

Mustang

Heart and Soul of the Broncos

By Stan Moss
Contributing Writer

It doesn't happen very often, but every now and then a person comes into your life that is so full of joy that it is infectious. At any given moment that person can bring you up from a down day, give you fuel when you feel like you're out of gas, and pump you up when you feel deflated. And all of this positive energy can come from the most unexpected source. For the Mustang football program, that person is junior Jose Serrano, backup quarterback and sideline captain.

This story could drone on and on with pretty prose and all kinds of superlatives about Jose, but his teammates and coaches tell his story best.

Coach Lee Blankenship: It's incredible! I would actually consider Jose to be one of our better leaders. After every practice Jose is the guy up front that gets the guys clapping. He is a guy that knows his role, and he has embraced that role. His role is not to run out there, probably ever, in his career on Friday nights and be a starter. But he doesn't ever feel sorry for himself. Everything he does is with 100% effort and attitude. Jose is a big part of our program; he really makes



-Staff photo by Jeff Harrison

Mustang junior Jose Serrano is a backup quarterback and sideline captain for the football team.

our program better.

Adam Brotherton, senior linebacker: Oh, my goodness! Every single day that I've known Jose he has brought his best effort; he's brought so much energy to the team, and he's just a guy that everyone loves. You can't really say that about many people. He always breaks us out when we're

ending practice and gets us all so hyped. Jose is really a special guy and an incredible player. I love him!

Elijah Young, senior running back: Jose is like a little brother. I've really started talking to him a lot and we're getting really close. He's funny and lovable. He never gets mad; he always tries to solve everything. He

will love on you and try to make you be the best person you can be. He is the glue that holds us all together. We love him.

Defensive Coordinator Sam Dollar: Jose is authentic in everything he does.

Devyn Martin, senior running back: He means a lot to the team. Yesterday I told

the whole team that Jose is the toughest kid on the team, hands down. We were running sprints and I was pretty tired after two sprints. I wasn't thinking about encouraging my teammates. After Jose was done with his sprints he was in somebody's ear saying 'Let's go! Let's go!' He doesn't ever get tired, and he's just a tough kid. He has a lot of spirit in him, and the whole team loves him.

Koreion Hayden, senior linebacker: When you think of energy, that's Jose. He brings so much energy to the team every day. No matter what's going on, he is the hype man for the team. We all show him love, because he's one of us.

Dominique Dunn, senior Bronco Back: Jose is a special guy. He's always bringing the energy; he always has somebody's back. If you mess up, he's the first one to tell you you're ok. Jose is pretty much the whole team's captain. We love Jose.

Blankenship: Jose is our sideline captain. He has more heart than any player on our team. He loves his teammates and is the ultimate team first kind of guy.

Wyatt King, senior defensive lineman: Jose is the heart and soul of the team.

Sounds like a young man worth knowing.

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Dynamic Duo: Koreion Hayden and Devyn Martin



-Staff photo by Jeff Harrison

Mustang seniors Koreion Hayden and Devyn Martin at the team's media day.

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dynamic (n): A force that stimulates change or progress within a system or process.

dynamic (adj): A person positive in attitude and full of energy.

When describing senior linebacker Koreion Hayden and senior running back Devyn Martin, the word dynamic definitely comes to mind. So strictly speaking, Hayden and Martin are people that have great attitudes, are full of energy, and exude a force that creates change within a system. The first two, attitude and energy, are a no-brainer. This 'force' is just another name for leadership, and the system is the 2020 version of the Mustang Broncos football

Head Coach Lee Blankenship is in the 2nd year of his great experiment with the Mustang program,

helping boys become young men in such a way that they will be good husbands, fathers, employees; the list goes on and on. Football victories are important, and they will happen more and more as time goes on. But building what Blankenship calls 'character leaders' is more important to him than just winning football games.

Hayden and Martin are great examples of character leaders. And oh, by the way, they can play a little football, too. You can almost hear a smile in his voice over the phone when he talks about the two.

"Koreion Hayden is a beast on the field," said Blankenship. "He is explosive and extremely athletic at the defensive end position. Off the field he is extremely kind hearted and likeable. That's what makes him such a great leader on our team. There is a reason that he was voted

one of our team captains. Devyn Martin had an incredible summer. He got bigger, faster and stronger. He has put on

some really good weight. He has asserted himself as a leader and we expect him to have a huge year." Hayden (5'10", 220)





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loves his teams' mindset going into the season.

"Our attitude is sky-high," said Hayden. "Whatever's being thrown at us, the only thing we worry about is our attitude and effort. We're going to be a real strong and physical team."

Hayden had a message for the Mustang community.

"I love your support that you show to the team, said Hayden. "You come out every Friday night, and I love the

energy that you bring."

Martin" (5'10", 188) think the team gets better and better every day

"We're all in," said Martin. "We're going to do everything it takes to get the job done that we started last year. And we're going to do it for the city of Mustang."

With Hayden anchoring the defense and Martin leading the offense, the Broncos should be in for a very successful year if the dynamic duo have anything to say about it.

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