

## Highlanders Finish Tied for 6<sup>th</sup> at State Powerlifting Meet

The Highlander Powerlifting Team sent a school record 8 athletes to the 2022 State Championships in Abilene. The 8 lifters were the 2<sup>nd</sup> most from one school at the state meet. The 8 points scored at the state meet tied a school record. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> time in school history the team has finished in the top 10 at the state meet.

Daniel Gil (Region IV 148 Champion) entered the meet trying to become just the 4<sup>th</sup> lifter in school history to earn two state medals. Daniel placed 5<sup>th</sup> at the 2021 state meet. After a 515 lb squat, Daniel set a person best with a 350 lb bench press (which also tied a school record). Daniel finished with a 515 dead lift and a 1380 total to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state and become the 4<sup>th</sup> two-time state medalist in team history.

Aiden Peterson (Region IV 165 lb Champion) made his second state appearance in the 165 lb class. Aiden tied his person bests with a 525 lb squat and a 325 lb bench. Aiden (our school record holder in both the 165 and 181 lb dead lift) finished his career with a 555 lb dead lift and a 1405 lb total to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> at the meet – the 12<sup>th</sup> state medalist in school history.

Alex Martin reached the state meet after placing 5<sup>th</sup> at the regional meet and reaching the automatic qualifying total. Alex had an exceptional meet, setting personal bests in every lift (635 squat, 370 bench, 535 dead lift) for a 1540 lb total and finishing 9<sup>th</sup>. He is one of only 19 TWHS lifters to ever place in the top 10 at the state meet.

Andrew Larworthy reached the state meet in the 198 lb class by placing 3<sup>rd</sup> at the regional meet and reaching the qualifying total. The 198 lb class saw the most qualifiers in any weight class (33). Andrew ended his career in spectacular fashion with 2 school records and personal bests. His 585 lb squat and 545 lb dead lift were person bests while his 405 lb bench and 1535 lb total set new school records in the 198 lb class. Andrew also is one of only 19 TWHS lifters to place in the top 10 at the state meet.

Hank Hewgley (Region IV 132 lb Champion) reached his first state meet by claiming a regional title. While he couldn't duplicate his regional totals, Hank finished his career with a 1055 lb total and finished 14<sup>th</sup> at the state meet in the 132 lb class.

Mauricio Kerguelen finished his powerlifting career at TWHS with his first state meet appearance after reaching the automatic qualifying total at the regional meet. Mauricio set a new personal best of a 315 lb bench press on his way to a 1255 lb total and a 16<sup>th</sup> place finish at the state meet.

Cayden Clayton was one of 2 underclassmen to qualify for the state meet. Only a sophomore, Cayden qualified for the state meet by placing 4<sup>th</sup> at the regional meet and reaching the automatic qualifying total. He continued his consistent improvement with person bests at squat (620 lbs) and bench press (365 lbs). Cayden finished with a 1520 lb total and a 13<sup>th</sup> place finish at the state meet. He is just the 6<sup>th</sup> sophomore in school history to reach the state meet.

Nick Beagle joined the powerlifting team this year as a junior and immediately made an impact. He reached the state meet in the 181 lb class by hitting the automatic qualifying total at the regional meet. In only his 4<sup>th</sup> competitive meet, Nick recorded a 1310 lb total and placed 23<sup>rd</sup> at the state meet.