



Athletic Department Update

August 18, 2025

Volleyball

The Ladycats have started the season undefeated and are excited about the possibilities this year holds. With a strong nucleus of underclassmen, the future looks bright. The tournament schedule will be challenging by design, with competitions in Austin, Terrell, and Garland to expose the team to top-tier opponents from across the state. This will help prepare them for a run at the District 10-5A title. Coach Wager's stated goals are to win district, capture one tournament championship, and finish in the gold bracket in two others. I applaud her ambitious vision. District 10-5A will be highly competitive, with Hallsville, Lufkin, and Whitehouse expected to lead the standings.

Football

The Bobcats' season is underway, with Coach Strickland aiming to make back-to-back postseason appearances. The first game is this Thursday night against Lindale, the KYKX "Game of the Week." This year, you'll notice something new on our players' helmets. During the offseason, we purchased 55 Guardian Caps, which fit over helmets as an added safety measure. Players may opt to wear them, and the UIL now allows their use in games as long as they match the helmet's base color. We've also opened the opportunity for subvarsity and junior high players to purchase and wear them. In addition, the stadium has received upgrades, including a new play clock, game clock, and sound system. Thank you for supporting these improvements.

Tennis

The tennis program is looking to defend its district titles from last season and extend its postseason streak to 15 consecutive years.

Cross Country

Cross Country will open the season this Saturday in Sulphur Springs. Under the leadership of Randy Canady and Sara Hendrix, the teams are aiming to claim back-to-back district championships.



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HISD Athletics – 2026 Policy Updates

Effective for the 2026 school year, the following policies will be in place for all HISD sporting events:

1. Online Ticketing / No Cash at Gates

- All admissions will be processed through online ticketing.
- Cash will no longer be accepted at any gate for entry into HISD sporting events.

2. Student Attendance Requirements

- Students in **8th grade and below** must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to be admitted to any HISD sporting event.

3. Friday Night Football Seating for Younger Students

- Students in **6th grade and below** are required to sit with their parent or guardian during Friday Night Football games.

4. Designated Student Sections

- Separate student sections will be in place for **Junior High** and **High School** students.
- Students must remain in the section designated for their grade level or sit with their parent/guardian.

Bobcat Core Values – Junior High & Pre-Athletics Implementation

This year, we are introducing the **Bobcat Core Values** into our Junior High and Pre-Athletics programs. These values will be **taught and reinforced daily** with our younger athletes, giving them the opportunity to put into practice the character, ethics, and discipline it takes to be a BOBCAT—on and off the field.

Our coaching staff has dedicated a great deal of time and effort into developing this program, ensuring that it reflects the principles we believe are essential for long-term success in athletics

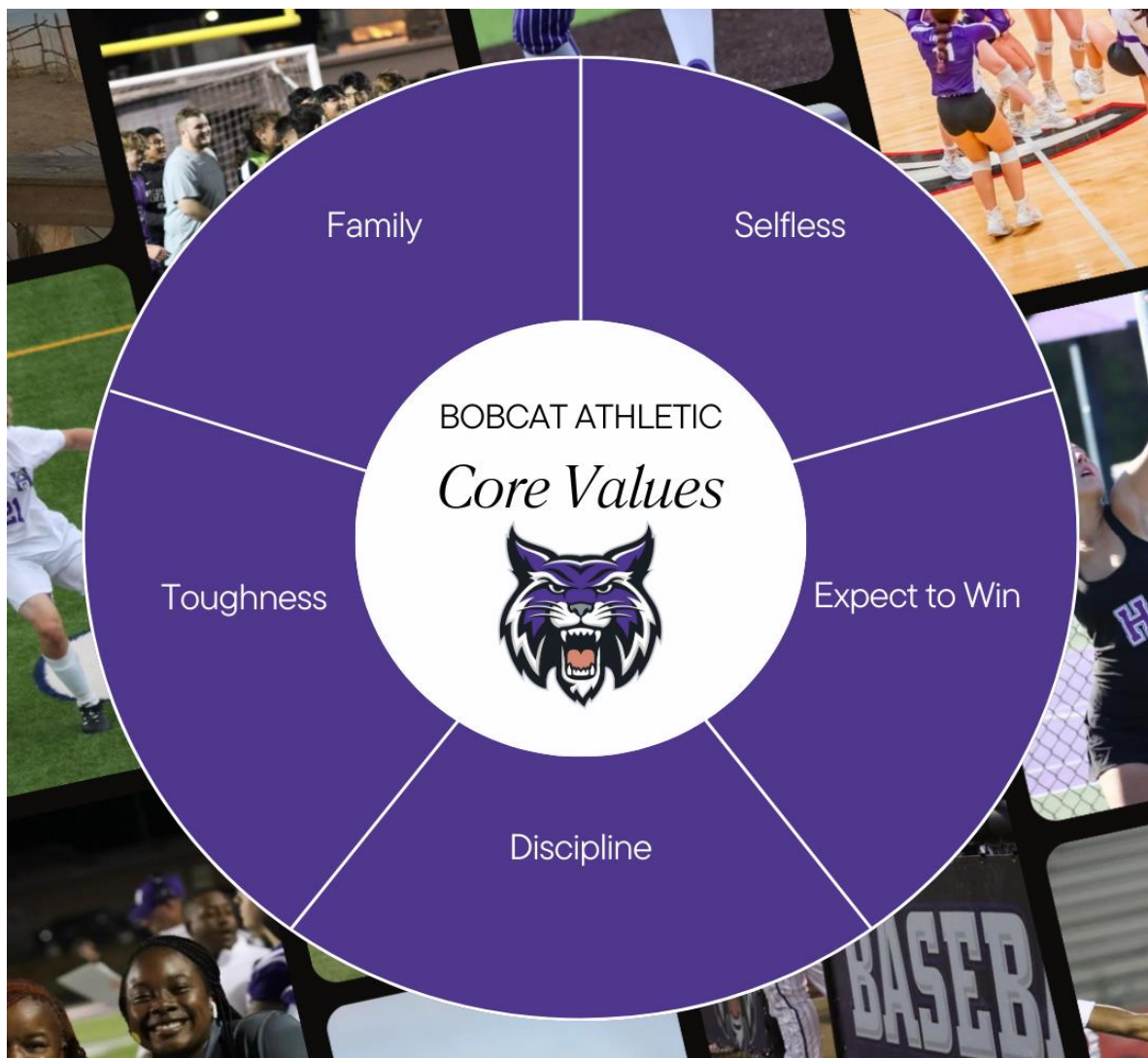


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and in life. Each day of the week will highlight a specific value, giving athletes repeated opportunities to learn, discuss, and demonstrate these traits.

We are truly excited about the direction this will take our athletic program over the next few years, and we believe it will lay a strong foundation for future success across all sports.





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BOBCAT ATHLETIC CORE VALUES

1

Family

"Family comes first.

There are two kinds of family in life:

1. The family we're given—our parents, siblings, uncles, aunts, the people who raised us and shaped our roots.
2. The family we choose—our teammates, coaches, and fellow athletes who train, struggle, and grow with us every day.

Both kinds matter. Both give us strength. And together, they make us who we are."



2

Selfless

"We put the team over the individual.

A team is not just a group of people—it's a commitment. It's everyone coming together, giving their best, and sacrificing personal gain for a greater purpose. The second finger is about we above me.

We choose to set aside our own interests for the good of the team.

Because when the team thrives, we all succeed. That's how we grow. That's how we win. That's what we're about."



3

Expect to Win

"We expect to win in everything we do.

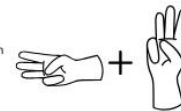
Winning isn't just about the scoreboard—it's about how we prepare. Every lift, every run, every film session—it's all done with purpose.

Preparation creates confidence, and confidence builds expectation.

An expectation is more than hope—it's a belief in your core. It shapes how we carry ourselves in competition.

So when we win, it doesn't surprise us—we've earned it. But we stay humble and gracious.

And if the outcome doesn't go our way, we're still gracious—because our standard never changes."



4

Discipline

"The difference between three fingers and four is the pinky—the smallest one.

But that small difference matters. Discipline is all about the little things.

It's found in the details—doing what's right, taking care of business, and making good decisions, even when no one's watching.

The smallest actions can have the biggest impact. Just like that pinky, discipline may seem small, but it's what sets us apart."



5

Toughness

"When all five fingers come together, they form a fist.

It's the toughest part of the hand—strong, unified, unbreakable. Just like us, when we come together.

Toughness is twofold: physical and mental.

In competition, there's always struggle. It's part of the game. What separates us is our ability to push through—together—with discipline, grit, and heart.

Unity makes us strong. Toughness keeps us going."

