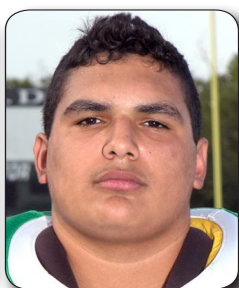
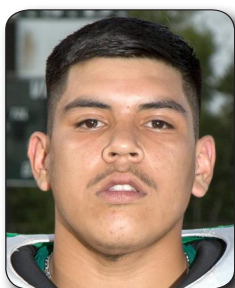


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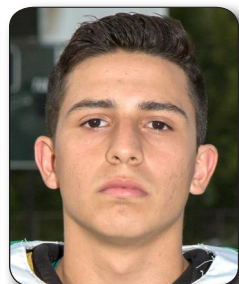
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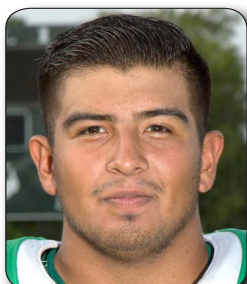
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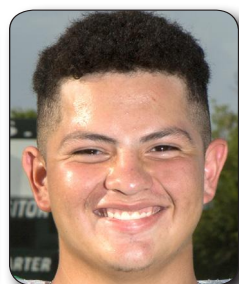
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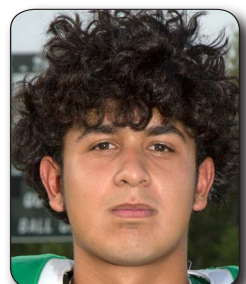
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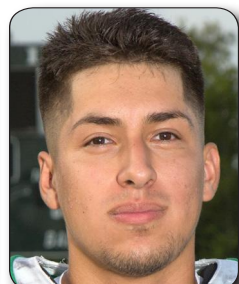
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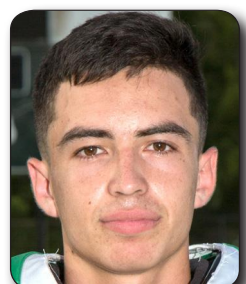
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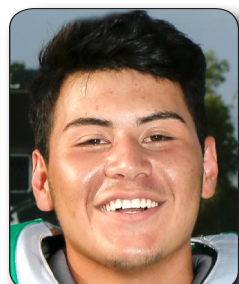
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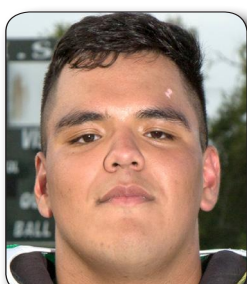
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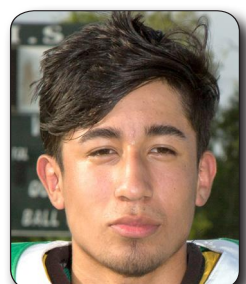
JAMES FELPS



JOSH GALVAN



MARCOS GOMEZ



ELIJAH HERNANDEZ



LEANDREW LEAL



JOEY LONGORIA



## ^Rebuild or reload?

(Continued from page 3)

base 4-3 look, playing Cover 2 behind it.

"We will play an aggressive, gap-controlled defense," Rivera said.

Again, like the offense, despite some key losses, Hernandez has talent to work with. Outside linebacker Jacob Youngblood came on strong throughout the season and was playing his best football late in the year.

He will be joined at linebacker by Gabriel Menchaca and Klayton Meeks.

"Our linebacking corps is aggressive and tackles well and should be the strength of our defense," the coach said.

Early returns for the Mavs showed promise as the team went toe-to-toe with a pretty talented Sam Houston squad in the team's initial scrimmage. Pearsall scored early and defensively, kept the Hurricanes out of the endzone on their first four possessions.

On the heels of a 10-1 season, however, comes the rigors of taking the next step. Rivera inherits a tougher schedule with Class 5A Eagle Pass CC Winn, Pleasanton and La Vernia in non-district. The UIL also shook up District 14-4A, DII by adding rival Hondo back into the mix.

Behind his philosophy of Pride, Passion and Purpose, Rivera wants to instill the same mentality in his Mavericks

"Our kids are going to play with passion and excitement!" He says emphatically. "We will take great pride in the way we handle ourselves on and off the field. We will also take the field with a purpose every time we take the field."

Rivera thanked his mentor Coach Steven Hoffman in Corsicana for preparing him for the opportunity to be a head coach.

"Under his mentorship I've learned leadership skills, not only important to our kids, but also our coaches," Rivera said. "I've always been very proud of the position I coach or the entire defense when I was a coordinator, and always looked at it as my guys or my defense. However, as a head coach, I've changed and look at it more as it's ours."

"It's my job to make sure everyone understands they are an important piece to our success."

"That means our coaches, community and administration, they all play a vital role working together with us."