

Shelter. Seeking a safe place to wait out the tornado, freshmen Joseph Jewitt takes cover under a desk. Students remained in the building for an hour while waiting out the storm.

Chaos in the halls. Scrambling into the building, fans and students swarmed into the the high school. The game was delayed due to the torando warnings and sighting.

Take cover. Waiting until the tornado siren subsides, seniors, Alyssa Shaffer, Taylor Koper, Alyssa Folkers and junior Kaydrin Quest, seek shelter within the South High School gymnasium on the night of the homecoming game.

photos by maddie reih



TOUCHDOWN AT HOMECOMING

by jordan myers
Tornado storm warning puts Homecoming game to a halt

Over the cheers and chants of the student section on homecoming night, one particular noise could be heard, throwing the home and visiting fans and teams into a frenzy. A tornado siren echoed through the stadium, putting a halt to the exciting game and homecoming coronation. Teachers and parents frantically shuffled to move students inside the South High School building for shelter.

As students filled the hallways and classrooms to brace the storm, faces of all RayPec generations sought comfort in each other- Alumni and their young, future panthers, Ray Pec East Middle School students and cheerleaders who attended the game to cheer on their future classmates, and current students of the school, whose familiar hallways seemed to hold an all new purpose.

“I just felt like I had to take care of the kids. Because we’re like a family and stuff. And we were like ‘oh gosh these kids are worried’ so I was just trying to be like ‘It’s okay don’t worry,’” said junior Parker Ramirez.

Amidst the chaos, teachers and faculty rose to overcome the predicament with their training, dedication and love for their students.

“I was part of helping move the football team and whoever was in the football shed. Basically Coach Kruse left me in charge of making sure that everyone was cleared out and headed this way. Having, which no one really knows this, lived through a tornado that hit my high school while I was in school, I experienced this type of weather. So I wasn’t really worried, and I thought we did a pretty good job of getting kids in the right place and

accommodating as many people as we could in the buildings,” said Coach Brad Gaines.

While waiting for the storm to pass, students huddled together under desks, and mingled in classrooms. Being embraced in the comfort of their friends and favorite teachers eased the tense atmosphere.

“It’s funny because I was actually kind of excited, like everyone is freaking out, and I like this, this is fun,” said senior Taylor Koper.

The sirens had died down, and slowly, fans started to emerge from their shelters. Once it became clear that minimal damage had been done, a collective thought came to the mind of each fan, ‘game time’.

“For some reason everybody just blew off the whole tornado and was like it’s game time, I don’t care what’s going on, we gotta go, we gotta

be ready to go. That just all brought us back together, football brings this school together like no other, it’s kind of crazy,” said Ramirez.

As the boys took to the field once again, they were unfazed by the almost devastating storm.

“I think it loosened us up honestly, because we were pretty amped up, we had lost the week before and I think that time to settle down and start talking helped. And then they said we were going back up and we flipped the switch and came out to win,” said senior quarterback, Kory Lineaweaver.

The boys came out and delivered a 36-17 victory over St. Joe Central, making it a homecoming to always remember.