestling team. "It was nice having an all girls team because we had better communication and a better connection," senior Ariana Tellez said.

The Girls Basketball team definitely **"Left Their Mark"** by breaking many records and making it to State, with the highlight of winning their way to the championship. The Lady Longhorns were the first team in school history to win at State, let alone take home the 2nd place trophy.

The Longhorns also became the winningest basketball team in school history with a record of 25-3. They broke the season assist record with 297

assists and broke the season rebounding record with 769 rebounds. Junior Bailey Theis also broke the individual rebounding record with 223 rebounds.

The Lady Longhorns also placed third in the CRC Tournament. "Looking back through my basketball career, this was the perfect season. I was glad we **"Left Our Mark"** on the school and the community," senior Baylor Behrens said.

In track, the athletes **"Left Their Mark"** on the track and the field by breaking records and winning medals. The girls team brought home first place at the Paul Underwood Classic Meet in McCool Junction.

Three track athletes also went to State, junior Bailey Theis, senior Baylor Behrens, and freshman Faith Elkins. Theis placed 13th in discus and 3rd in the shot put; Behrens placed 9th in the 100m hurdles and placed 7th in the 300m hurdles; and Elkins placed 18th in the 100m hurdles and 23rd in the 100m dash. "When I made it to State I was so happy; it felt like a dream come true," Elkins said.

Two track athletes also broke school records. Bailey Theis broke the shot put record with 42'11" and Baylor Behrens broke records in the 100m hurdles with 16.47 seconds and the 300m hurdles with 47.35 seconds.

Whatever the occasion, athletes found a way to **"Leave Their Mark"** on the school, community, and the record books.

Flying in the air to meet the volleyball, senior Gabby Theis returns the serve.

Driving past his defender into the paint, freshman Max Novak works it in for a chance at a basket.

Leaving Our Mark SPORTS

Jumping over the hurdles at the McCool Junction Meet, senior Baylor Behrens and freshman Faith Elkins **"Make Their Mark"** in DHS sports history as they leave it all on the track.



Trying to maneuver his way to score a touchdown, junior Chase Tachovsky weaves out of his Red Cloud opponent's range to run to the end zone.

BREAKING THE ground beneath us



Mason June, 10th

"My favorite game was against Pawnee City because even though we lost, we played hard."



Caden Axline, 11th

"My favorite game was against Diller-Odell because I was able to contribute the most in defending."



Owen Vyhnalek, 12th

"My favorite game was against Harvard because it felt like we were playing for everyone, not just ourselves."

Whether it was practicing early before the school day started or until dusk at the end of the day, the football team was full of determination, passion, and commitment. "My goal was to get a lot of touchdowns," sophomore Mason June said. "I achieved it because I ended up with the most touchdowns of the season."

It was a rough start, though, as many players became injured, and others had to learn multiple positions. During the first half of the first game, junior Hunter Wake tore his ACL and meniscus. "I wish I could've at least played a full game," Wake said. "It felt terrible to miss playing the whole season."

Nevertheless, the team put up a fight. "A

strong lesson for us was finding out that we needed to work as a team, and we had to be resilient," junior Chase Tachovsky said.

"I found out that you should be adamant about not missing practice because then we have to run extra," freshman Max Novak said. "Detentions aren't an excuse either."

One game that was anticipated by many was against Harvard. It also ended up being a favorite of many of the players. "It was blissful, knowing that the spotlight was on us and taking home the win," senior Owen Vyhnalek said. "It felt even better knowing it was Homecoming night since we didn't win last year."

"My favorite moments were in the game against Harvard. Every time we scored, they would fire the cannon," freshman Thor

Nerud said. "It was awesome. Everybody would jump from either how loud it was or from the ground shaking. It also turned out to be super illegal, so that was cool."

The season was a teaching, learning, and intense experience. "We were struggling to work as a team for quite a while. We lost so many experienced players and now we had to guide the new ones," junior Caden Axline said. "It was tough, but I think we brought it down to earth for them, and that's when we were really popping off."

The whole team took on responsibility. "It was a good season for us because it never ceased to challenge us. Finishing a season that wasn't what you wanted can be hard, but we pushed through. I'm proud of them for that," Coach Brent Zoubek said.



Football. BR: St. Managers Payton Zoubek, Harrison Vyhnalek, Paxton Behrens, Mason Vyhnalek, Trevin Steuk, Landon Shaw, Myles Vyhnalek & Boone Smith. MR: Bryan Martin, Jorge Reyes, Frank Matejka, Mason June, Blake Cerny, Thor Nerud & Max Novak. FR: Head Coach Brent Zoubek, Carter Cerny, Caden Axline, Ariana Tellez, Owen Vyhnalek, Chase Tachovsky, Hunter Wake, & Asst. Coach Spencer Kotas.



Grappling onto his opponent, freshman Blake Cerny hurls him to the ground and stops his advances in his tracks.



Slowing down their Diller-Odell opponent, junior Caden Axline maintains his grip while freshman Thor Nerud rushes in to assist.



Trying to escape, freshman Bryan Martin works to gain yardage on the play as he carries the football down the field.

Scores

Opponent	Us-Them
Sterling	8-40
Pawnee City	14-58
Heartland Lutheran	28-42
Harvard	58-12
Silver Lake	0-49
Diller-Odell	19-54
Red Cloud	8-60
Meridian	16-54

Special Recognition

1st Team All District

Owen Vyhnalek (Offensive End)
Chase Tachovsky (Punter)

2nd Team All District

Mason June (Offensive End)
Chase Tachovsky (Running Back)
Caden Axline (Defensive Back)

Honorable Mention

All District:

Carter Cerny (Quarterback)

Placing a festive tattoo, senior Baylor Behrens wipes a wet sponge across the girl's cheek at the Morning with Santa event sponsored by FBLA.

Earning countless awards and helping in the community were just some of the ways clubs and organizations were **"Leaving Their Mark"**. The journalism program **"Left Their Mark"** at State Journalism by coming home ranked fifth as a team in Class C. Part of this finish came from Andrea Pavlish, who earned a State Championship in News Feature Writing. "It felt fulfilling to earn fifth place in Action Photography," senior Joseph Peacock said. "I know that there were a lot of entries." The yearbook staff also **"Left Their Mark"** in the National Press Women's Association Contest, with both senior Gabrielle Theis and alumna Hailey Schweitzer placing third. The group also earned many awards in the JEA Contest, the best being a Superior rating in Yearbook Theme Development with the team of Joseph Peacock, Andrea Pavlish and Gabrielle Theis. The band

"Left Their Mark" with a third place finish at the Yorkfest parade. "I was surprised to learn of our third place finish," senior Ariana Tellez said. "I knew there were a lot of good bands there."

Students also **"Left Their Mark"** vocally by attending numerous choral clinics. Attending the CRC Honor Clinic and selected by audition were Ella Vyhnaek, Max Novak, Andrea Pavlish (medaled), & Bailey Theis. The Doane Vocal Festival, a clinic reserved for upperclassmen, was attended by senior Andrea Pavlish and junior Megan Gordon.

At Districts, receiving 1's were Andrea Pavlish for her solo and Max Novak and Ella Vyhnaek for their duet.

The speech team **"Left Their Mark"** by bringing three students to State. Seniors Andrea Pavlish and Owen Vyhnaek placed eighth in Duet Acting, just short of finals. Freshman Ella Vyhnaek also made it to State in Informative Speaking.

The Student Council **"Left its Mark"** by raising \$1000 for the Make a Wish Foundation; NHS and FBLA held blood drives; and FBLA helped with Trunk or Treat for Halloween and Morning with Santa. "It felt great to see the children so excited," senior Atley Zoubek said.

To truly **"Leave Their Mark"** students had to really give their all and help where needed.

Playing the school song, junior Moises Tercero joins the rest of the band with his saxophone during a basketball game.

During the Student Council sponsored trash pickup, juniors Gaden Axline & Chase Tachovsky admire their find and pick up the ran over stop sign while earning community service hours.

During the Spring Music Concert, senior Andrea Pavlish sings "I Dreamed a Dream" from Les Miserables.

Leaving Our Mark CLUBS & ORGS

"Leaving Their Mark" in the history books and celebrating their win bringing them to the championship round of state basketball, junior Bailey Theis & sophomore Mackenzie Yager squeeze each other tight in joy, while sophomores Lily Lehr & Livia Schweitzer follow behind.

LEAVING Our MARK

Students & faculty made it through another year with amazing memories & accomplishments that **"Left a Mark"** on the school & the community.

The girls basketball team **"Left Their Mark"** as they made their way to State along with a spirit bus where students were able to cheer them on. "This was a once in a lifetime opportunity," senior Gabby Theis said. "I was so proud of my team."

Coach Brandon Bruha was awarded NebPreps Coach of the Year for his outstanding

coaching that led the girls to 2nd place in the D-2 State Basketball Tournament.

"Leaving Their Mark," three tracksters qualified for State. Senior Baylor Behrens in 100m & 300m hurdles, freshman Faith Elkins in the 100m hurdles & the 100m dash & junior Bailey Theis in shot put & discus. Theis broke the school record in shot put, throwing 43'9" and Baylor Behrens in 100m Hurdles (16.47 seconds) & 300m hurdles (47.35 seconds).

Journalism **"Left Their Mark"** when as a team they placed 5th at State & senior Andrea Pavlish was State Champion in News Feature Writing. Placing nationally in

the Nebraska Women's Press Assoc. Contest were senior Gabby Theis who placed 3rd in Yearbook Copywriting & Hailey Schweitzer (2024 graduate) who placed 3rd in Double-Truck Layout.

"Leaving Her Mark," Sharon (Mimi) Axline was awarded the NSAA Above & Beyond Award for all she does as a school volunteer.

Students said their goodbyes to Principal Jake Wiese & Superintendent Curt Cogswell who will forever **"Leave a Mark"** on us & the school. "Mr. Wiese & Dr. Cogswell will really be missed," eighth grader Kaithlyn Bolton said.

In every way & every day, we were **"Leaving Our Mark"**

Yearbook Theme Development
Dorchester High School
Emilia Perez Lopez, Briana Tellez, and Lyberty Bartlett

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“Leaving Our Mark” may seem like a trite and overused theme, but we want to explain how it came to be ours. We started thinking about what was new at Dorchester. The seniors came up with the idea to paint parking stalls that marked their places in the parking lot. Over the summer, the entire school was painted in orange and black stripes, which literally took the whole summer to accomplish. From there, the year blew up in ways we’d never seen. Teacher’s won once-in-a-lifetime-awards. Students excelled in new ways. However, the topper for the year was our girls basketball team making it to State and playing in the Championship, something that has never happened in our entire school’s history for any sport. It truly was a year where students “Left Their Mark.”